

**ISSUE 3 | 2023/2024**

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**Per vectum**

**FEATURING**

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The return of The Vectum  
Business Trip



Martin's Diary Entry:  
Vectum in Croatia



Students' guide to embracing  
Spring in Maastricht

PerVectum

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**Editor in Chief**

Aashia Chanana

**Co-editors and  
Graphic Designers**

Manuel Baptista

Fe Adorée Helder

Lotte van Gool

Daniela Daguta

Evlogjia Stefanidhi

Maria Barbuos

**Vectum**

P.O.Box 616

6200 MD

Maastricht

Visiting Address

Tapijnkazerne 11

Room I 2.002

6211 ME Maastricht

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**For more info or questions:**

<https://vectum-maastricht.nl>

secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl

# Word of The President



Dear reader,

As we find ourselves well into April, I had hoped to greet you all with the cheerful sights and sounds of spring: blossoming flowers and birdsong filling the air. However, as the saying goes, we can't have everything. Instead, I wake up to the gentle patter of rain against my window, reminding me that nature has its own timetable, especially here in the Netherlands.

Spring is a season of renewal, growth, and fresh beginnings—a time when nature itself undergoes a transformative change, reminding us that opportunities for growth and personal development are always within our grasp. At Vectum, we wholeheartedly embrace this spirit of renewal, inspiring our members to seize every opportunity for personal and professional advancement. A testament to this commitment was the dedication shown by our members who braved an early start to catch the 4:30 train to Noordwijk for the National Econometricians' Day (LED). This event proved to be a resounding success, offering our members invaluable networking opportunities and insights into potential career paths post-graduation.

For those unable to attend the LED, Vectum had a diverse range of activities lined up to keep the momentum going. We kicked things off with a spirited game of glow golf, a fun and illuminating experience that showcased both our members' competitive spirit and their ability to laugh at the occasional misstep—like not standing too close when someone is swinging a golf club! Next a heartfelt thank you needs to go out to Milliman for sponsoring our next event, where we delved into the world of actuarial science while sampling some of Maastricht's most intriguing beers—a perfect blend of learning and leisure. The learning did not stop there as the following week many acquired a new skill of dancing! As someone passionate about salsa dancing, it was a privilege to lead a salsa workshop alongside my Scope friend, Pawel. The evening was a celebration of hidden talents and newfound skills, as members discovered their inner dancers and embraced the rhythm of the music. We also had the privilege of hosting a record-breaking guest lecture with over 40 sign-ups, featuring the renowned Mr. Vincent Vis. He shared invaluable insights into the world of trading, revealing the secrets to becoming a profitable trader—a session that left our members inspired and eager to explore new horizons. Finally rounding off this period of social events was our thrilling visit to Prison Island, where teamwork, strategy, and a dash of competitiveness were the order of the day.

This period was nothing short of spectacular for Vectum, as we not only continued our cherished tradition of the annual Consultancy Tour in collaboration with Asset Econometrics from Tilburg but also celebrated the groundbreaking comeback of the Vectum Business Trip. During these two days, we had the privilege of exploring the dynamic worlds of Zanders, RiskQuest, and Van Lanschot Kempen. Each visit offered unique insights, inspiring our members with a firsthand look at the cutting-edge practices and innovations shaping the industry today.

But that's not all! As we also had the pleasure of hosting alumni drinks, bringing together our older members to reminisce, reconnect, and relive their fond memories of Vectum. It was a heartwarming reunion that bridged the past with the present, celebrating the enduring spirit of our association. However, before we continue a special acknowledgement is due to our dedicated EAC, Joshua Smilde, who made all of this happen due to his hard work hence, please applaud him when you see him. And lastly, of course, a heartfelt thank you to our members as even though some got off at the wrong station in Amsterdam still made it perfectly on time.

As previously noted, the weather in Maastricht hasn't been cooperating lately. To offer a refreshing change of scenery, we organised an exhilarating trip to Split, Croatia, replacing our traditional Ski Trip, which wasn't as popular among the Vectum community. This sunny getaway provided our members with a chance to unwind, soak up some rare sunshine, and surprisingly return without any sunburns! If you're curious and want to hear more about what happened during this trip make sure to stay tuned as Martin Bergmann will ease your curiosity. However, If you feel like you missed out on the Split trip, don't worry—there's still plenty to look forward to! Our final adventure of the year awaits with the annual Members Weekend, scheduled for June 21st to 23rd. And if that feels too far away, fear not as we've got an exciting lineup of activities to keep you engaged, kicking things off with a football tournament on April 20th.

As we approach the end of the academic year and, hopefully soon, embrace the vibrant spirit of spring, I want to extend my heartfelt best wishes to all our 3rd-year and master students as you embark on your thesis journeys. Just as spring brings new beginnings and blossoming possibilities, remember that challenges are merely opportunities in disguise. Hence embrace each obstacle as a chance to learn, flourish, and grow. Remember that you have come this far, and with the resilience and determination akin to the blossoming flowers of spring, you're more than capable of crossing the finish line with flying colours. Stay focused, stay motivated, and always remember that the Vectum community stands strong beside you, ready to support you every step of the way!



**Aleksandra Piekarska**

29th President of 

# GLOW



# GOLF



**By Lotte van Gool**

Our Tuesday night adventures continued in period 4 with Glowgolf!! An evening to show off our secret golfing talents. We were divided in groups of 4 and off we went into the dark. Armed with our glowing golf clubs and balls, we were ready to take on the course. All the fun neon colours put everyone in a great mood. Everyone wearing neon or white clothing also became part of the glow in the dark experience as well.



Each hole was lit up in neon lights and inspired by some part of the world. So, we saw a neon version of the famous yellow cabs, the leaning tower of Pisa and many other famous landmarks. Despite these landmarks looking very impressive, they were some of the most troubling obstacles. However, the most troubling ones would have to be the ones where you had to hit the ball into a lift. This is not as easy as it sounds! Some people got it on their first try, but not everyone was as lucky... Still we all tried to finish the holes to the best of our ability while sabotaging the others along the way. Cause if you're failing why not make the others fail with you :)

After we all finished the course, it was time to add up all the scores and find out who has a secret golfing talent. Then, we celebrated with some drinks and bitterballen! Everyone seemed to enjoy this typical dutch snack. Of course, we didn't stop here and ended the night at Preuv for some more drinks.



# Beer Tasting with



**By Evlogia Stefanidhi**

On the 29th of February, Vectum had the pleasure of enjoying an evening of Beer Tasting with one of our sponsors, Milliman, a consultancy firm in the field of actuarial and financial risk management. What better way to relax from Probability Theory than a few glasses of beer? The beer tasting was held in the heart of Maastricht, by the foot of the Sint Servaas Bridge, a real historical brewery, Stadsbrouwerij Maastricht.

The evening began with a brief overview of the company where we got to know about the functioning of Milliman, its headquarters locations, and the employment possibilities for us in the future. The five representatives from Milliman came from varied backgrounds. Some studied in Belgium, some in our very own Maastricht, however, most of them were econometricians of course!



After the info session about Milliman, it was time for the beer tasting. Before trying each beer, we were introduced to its background and its special characteristics. We got to taste a different variety of beers, from light to strong enriched with a diversity of aftertastes, each of them playing with our taste buds. I never knew beer was so special and could differ so much! Even non-beer drinkers like Fe found themselves in at least one of them. I particularly enjoyed the beer which had a unique banana after taste, and a group favorite, (which may or may not consist of only me and Maxim), was definitely the beer with the highest percentage of alcohol ;). After a fun night of socializing together, gathering knowledge about Milliman, and drinking a few beers too many, everyone left satisfied and with a new appreciation for beer culture.

**Thank you Milliman for this amazing event!**





# Salsa Workshop

By Evlogjia Stefanidhi

On the 5th of March, Vectum followed a salsa workshop, instructed by Aleksandra and Pawel. The workshop took place on the first floor of the Que Pasa, a Spanish restaurant that turned into our personal dance studio. It kicked off with us picking our dance partners, where the guys took the lead. Almost all of the members were new to this type of dance and we took our time learning every step slowly with the help of our instructors until we got the hang of it. As time went on, everyone got more comfortable with the moves, rhythm, and pace of the dance. The stress of our studies faded away, and we were all enjoying our time, except maybe for Edoardo's partner's poor feet.

Quinn, one of our members, describes it as a lovely night because he found it as an opportunity to spend the night with his girlfriend doing something interesting they had never tried before.

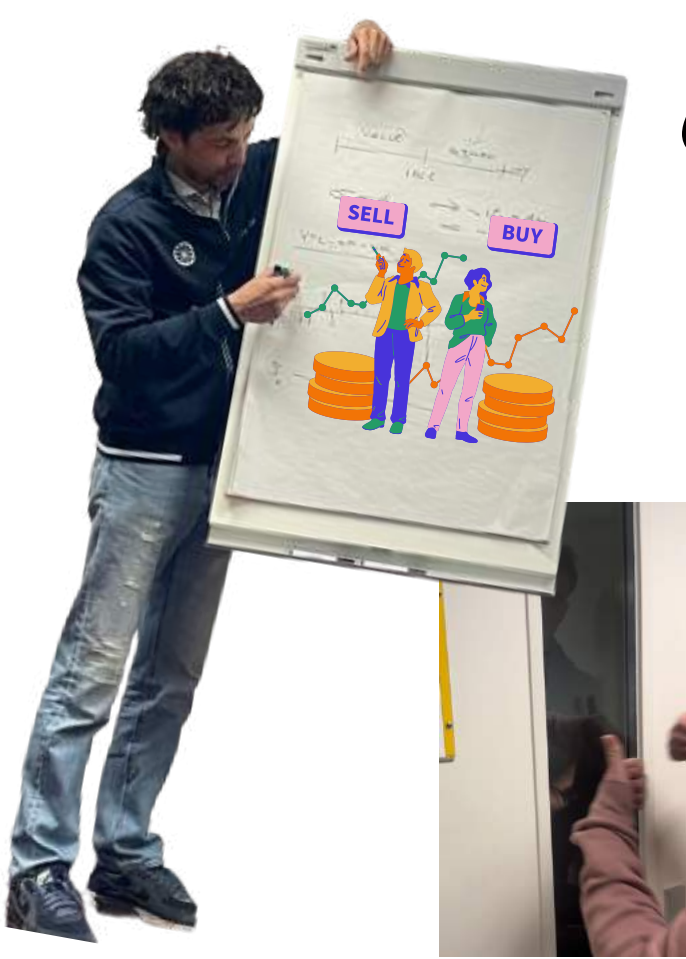


We continuously exchanged partners and were introduced to new moves, making the workshop interesting throughout the night. Drinks were sponsored by Vectum as always, and accompanied by Latin music and the taste of Sangrias, we felt like we were in a summery tropical escape instead of rainy Maastricht. As tradition has it, the night was followed by drinks at the Preuv'.



# Guest Lecture with Mr. Vincent Vis

By **Evlogjia Stefanidhi**



After the Board Information Session, we had the pleasure of hosting Vincent Vis, a trading expert, to give us a Guest Lecture on Financial Markets, Algorithm Trending and Market Making. With his extensive experience in trading and market dynamics, having worked at Optiver, IMC Trading and Maven Securities, he provided valuable knowledge on the complexity of today's fast-paced financial environments. His interactive explanation and realistic examples further honed our intuition and offered a sneak-peak into what a trader really does.

I personally had no experience with trading and no idea what it was whatsoever, so it really contributed into my way of thinking about it and now I can confidently say I know what it is about. For those who had already touched upon trading in whatever form, it built up their confidence and inspired them to potentially pursue it in their futures.

On the 12th of March, we were supposed to start our Tuesday with the Board Information Session, but instead we had the honour of witnessing a miracle: our board having locked themselves in before the information session!

After they solved that with their secret magic tricks, we joined the Board Information Session where Aleksandra, Joshua, Aashia, Martin and Piotr presented us with their positions and the work they do behind the scenes to give life to Vectum.

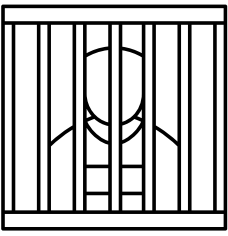
They introduced all interested applicants to the responsibilities and requirements for each position, giving us the chance to speak to each of them personally. Good luck to all applicants and thank you for your dedication to Vectum!



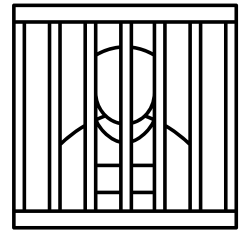
Furthermore, Vincent shared his insights into the qualities of a competent trader and the start of his/her career, shedding light on the navigation of prospective traders in their future career paths. He offered advice on the starting points as a trader and where to look for potential opportunities. We would like to thank Vincent Vis for sharing his knowledge with us, giving us a taste of the world of trading and inspiring us about our future potential trading career.







# Prison Island



**By Fe Helder**

Do not get scared, no Vectum member has been arrested, we just went to an escape room activity with a Prison Theme. On March 19th, we all participated in the Maastricht's famous Escape Hunt where we were divided into groups of 4 to 5 people to fight for the league's first position. We got a clear presentation of the purpose of this activity by Servaas, a worker at Escape Hunt. yet, when Servaas invited us to the maze, we all went crazy. Groups were going left, right, upstairs, opening the nearest doors, and fighting to finish the activities the fastest. Every group had its tactics, one had members that had done this escape room already, others only did the easiest activities so they had time to do more and have fun, and the rest just went with the flow.

My group went with the flow, however, the only goal we had was to start upstairs and do those cells before the other groups went up. For us it was a brilliant idea, however, we should have thought about it more since the door we chose was the one cell out of 32 where we ended up downstairs after finishing it. Making our tactic useless. 😞

We heard so many funny stories about this room, and not to spoil it for people who did not do it, it involves two levels and a lot of yoga balls. Eva, Pieter, and Edoardo had one of the funniest stories where Eva got stuck for 2 minutes upside down where teamwork was not the best, since the boys just left her there. They had their mind set on winning this competition, however, they got second to last, so a tip we will give them is: to think of another strategy next time.

This was one of the 32 cells we have fun stories about, but to go into detail about one of the worst ones, we must introduce the Tilt Cell. This cell as the name says was a room where the obstacles were tilted and, the goal was to find the hints at the corners of the house and do mathematical calculations. It was hard to distribute the team members and the aftermath of this cell. A few people felt dizzy for the whole night since the tilted floors triggered a person's equilibrium, and caused difficulties with the rest of the activities.

The cells tested our physical, technical, and tactical skills, but only one team could be crowned as champions. So concluding with our winner of the Night, introducing the group with the highest point of 2450: Timo, Lisa, and Paul 🏆

The night finished with Quinn and Martin almost going to a real Jail since they did the illegal thing of becoming bartenders without their license, how dare they do it like said before we don't want any of our Vectum members to become real prisoners.





# Landelijke Econometristendag

By **Aashia Chanana**

The LED (Landelijke Econometristendag), or National Econometricians Day, is an annual recruitment event for 3rd-year and M.Sc. students in Econometrics & Operations Research. This year's edition was organized by VESTING, the E&OR study association at Groningen University. They successfully brought together over 60 companies and 600 students at the Conference Centre Leeuwenhorst. The event was fantastic, so a big thank you to them!



On the gloomy morning of February 5th, while Maastricht lay still in slumber, we gathered at the train station around 5:30 to catch the bus to our destination. Half of the group was still half-asleep as we boarded the bus, while the other half buzzed with excitement for the long day ahead. Upon arrival, we were greeted with the LED 2024 goodie bag and attended the opening talk by Mark Tuitert, a Dutch speed skater who won Olympic gold in the 1500-meter event at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Mark shared his wisdom and knowledge on how to develop a resilient and focused approach to life, drawing on his experiences as an Olympic champion and adopting a Stoic Mindset.

Now it was time to get back to work! Ideally, each student had one case either in the morning or after lunch, with speed-dates and time to browse the company fair in the other half of the day. However, a few of us, like me, had two cases, one in the morning and another in the afternoon! While some might say this was a great opportunity to learn, I felt like I couldn't interact with many companies because I didn't get a chance to attend the speed-dates and company fair. Regardless, my second case was with Riskquest, a financial consultancy firm.



The last part of the day was the closing talk by American-Dutch stand-up comedian Greg Shapiro, followed by an amazing three-course dinner. I was lucky to be seated at a company table! I had my first two courses with recruiters from ASR, a major Dutch insurance group, and the last course with recruiters from Probability and Partners, a risk consultancy firm. We got to chat with the company representatives in a very informal and light-hearted environment. The topics of conversation ranged from our favorite wines to the most embarrassing stories from our childhood.



While for some, the day ended there and they decided to catch the bus back to Maastricht at 10:00 PM, others who were lucky enough to have a stayover ticket stayed for the afterparty. For me, the afterparty was a strange mix of Dutch music with some techno beats, and from time to time, the DJ was reminded that there were some non-Dutch people in the room so he would play a 2000s hit. But the main reason people weren't complaining about the music was the open bar!



The next morning, we enjoyed an amazing buffet breakfast at the hotel, and everyone looked fresh and ready to return to Maastricht. We took a bus to Leiden Centraal train station and to our surprise, there were no disruptions on our way back home. Overall, after that day, I finally understood what the hype about LED was, and I highly recommend that everyone should experience it at least once.



# Econometrics Consultancy Tour

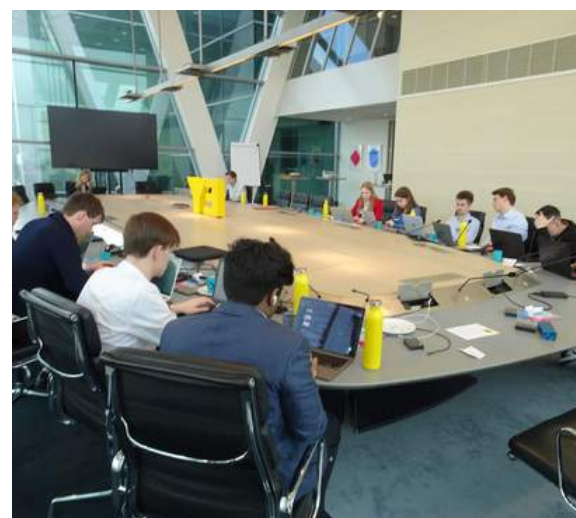


**By Joshua Smilde & Martin Bergmann**

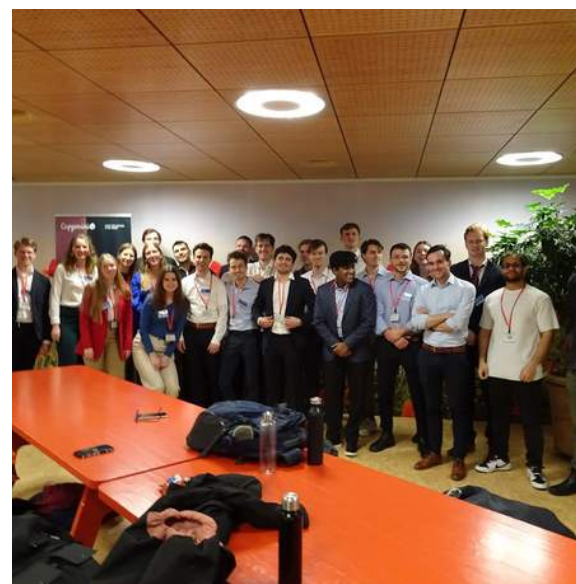
From February 21st until February 23rd, Vectum and Tilburg's Asset | Econometrics ventured to the capital of the Netherlands, in order to visit and get to know four different consulting firms as part of the annual Econometrics Consultancy Tour. This year, the firms that participated were EY, Capgemini, Rewire (formerly MCompany) and Vintura. The event was once again very insightful and I would like to give you a brief overview of it.



On Wednesday evening the 21st, a small delegation of Vectum made it to the lobby of hotel Best Western where we were staying for two nights. Awaiting the arrival of Asset, we got our portraits drawn by dedicated students coming from the far east who were staying in Amsterdam for a school trip. Feeling at home now, Asset arrived and we started up a Kahoot to get to know the firms we were about to visit in the next two days. The schedule was quite packed, so after no more than a few drinks, we slept in early for the following big day



Waking up to the alarm at 6am, we put on our fanciest business casual outfits and grabbed a great breakfast at the hotel, before making our way to the renowned Zuidas, where EY expected us. We went up all the way to the 21st floor, where, being seated at a giant oval table, we got enlightened on the intricacies of working at Ernst & Young. Impressive as it was, we had little time to process it as an important duty was calling us; finding out who of the F1 drivers was .. in the murder of Sebastian Vettel, through the careful inspection of heaps of data. This case was very fun to do, and by presenting the results afterwards, we learned valuable presentation-skills tips, like the importance of nice slides, keeping it short and concise, etc., which we could implement at the consulting firms that followed.





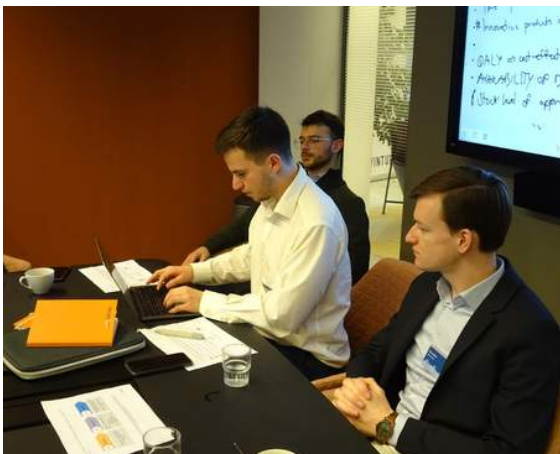
Next up was Capgemini, who focused their presentation on being a particularly data-driven consulting firm. Their case was about creating the most profitable medium-term strategy for a global waste management company. Carried out in groups of 4, Vectum & Asset members mixed up, and got to know each other on a more professional level. After discussing the case's results through small presentations, a delectable dinner was prepared for us, and we learned from one particular colleague about the importance of scooping enough chicken on your plate by means of a demonstration. Some of us decided to end the day and take a walk in the lovely city center of Amsterdam.



The following day we started the day by taking the tram and visiting Rewire (formerly known as MICompany). Compared to the other firms, Rewire has a greater focus on Machine Learning and AI. Their focus in consultancy lies in creating a product that is easy to use and that learns from the data to come such that the company asking for the product has an answer for the future and not just for today. The case at Rewire was about lowering waste at a supermarket brand; it was split into several parts: Using the knowledge learned from the presentation, we had to create a dashboard that would show how the product would be used. Ultimately, the product should be an easy to use website where the supermarket can input location, bread type, and more that would help them forecast the amount of breads they would have to produce for the given day. After determining the winner, we took a group picture on the terrace of their office.

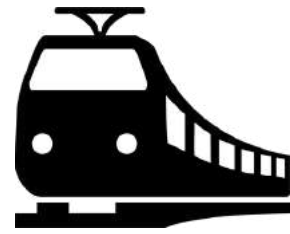


We ended our trip at Vintura, a firm specialized in medical consultancy. Here, we had a whole new perspective on what the case asked us to do. Rather than giving us data to use, we had to "interview" different parties involved in the release of medical treatments (patients, government, pharma companies) and gather insights into their beliefs on the current process. After taking everyone's interviews, we had to come up with a summary on the current process and if applicable, give advice on what can be improved. The day ended with a great dinner at the office and possibilities to talk to all possible employees of Vintura.





# Business Trip 2024



By Quinn Cuijpers

On the 14th of March was the return of the Vectum business trip. The reason I know this date so well is that I had it marked on my calendar from the day it was announced. This was the long-awaited return of one of Vectum's best events after 5 long years. The business trip has been the event next to LED that allows Vectum's members to meet potential future employers, but unlike LED the business trip allows us to see the companies in their own offices.

As most companies are in the Randstad it is often required for us to travel great lengths to visit companies. This business trip was no exception and as such it required the participant to be ready to travel bright and early from Maastricht to our first stop: Utrecht. Even during this mind-numbing train ride, you could feel the excitement of our members. From the dedication of Valentin to attempt to follow a part of the tutorial we were missing via Zoom, to the board double checking the arrangements, and finally to the happy birthday chanting of the girlfriend of one of our members.



Eventually, we got to Utrecht, the location of our first company visit: Zanders. After taking elevators up to the appropriate floor, we were professionally greeted with drinks and pastries. After putting away our stuff – and perhaps eating too many pastries – we were reminded of the schedule Zanders had prepared for us and got a brief overview of the company. An escape room and case were the treats Zanders had in store for us. I was put in a team with some of the most well-known members we had with us: Valentin, our 2022-2023 treasurer, Leo, and Carsten.



Our first task was to be the very first group to conquer the escape room, which for this specific escape room was to find out which trader had gone rogue and stolen money. Simple is not a word that we would use to describe the puzzles thrown at us. However, we had a god like team. Valentin, often heralded for his intelligence and ability to see through puzzles like they are glass, Leo, our other heavy hitter in solving puzzles, Carsten, the person who kept us from spiraling into delusions, and last but certainly not least myself, having been trained how to approach escape rooms through experience. Given our formation, it will not be surprising to learn that we had the quickest time for the escape room, which was greatly helped by Carsten coming in clutch for the final answer

After a lunch provided by Zanders, which was delicious and varied, we got our turn to work on the case they had given us. We had to determine which investment was feasible and from those which we would recommend. It was not easy, but from seeing the presentation of the case it became apparent that all our members were able to find which investments were possible, although our reasonings for our recommendations differed. Zanders agreed with this assessment and thus decided to crown everyone as winners. But for me and Asen that wasn't enough, we needed some closure. Luckily, Zanders had a chessboard present in the office. After playing a close and dynamic Spanish it came down to a time scramble, but I eventually was able to win.

Three wins under my belt made me feel quite giddy on our way to the hostel we would be staying at. While perhaps not giddy, this happiness was shared with all the members, although there was also a draught of tiredness hitting us. So, when the hostel came into vision we were exhilarated. Next up were the Alumni drinks after being given some time to eat and leave our stuff in our rooms.

The alumni drinks, which had always been a part of the business trip, allowed us to get in touch with the alumni. For me, it was an opportunity to talk to the people on my first-year board again. Especially Kristina was a joy to talk to again. It only took mere minutes for us to be giggling like idiots, like a few years prior. This is what I believe makes Vectum such a great organization, but more importantly, a loving community.

We awoke the next day -some with more sleep than others- early again to go to Amsterdam. Being poor students, we decided to grab a quick breakfast at AH before getting on the train, which was capital-bound.



The next company we were to visit was another consultancy company named Riskquest. Here we were received pleasantly with an offer of coffee or tea, before being given a presentation on the company and a description of the case. This case would be done in a language we aren't all too familiar with: Python (🐍). As such, teams were created around the few members we had who could handle this snake of a programming language. I got put into a team with Valentin (yes again), Aleksandra, and Bao. Being handed a small code base, amazingly documented, to work with was intimidating. However, my team kept a cool head, and after brainstorming we went with a simple linear regression approach.

It turns out that the other groups we were competing with were unable to implement their ideas, so we won with the simplicity of good old linear regressions, and the charm that is Valentin's presenting skills.

However, Riskquest is known for another reason, namely: Ping Pong. They have a beautiful table in their backyard, which we asked if we could use. After seeing Constantin get pummeled by Leo and blaming the "wind", me and Valentin decided to play some lovely, friendly, and casual ping pong till it was time to leave.

On the way to the next stop, we came close to one of the main reasons to go to Amsterdam. This is also where I made my biggest mistake on the trip. Unlike Asen, I did not get my girlfriend flowers from the flower market. Honestly, guys take notes from him.



Continuing we got to our last company for the trip. A different flavor of company we could end up at. Van Lanschot Kempen is a wealth management firm, where, after being received with the usual drinks and sweets, we were put into a beautiful giant room with windows all along the outside of the room. Giving us a beautiful view of the other companies surrounding us. Furthermore, there were three presentation boards set up so they could explain their company and case to us.



Remember those beautiful windows I mentioned? I must say the view became less magnificent when it was revealed that our case was to imagine 9/11 had just happened and to forge a plan for our company and clients. While this was a fascinating case, I must say that seeing airplanes fly by made me a little jittery. I was paired up with two members of the board and my closest friends Martin and Aashia, who decided to show their ability to work together they generated, by being so close on the board, by tackling the non-data-driven part of this case. For the other part, which was done in R, I was paired with Lisa and Chalisa. Unfortunately, we did not get far because we spent a while cleaning and merging the provided data sets. This meant that even though Martin's presentation on non-data side gave shivers. In contrast Paul's knowledge on financial concepts was what gave the company representative shivers and they decided to crown his team the winner.



Finally, we come the final part of the business trip, and while we wish it would not be over yet, I cannot think of a better way to end the trip than with drinking. Van Lanschot Kempen graciously invited us to join them for drinks in their bar. With the number of drinks, we were recommended to get I believe everyone had an amazing time at the end of the trip. I would like to personally thank the current board for organizing this amazing event, as well as all the companies we got to visit, and I hope we don't have to wait another 5 years for the next one !!!



**A special thanks to Joshua Smilde and the External Affairs Committee for making this trip a great success, See you next year!!**



# Alumni Drinks

By Aashia Chanana



In a heartwarming turn of events, Vectum proudly hosted its first alumni event in over half a decade. On the lively evening of our business trip's first night, 14th March 2024, Bij Guujes, Utrecht, became the backdrop for this truly special reunion.

With an impressive turnout of over 20 alumni, the evening was abuzz with excitement and nostalgia. Laughter and animated conversations filled the air as old friends reunited, reminiscing about their time with Vectum and the shared experiences that bound them together. One of the most special aspects of the event was the opportunity for alumni to connect with the new generation of Vectum. As stories were exchanged and memories shared, it was evident that the spirit of Vectum transcends time, forging lasting bonds that endure beyond graduation. There were heartfelt moments of reflection as alumni shared anecdotes about Vectum's history and the beloved professors at SBE who had left a lasting impression on them.

It was a reminder of the strong sense of community that defines Vectum—a community built on friendship, shared experiences, and a commitment to excellence. In the end, Vectum's alumni gathering was more than just a chance to catch up—it was a celebration of the enduring legacy of Vectum and the profound impact it has had on the lives of its members, past and present.

**Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we hope to see you again at the next Alumni Event!**



# Martin's diary entry



## Vectum in Croatia

By Martin Bergmann

Saturday, 06.04.24



Dear diary, today is my birthday, I had the best start to the day, enjoying the cake my girlfriend baked for me and opening my presents! The day started early as this was the day we left for the long-awaited, first-ever Vectum trip. I met up with the group at the Maastricht station at the crack of dawn. Still tired but full of enthusiasm we started our journey to Split, Croatia.



Without any interruptions got to Schiphol from where we took a direct flight to Split. Arriving in Split, we took the bus and then had to walk up the hill for 40 minutes to get to our villa. Even before the owner came to hand over the keys, I saw people jumping into the pool and cooling down from the Croatian heat.



After a short settling in, we went for groceries. Unfortunately, the location of the villa was rather remote and we had to walk 20 minutes to the next grocery store, but with the full group, we managed nicely and got enough food for dinner and breakfast. However, for today, the common interest was to go to Split and get dinner in the city. So we took the train and had the slowest train ride imaginable. But in the end, the train made it and so did we. We went into the heart of Split and looked for a possibility to eat. But before we knew it, a guy called Speedy Pete started talking to us. With a group of 11 students, we seemed to have been the perfect group for him as he was promoting a pub crawl. However, for 20 euros per person, we figured this was not worth it. Then we had dinner. While around half of the group decided to go traditional and ordered Cevapi, some others decided to go less traditional and get a pizza. All in all, everyone seemed to have been satisfied by the food and Joshua was so kind to pay for everyone\*. After dinner we went on a night sightseeing tour through Split guided by the EAC himself, Mr. Joshua Smilde (he just tried to get to the club advertised by three local girls). On the way, a street musician got our attention and played us some traditional Croatian music on his guitar. Ultimately, we got to the club. But no one was there, we arrived too early. But the overall energy was too little to stay for two more hours and thus we got an Uber home and played some cards at the villa.

Good night!

07.04.24 *Sunday*

Today was a slow start, or so we thought. With 8 motivated students (or somewhat motivated), the group decided to go on a hike! Given the location of the villa, hiking was a perfect opportunity as it was already somewhat in the mountains. We gathered water, bananas and apples and started walking. The very own Tom Houba has found a nice hiking trail on an app, so we followed him into the mountains. It was clearly visible after a kilometer or two walking straight uphill, that most of us would not last long though. So at a vital point of the hike, we decided to take a group picture and then me and 3 others continued our adventure to the top of the mountain, while the other 4 left home (the legend says: they made it and enjoyed a day in the pool).



We started deviating from the path and took a short cut right up the hill. It ended up being a short cut, but the experiences made on that trail will haunt them forever. Some unnamed person decided to tell horror stories about Pythons (the snake, not the computer program) existing in Croatia and especially in Split (of course jokingly). But only a couple of minutes later, a creature appeared from the bushes right in front of me and what could I say: IT WAS A SNAKE!!! I screamed so loudly, my heart was racing. People too far behind me wouldn't believe me, but the person right behind me saw it as well. With all our courage, we continued though. It was not a pleasurable path with me leading as every time there was a noise coming from the bushes, a loud scream would appear and people would start getting scared. We did it though! We made it to the top alive! And at the top, we enjoyed a refreshing, cooled-down Coca-Cola. It was not the end though. Being at the top, we hiked further alongside the mountains and made it to the peak of the peaks.

By the time we got home, it had been 6 hours of walking. For dinner, the German-Chinese cooking wizard (@Fabian) prepared some pasta for everyone and we continued the night with more drinks and games.

**Happy to still be alive!**

*Monday 08.04.24*

The group has increased to 13 people (welcome Rik and Donny). We have a car now, grocery shopping is bound to be easier. Today is promised to be a super day! Last night we decided, today we would take a ferry and go to Supetar (a small town on an island next to Split). We again took the train (basically the only way of getting to Split without having to walk half an hour to the bus stop). Luckily, the main station of Split is right at the port, so we were able to buy tickets for everyone and take the ferry a little more than 10 minutes after arriving in Split. 50 minutes on the ferry and we arrived in Supetar! We checked out the island for a little while, walking along the oceanside the entire time. But people wanted to get lunch, so we went back to the main town and got food (and alcohol) in the supermarket.

We ate just outside, enjoying the “port” and looking at fish. A small town, little sightseeing. We went inside a church, got a taste of the lazy workers on the island (two workers painting two church windows white for the entire day). Then we split up. While some people went back to Split, others stayed and went to the beach. It wasn’t spectacular. The water was cold and the beach itself stony. But people had a good time.



We went inside a church, got a taste of the lazy workers on the island (two workers painting two church windows white for the entire day). Then we split up. While some people went back to Split, others stayed and went to the beach. It wasn’t spectacular. The water was cold and the beach itself stony. But people had a good time. And so, we spent an hour there and then got a drink back at the port. I had a Pina Colada 😊. Others had Karlovacko, a Croatian beer. It was either getting dinner in the overpriced city of Split or staying two more hours on the island. So we did the latter. I had the most filling meal of two whole scallops while the person sitting next to me was suffering from the amount of meat in his T-bone steak. But everyone eventually had enough food after ordering a dessert. We took the ferry back while playing a game of Toupen (I won’t mention it as often, but it has been played so often, you can’t even imagine). We got back home, admiring the sight of two alumni that joined us too.



The group is complete now. Even more, the alumni have prepared the greatest of drinking games for the entire group: Boozelympics! In teams of 3 to 4 people, and in a bunch of minigames, we needed to gather the most points to find the ultimate prize: A bottle of alcohol. We played musical chairs, coin flipping, memory, blowing, and beach ball and the grand finale being trust falls. Of course, trust falls being drunk ultimately ended up with people falling into the pool. But in the end we had our winner! Congrats to Viola, Timo, Jochem, and Mart! Also special thanks again to Joris and Mira for hosting the olympics.

**I’m drunk**

## 09.04.24 Tuesday

It’s culture time: After visiting Split at night on Saturday, we’re touring around Split during the day. We only arrived midday after drinking too much last night and having to recover. We got some ice cream and walked around. Split is not that big and we saw most of the sights in around an hour to two. In the meantime, we also got a drink at a terrace. Like typical tourists, we posed for the best possible pictures. But small city = little time spent. So time for dinner planning. We had a BBQ, and surprisingly, it was actually nice. I managed to get a nice fire. We had steaks, ribs, sausages, courgettes and aubergines. On the side we watched a great match of Real vs City 😊. We ended the night with Jackbox (and I won one of the rounds)! Also thanks to Luuk for hosting the Jackbox 😊



**Fire Guy!!! (Not an Office reference 😊)**



Wednesday 10.04.24



This day has been planned for a couple of days already. We got up early because we had to be in the city at 10 already...so leave at 9, wake up at 8. We took a tour of the Krka National Park. It has been an incredible experience, with such clear water and beautiful waterfalls. We walked around the park and admired the views.



But the schedule of the tour was tight, so we continued on a boat and rode to a little town. We got an hour of free time, which was basically just used to relax and lay down. Then we continued the tour to an incest village where we tasted 4 different wines: A white, rose, red and dessert wine. The dessert wine was so good that I even bought a 0.5l bottle for 20 euros (shared it with Tom). We were promised a cheese and olive oil tasting as well, but that was disappointing. We got one cheese which was served on a plate of olive oil(scam!!).

But overall, the day was still great! Well, except for the group of 5 that will always have a trauma of trains. On the way back to our villa, we got out at our station, but the train door closed within 20 seconds, and not everyone was able to get out. The conductor didn't care at all and just continued, so the people had to get out at the next station in the dark. Story is that they had to jump out the train at the next station because it was so remote that there wasn't even a platform (or too short for the train). Then, on their way to find civilization, they ran into a killer dog haunting them from which they had to flee. Even worse, only two people had a phone. So communication was limited. After 1.5 hours, the brave group made it back to the villa and could enjoy a nicely prepared second BBQ and some football.



**Glad to have made it out of the train in time!**



## 11.04.24 Thursday

It's beach day! All of us went to this nice beach that the locals recommended to us. Arriving at the beach, we ran into a movie production (so maybe if you watch Momo, you'll get to see us in it). Beach day was like you expected it to have been. People lay on the beach, people went into the water, and people played Toupen. Of course, I did everything. The water was bearable, the beach was somewhat stony, and Toupen was great.

Dinner was at a pizzeria. The three second years, Ties, Jochem, and Mart stayed to go out. Guess who they met? SPEEDY PETE!! Me and the others went back to the villa and enjoyed a nice movie of Johnny English at home. We went to bed early because tomorrow was again an early wake up.

**I'm too hot. Skin is red.**



## Friday 12.04.24

Today was the day of all days! It was expensive, but definitely worth the money. We rented a boat for the day. Got to Split at 10 again and had 7 hours of pure enjoyment (unfortunately not with everyone as the website said something else than the skipper). The skipper was great! He knew exactly what to show and what we could do, which was even better because no one really had a clue where to go. It wasn't even the places we visited, but the overall experience of feeling the wind going through your hair while you're riding at 50km/h on the water.

The first stop was an old shipwreck. The water was so clear, you didn't even have to dive to see it. Some people jumped into the water and went for a small swim. I figured I'll do that later. The next stop was a 12m cliff. People wanted to jump from there. I don't know how people have the courage for that, but props to Iwan, Fabian, and Joris for jumping.



Next up, is a small town on an island. A quick drink and a round of Toupen. Finally, the highlight: Cliff jumping from “5m” (that was certainly more than 5m). Almost the whole group decided to jump and in retrospect, everyone was happy and proud of jumping: When you ask people what their favorite activity of the whole trip was, people will tell you this.

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The day was far from over though: There was a big plan of going clubbing. Before though, we got dinner. Thanks to a mistake by me, we ended up having dinner in the town we were living in. The food was alright. But the restaurant will always be stuck as one of the worst ones we’ve ever eaten at. We arrived, and the server took our orders. 30 minutes later, the server came again. People who ordered the specialty of the house needed to order again: They did not have the ingredients for their specialties! 😞 So, those order again....another hour later, the first dish arrives (for a group of 15). I think it took 2 hours for everyone to have finally gotten their food.

Well, in the end, it didn’t matter anyway as people had to spend their time somehow before going to the club. I decided I wouldn’t go as I wasn’t feeling it. So did two others. But everyone else went to the club. I don’t know much about it, but here are some story headlines I heard:

1. Two people got scammed by the same girl
2. Someone made out with a girl on the parking lot
3. A guy was flirting with 3 girls at the same time

**What a fantastic day it has been!**

*13.04.24 Saturday*

The trip is over 😞

The whole day was basically playing Toupen and flying back to Amsterdam. Looking back at the trip, there was no day that was bad. Everything went well and everyone had fun! Glad about how the whole first-time Vectum trip turned out.

**Looking forward to a whole week of rain.**



# An unofficial Vectum Tradition



## Pub Quiz at Peter's Irish Pub



By Fe Helder & Aashia Chanana

Mondays are the start of the week, some people agree that it needs to be a productive day to have a nice week and others might think that Mondays are tiring and not interesting. A few members of Vectum reunited to make Monday a fun and happy start to the week. We participated in the Weekly PubQuiz at Peter's Irish Pub and became Pineapple Crush. With a baby chicken with rainbow-coloured sunglasses as their Kahoot identity, Martin, Aashia, Edoardo, Pieter, and Fe started a traditional non-Vectum activity of PubQuiz.



For those who have never had the chance to participate in one of these Pub Quizzes at Peter's Irish Pub, the setting of the quiz is as follows: there are 100 questions with a common theme, and after every 25 questions we get about a 10-minute break. Only one device is allowed per table and if someone from your table is caught on their phones or if your team is caught cheating, you'll have to perform a dare in front of the whole pub (embarrassing!!). The winner of the quiz wins a Bottle of Cava and the runner-up gets a round of shots, if you think humor is your strong suit you can also win the title of "Best Team Name" if your team name manages to catch the hosts' eyes.







We have reasons to believe that the hosts are too lazy to think of a theme and name it “General Knowledge” every single week. Over the past 7 weeks, we participated in the pub quiz, the theme was indeed General Knowledge. Except for our second PubQuiz Monday, when the theme was How I Met Your Mother! In this day and age, almost everyone and their mothers have watched this 2005-2014 sitcom, however, our group was at a bit of a disadvantage with Fe, Edoardo, and Pieter having no clue about the show. Even though Martin and Aashia were confident that they could pull through with their knowledge of HIMYM they decided to ask Valentin for help and that's when he joined Pineapple Crush. Days leading up to that Monday, Aashia chose to test her knowledge by doing pre-loaded quizzes on Kahoot on HIMYM trivia, little did she know that her doing this would lead us to our first win...To our luck, most quiz questions were ones she had already answered in her practice sessions! Pineapple Crush held the first spot for the entire quiz, winning a bottle of Cava for their excellent performance!



Enthusiastic to win again, we continued participating in the quiz, the goal was to make Pineapple Crush “regulars”. Every week new people wanted to join our adventure and the group kept expanding to a point where it was only possible to reserve via email because the group was too big. With too many cooks spoiling the broth we were cursed, the closest we got to a win was getting second place. Although, from experience, while getting first place might give you a huge ego boost, getting second place is so much better because the Cava tasted disgusting 🤢

After taking a little break for exam season, we are again passionate about attaining the title of winner!!

**Do you have any such “unofficial” Vectum tradition?  
You can email us your tradition to be featured in the next PerVectum**

# Students' guide to embracing Spring in Maastricht



By Daniela Daguta & Maria Barbuoş

As the vibrant colours of spring breathe new life into Maastricht, the city becomes a playground of possibilities for students eager to explore. Nestled in the picturesque landscape of the Netherlands, Maastricht boasts a unique blend of history, culture, and youthful energy. Here's what you can do and see this time of year:

## Enjoy Nature at Stadspark

Escape the hustle and bustle of city life with a tranquil retreat to Stadspark. This expansive park located near the city centre, is a paradise for nature lovers. Pack a picnic and spend a lazy afternoon lounging on the grass, or rent a bike and explore the winding pathways that lead through lush meadows and wooded areas.



## Cruise Along the Maas River

Experience Maastricht from a different perspective by taking a scenic boat cruise along the Maas River. Sit back, relax, and enjoy panoramic views of the city skyline and the picturesque countryside. Some tours even offer onboard dining, allowing you to savour local delicacies while drifting along the tranquil waters.



## Cycle to Valkenburg

For a day trip adventure, hop on a bike and pedal your way to the nearby town of Valkenburg. Nestled in the picturesque Limburg countryside, Valkenburg is known for its historic castle ruins, underground caves, and thermal baths. Explore the town at your own pace, and don't forget to reward yourself with a well-deserved slice of Limburgse vlaai, a traditional Dutch pastry.

## Maastricht Underground/Grotten Noord

Explore the mysterious caves of Grotten Noord, located on the outskirts of Maastricht. Embark on a guided tour through ancient limestone quarries and underground passages, and marvel at the impressive rock formations and underground artwork that adorn the cavern walls. Descend into the tunnels, caves, and fortifications that date back centuries, and discover the fascinating stories of the city's subterranean world.



## Explore the Jekerkwartier

Lose yourself in the narrow alleys and quaint squares of the Jekerkwartier district. This bohemian neighbourhood is home to art galleries, cozy cafes, and hidden courtyards. Take a leisurely stroll along the Jeker River, surrounded by blossoming trees and lush greenery, and discover the city's artistic soul.



## Bonnefanten Museum

Delve into the world of art at the Bonnefanten Museum, which showcases a diverse collection of both historical and contemporary artwork. From Renaissance masterpieces to cutting-edge installations, this museum offers a cultural experience that is sure to inspire and captivate.



Spring in Maastricht is a time of renewal and discovery, offering endless opportunities for students to explore, learn, and create lasting memories. So grab your bike, lace up your walking shoes, and embark on an unforgettable journey through this enchanting Dutch city.



# King's Day Celebration in Maastricht:



## A Vibrant Dutch Tradition

By Manuel Baptista

Kingsday, or Koningsdag, is an exuberant celebration in the Netherlands, marking the birthday of King Willem-Alexander.

This lively national holiday falls on the 27th of April each year, painting the country in a sea of orange as people come together to revel in Dutch culture and heritage. Maastricht, a picturesque city in the southern province of Limburg, offers a unique and memorable experience for those looking to immerse themselves in the festivities.

### Morning Stroll and Market Exploration

Start your Kingsday adventure with a leisurely stroll through Maastricht's charming streets adorned with orange decorations and flags fluttering in the breeze. Make your way to the bustling market squares, such as Markt and Vrijthof, where you'll find a kaleidoscope of stalls selling everything from traditional Dutch treats to handmade crafts and vintage treasures. Don't forget to pick up some orange attire or accessories to truly embrace the spirit of the day.



### Live Music and Street Performances

Kingsday in Maastricht is synonymous with music and merriment, with street performers and live bands adding to the festive atmosphere throughout the city. Wander through the cobblestone streets and squares to discover impromptu concerts, dance performances, and entertainment for all ages. Join in the dancing or simply soak up the vibrant ambiance as you mingle with locals and fellow revelers.

### Culinary Delights and Local Cuisine

No Kingsday celebration would be complete without indulging in some delicious Dutch delicacies. Treat your taste buds to authentic stroopwafels, freshly-baked poffertjes, or savory bitterballen from the numerous food stalls and eateries dotted around Maastricht. For a true culinary experience, head to one of the city's charming cafes or restaurants to savor regional specialties like Limburgse vlaai (fruit tart) or zoervleis (sweet and sour stew).



### Evening Fireworks and Festivities

As the sun sets on Kingsday, the festivities in Maastricht show no signs of slowing down. Join the crowds gathered along the riverbanks or find a cozy spot in one of the city's squares to witness a spectacular fireworks display lighting up the night sky. Raise a toast to King Willem-Alexander and the vibrant spirit of the Netherlands as you bid farewell to another unforgettable Kingsday in Maastricht.

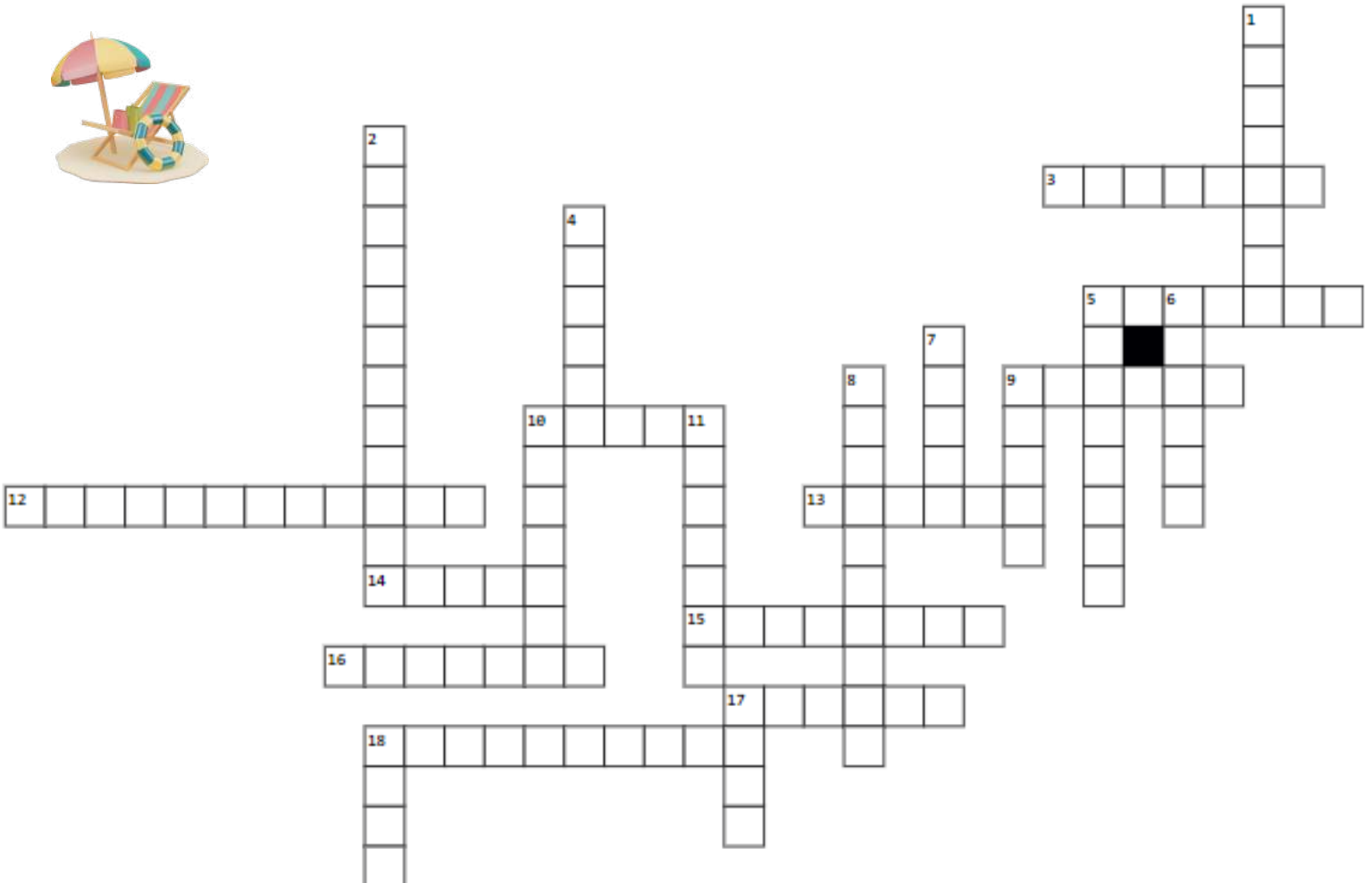
In Maastricht, Kingsday is more than just a celebration; it's a joyful expression of Dutch culture, camaraderie, and community spirit. Whether you're exploring the colorful markets, dancing to live music, or savoring local delights, Kingsday in Maastricht promises an experience filled with laughter, memories, and a whole lot of orange.

# Crossword



Did you read Martin's diary entry about their exciting vacation? Head back to page 18 to read it if you haven't yet, I promise you will feel like you were at the trip with them.

Test your memory with this crossword puzzle, do you remember the little details from that article?



## Across

- Airline used to get to Split
- The maximum amount of people that have been on the trip
- Very old, small town
- Scary animal encountered on the trip
- Favorite activity of the week
- Traditional Croatian dish ordered for the first dinner
- First destination of Vectum City Trip
- Airport from which we flew
- Type of wine bought after wine tasting
- Person celebrating a birthday during the trip
- Croatian beer

## Down

- Two time dinner at the accommodation
- Drinking competition
- Card game played endlessly on the trip
- Sport watched on Tuesday and Wednesday night
- Day that most people went clubbing
- Housing type that was the accommodation for the trip
- Name of pub crawl promoter
- Main method of transport used to get to the city
- Small town close to Split reachable by ferry
- Last name of the spy from the movie watched during the trip
- Name of the movie produced during Beach day
- Name of Croatian national park

Send in your solution to [secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl](mailto:secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl) or DM us on instagram ([vectum.maastricht](https://www.instagram.com/vectum.maastricht))



# EUROVISION

## Prediction Contest



Use your forecasting skills and predict yourself to a grand prize! With the Eurovision coming up soon, we have created a prediction game for you. The principle is easy: You give us the name of the country that you believe will be in  $n$  place in the final of the ESC.

Scoring is as follows:

Correct 1st place: **12 points**

Correct 2nd place: **10 points**

Correct 3rd place: **8 points**

And then from 4th to 10th place, you will get **7 to 1 points respectively**.

Additionally, there is a bonus question on who will become last which will give you **26 points**.

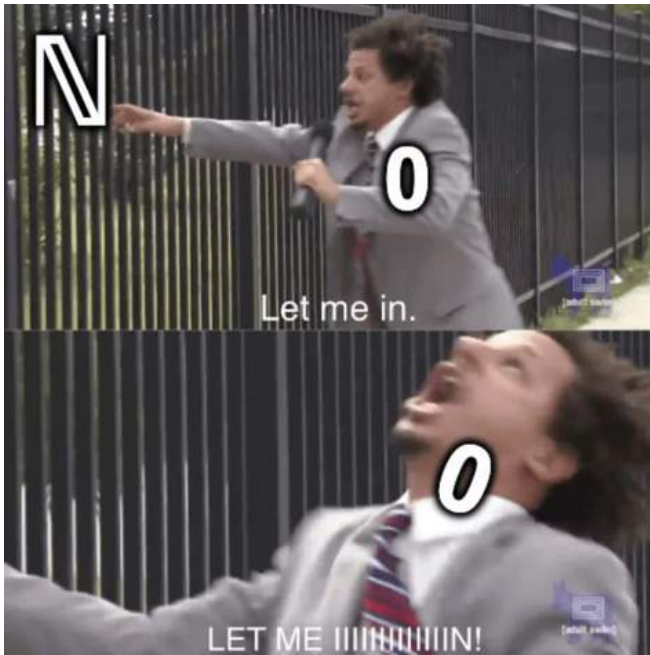
If we see that there are people who have the same score after these 10 (+bonus) predictions, we have created a tiebreaker question.

<https://forms.gle/eCjoMUQ1eGzPLu1G9>

**Send in your responses latest by 7th of May 18:00!**



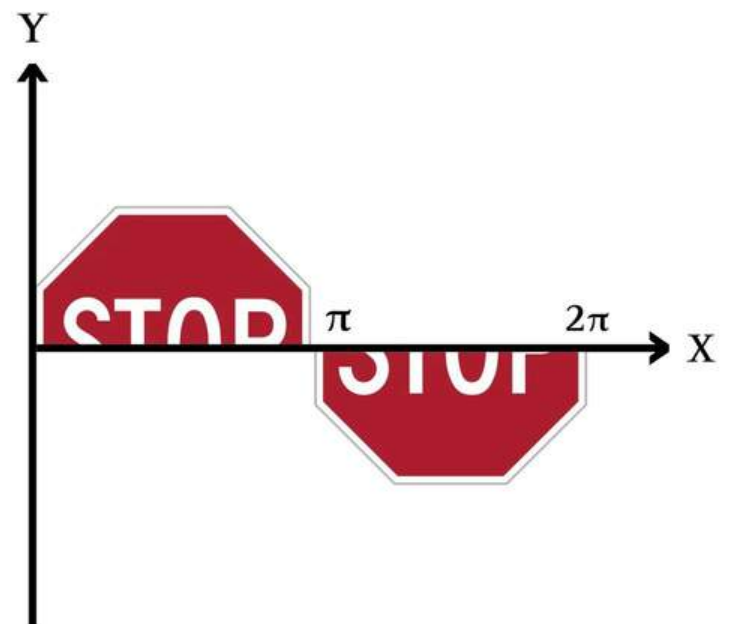
# A nerd's meme vault



“Econometrics, that just economics with a bit of math”



Careful, this is a stop sine.



Variance is not constant

Heteroskedasticity

# MEMBERS' WEEKEND



**21-23 June**



**SIGN UPS OPEN MAY 13TH, 12:00**