**Article focus: A brainstorming exercise**

In one or two sentences, answer each of the following questions. Please be sure that your answers are appropriate for a general audience.

1) Why is your field important?

Underground construction is becoming more and more important because the space above ground in cities is getting scarce. Moreover the accessibility of cities is becoming a problem because of traffic congestions and insufficient capacity of the infrastructure.

Therefore it is evident to build new infrastructure underground. But many cities are built in deltas were the soil is soft with high groundwater and tunneling in such conditions can be difficult.

2) What has already been studied in your field?

Many research has already been conducted in the field of tunneling in soft soil. Also many tunnels have been constructed the last few years.

3) What has not been studied? Why is this gap significant?

I don’t know yet was not have been studies. I will try to discover that the coming months.

4) How does your research relate to this gap, and what is the goal of the current article? *Be sure to write a sentence that begins “The goal of this article is to […],” followed by a strong and specific verb (“propose,” “theorize,” “develop,” “investigate,” “discover”).*

In this English course, I would like to use the reader of the course “bored and immersed tunnels” as example. This current reader was written by my predecessors and has not been updated the last 15 years. The content is not up to date anymore and the English writing is very bad.

Beginning of this year I have rewritten half of the reader and the coming months I will rewrite the other half. I do not only want to improve the content but also the English.

5) What have you done, or what are you doing, to achieve this goal?

In the week from November 13th to November 17th, I will go to the university of Bochum in Germany where there is a lot of knowledge about soft soil tunneling and I will go to Zurich in Switzerland and visit a research facility underground in a mountain. In Bochum I will meet the professor of the tunneling department.

Also I a meeting many people of the industry to update my knowledge.

Some background information:

I am only working at TU Delft since April 2016 and I have given the course “Bored and immersed tunnels” for the first time the last quarter. I am not a PhD student or a researcher. I am a lecturer.

6) What is the working title of your article?

Chapter about bored tunneling of the reader.