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About the author

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Natalie (Natalya) Alexandra Maria Rijk (1988) studied Public Administration at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam (BSc. 2009). In 2010 she obtained her Master's Degree in International Public Management and Policy, writing a thesis on the role of national parliaments in issues of subsidiarity and legitimacy at EU level. After graduation she worked as a tutor in the public administration bachelor programme and as a junior researcher. Her interests focused on energy policies and the EU's efforts to speak with one voice in international negotiations.

In 2013, Natalya started her PhD research at the department of Public Administration of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her research was partly funded by Erasmus SmartPort and the Port of Rotterdam Authority. She was also stationed at the Port of Rotterdam Authority for two days a week for the duration of the research activities in order to be able to carry out participatory observation. During her time at the port authority she worked on the LNG Masterplan, providing stakeholder analyses and working on deliverables for the project. She also attended the Clingendael Energy Training days as a port authority representative in 2013. During her time as a PhD student, Natalya completed the training programme at the Netherlands Institute of Government (NIG). She also attended a summer school on Interest Group Politics organised by the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Natalya was invited to present her research at several conferences, including the International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP) and the European Union in International Affairs (EUIA) Conference. She is also a member of the NIG Research Colloquium on Energy and Climate Governance.

As of August 2016, Natalya works as project developer Smart Energy & Industry at SmartPort, where she tries to bridge the gap between business and academia, focusing on delivering academic knowledge upon which companies can base their strategic decisions.