

Press release

## **Executive Session 2014 of the New Board Program:**

# Information security is all about governance

Cyber security is a strategic issue. It belongs on the boardroom agenda, just like information technology and innovation. This is the conclusion of the Executive Session 2014 of the New Board Program of Nyenrode Business Universiteit. However, the Session also made clear that there is still a gap in understanding the linkage between information technology risks and enterprise risk management. The Executive Session 2014 was attended by alumni of the New Board Program 4-16, Nyenrode faculty and guests.

In a discussion lead by **Bob Hoogenboom**, professor Forensic Business Expertise at Nyenrode, speakers and participants discussed corporate policy, public-private cooperation and boardroom aspects of information security.

**Lineke Sneller**, professor Value of IT at Nyenrode, showed how dependent people have become of digital information technology. **Wilma van Dijk**, director Cyber Security at the Nationaal Coördinator Terrorismedbestrijding en Veiligheid (NCTV) explained how the Dutch government stimulates cooperation between public and private parties to address cyber security risks without compromising the societal and economic benefits of information technology.

**Hans Grisel**, global Head of Non-financial Risk at ING Netherlands, talked about top management's role in information security. Apart from using sophisticated analytical tools for gauging risks and probability of incidents, top management must also make sure that cyber security becomes part of the behaviour and culture within the whole organization, Grisel stated. **Ronald Prins**, director of Fox IT, said awareness of cyber risk is important, but not sufficient. An organization must also have the ability and resilience to act. He still sees a gap between understanding the IT risk and overall boardroom risk awareness.

The Executive Session concluded with a thrilling crisis game, presented by **Werner Overdijk**, director of Crisisplan, assisted by journalist **Peter ter Horst**.

A striking outcome of the game was the knowledge and awareness gap: top management has not enough understanding of what's going on technically, while the technical people are not connected to expectations of the outside world.

The challenge for executive and supervisory boards is to take the battle against cyber risk a big step further, by incorporating it into the business strategy, behaviour and culture throughout the organization.