# Royal honour for Prof. Dr. Karen Aardal

It is with great pleasure that we share the news that Professor Karen Aardal has been awarded the royal decoration **Ridder in de Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw** (*Knight in the Order of the Dutch Lion*). She received this prestigious honour on 25 April 2025, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to science and society in the domains of applied mathematics and theoretical computer science. Professor Aardal is one of only seven individuals to receive this particular distinction, out of a total of 3427 royal honours awarded this year.

Karen Aardal is Professor of Optimisation at the Delft Institute of Applied Mathematics (TU Delft) and a leading authority in combinatorial optimisation, integer programming, and facility location. Her research has produced fundamental algorithmic advances with applications in emergency response, healthcare, logistics, and beyond. She was the fourth woman ever to be appointed full professor in Mathematics in the Netherlands. Internationally, she is recognised for her scientific leadership, having served as President of the Mathematical Optimisation Society, as a Senior Fellow of INFORMS, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the INFORMS Computing Society. In the Netherlands, she contributes actively to national strategy and policy as a member of the executive board of the NWO Domain Science.

Professor Aardal is also widely appreciated as a dedicated and inspiring teacher, a tireless advocate for diversity and inclusion, and a role model within and beyond the mathematical sciences. The royal honour she has now received reflects not only her academic excellence but also her deep commitment to the broader academic community and to society at large.

We warmly congratulate Professor Aardal on this richly deserved recognition!

With kind regards,

On behalf of the LNMB board,

Maria Vlasiou

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Prof.  Dr. Maria Vlasiou

Hypatia Professor

University of Twente

Director [LNMB](http://www.lnmb.nl/)

<https://people.utwente.nl/m.vlasiou>

[LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/maria-vlasiou-a3a4742b2)

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/MariaVlasiou) (currently known as X)