

# Higher Education in the Netherlands

Frans de Zwaan

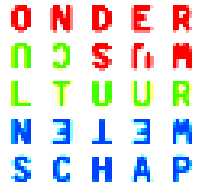
Directorate higher education

Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

O N D E R  
U C S I M  
L T U U R  
N E L E M  
S C H A P

## basics

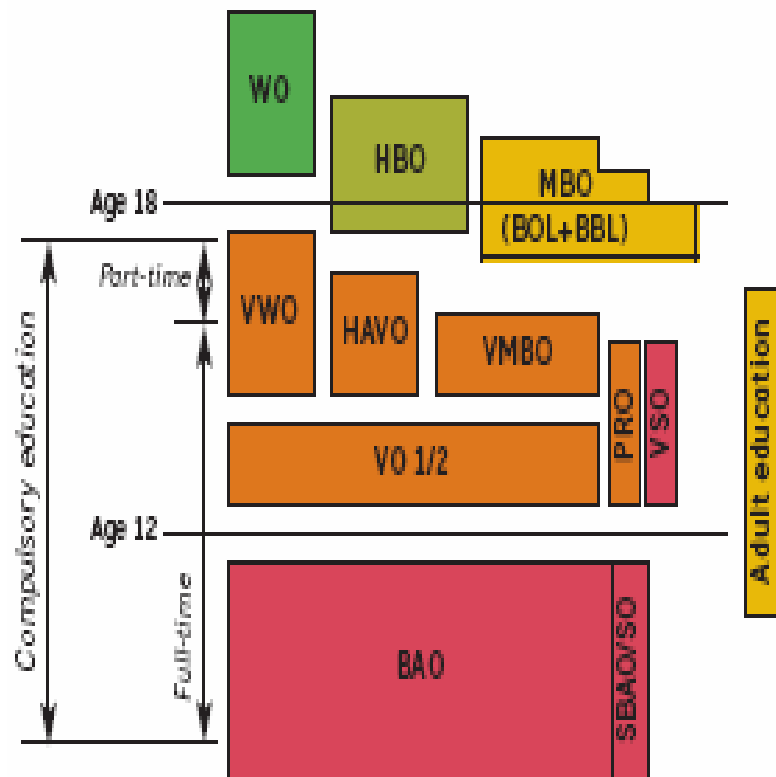
- Education is free (content, religion)
- Constitution: education is a matter of permanent concern for government
- Higher education in NL is an open, public/private system
- Regulated by law (WHW)
- Fully funded by public means.



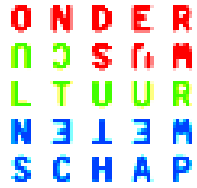
# Education system in Nederland

- Primary education: 8 years
  - All children choose level of sec. education at the age of 12
- Secondary education: 4-6 years
  - VMBO 4 years
  - HAVO 5 years
  - VWO 6 years
- Secondary vocational education (MBO) and Tertiary education (HBO and WO)
  - VMBO → MBO (4-6 years)
  - HAVO → HBO (4 years)
  - VWO → WO (4 years)

# Education system



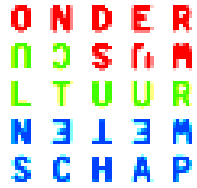
- BAO Mainstream primary education
- BBL Block or day release in vocational education
- BOL Full-time vocational training
- HAVO General secondary education
- HBO Higher professional education
- MBO Vocational education
- PRO Practical training
- SBAO Special primary education
- SO Special education
- VMBO Pre-vocational secondary education
- VO Secondary education
- VSO Secondary special education
- VWO Pre-university education
- WO University education



# Higher Education in Nederland

## Topics:

- Degree structure
- A binary system
- Institutions and students
- Funding
- Planning and labour market
- Governance
- Quality assessment
- National policies



## Degree structure HE

- Bologna Declaration 1999
- Since 2002 three cycles
- Bachelor – Master – PhD
- Academic B&M: 3 + 1 or 2 years
- Professional B : 4 years

ONDER  
NCSM  
LTUUR  
NEM  
SCHAP

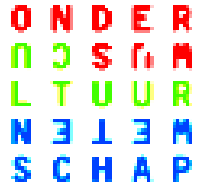
## A binary system

- Academic and professional degrees
- Research Universities and Universities of Applied Science (*hogescholen*)
- Universities and *hogescholen* have distinct missions

O N D E R  
U N I V E R S I T E I T  
L T U U R  
N E T W O R K  
S C H A P

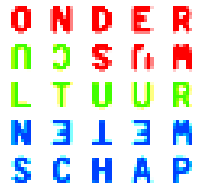
## A binary system: missions

- Mission of the universities: education, research, distribution and valorisation of knowledge
- Mission of the hogescholen: education, applied research related to the development of professions, distribution of knowledge



## Institutions

- Funded universities (13) offer B, M and PhD
- Funded universities for applied science (43) offer B (and M)
- Open University (1)
- Recognized, not funded institutions (62)
- Non-recognized non-funded institutions (?)



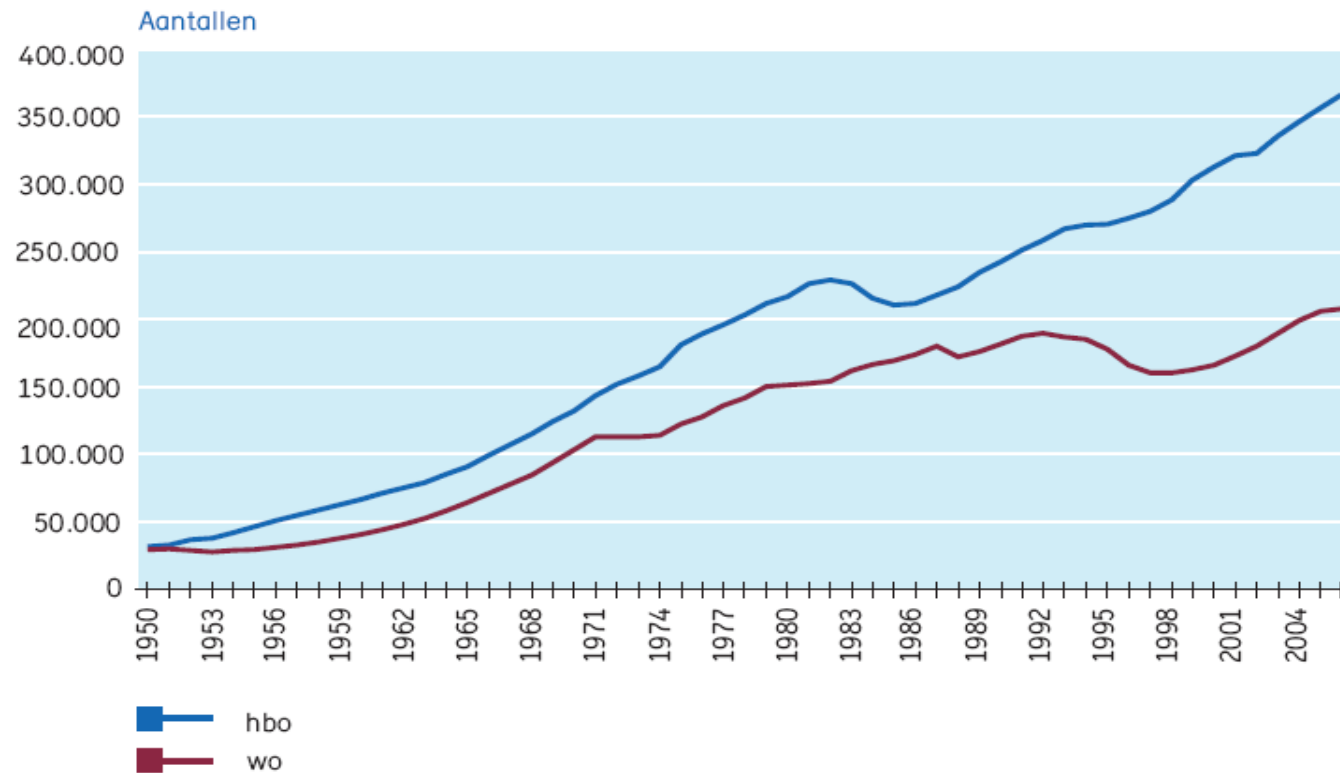
## Students 2007

- Universities: 213.000 students
- Hogescholen: 374.000 students
- Non-funded inst. 70.000 students

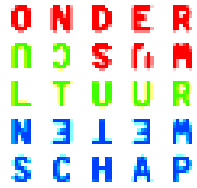
# Number of students HE since 1950

(source: CBS data)

Figuur 3 Ontwikkeling van het aantal studenten sinds 1950



Bron: CBS (Statline).

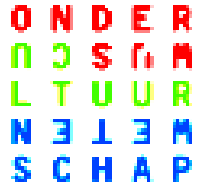


## Students

- Tuition fee for state funded HE: € 1538 (2007-2008)
- A comprehensive study grants scheme for all students: basic budget for all + income related budget.

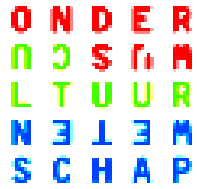
## Public funding

- OCW budget 23,4 billion euro
- 19,4 % of state budget
- HBO 1,75 billion euro
- WO 3,25 billion euro
- Study grants 2,7 billion euro
- Per student hbo 5700 euro
- Per student wo 5800 euro



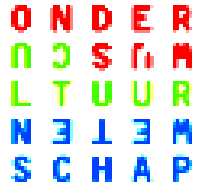
# Funding University Research

- First flow 2 billion euro
- 2<sup>nd</sup> flow 0,2 billion (research council)
- 3d flow 1 billion euro  
(3d flow of funds: contracts with non-profit bodies, EU, private industry)
- Applied research in HBO 50 mln euro



## Income of universities

Government grants	3	billion euro
Student fees	0,25	billion euro
Contracts	1,25	billion euro
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,5</i>	<i>billion euro</i>



## Income *Hogescholen*

Government grants	1,7	billion euro
Student fees	0,4	billion euro
Contracts	0,3	billion euro
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,4</i>	<i>billion euro</i>

## Governance

- Within the public system HEI's have a semi-autonomous status
- HEI's have public or private status
- Most universities have public status
- Supervisory Board (nominated by Minister) and Executive Board (nominated by SB)

## Governance 2

- As “public enterprises” HEI’s make their own strategic choices
- No direct ministerial interference with governance of institutions
- Public Funds are given as a block grant
- Autonomy and Quality Control

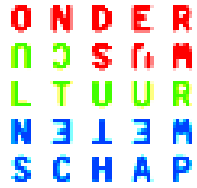
ONDER  
ONDER  
L T U R  
N E L E M  
S C H A P

## Supervisors

- Accreditation (quality of education)
- Quality assessment for research
- Financial Auditor

# Planning

- Planning for medical professions (surplus)
- Planning for teachers (shortages)
- Planning for science/engineering (shortages)
- **No** comprehensive central planning in HE
- Free choice for students
- Good information about labour market should be available to students to make rational choices.
- Planning of new programmes

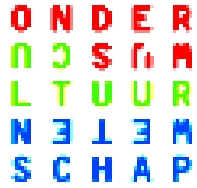


## Labour market

- 91 % of graduates is employed
- 85% of HBOgraduates has a job at HBO level
- 64% of WOgraduates has a job at WO level
- Very low unemployment level
- Quantitative and qualitative fit to labour market.

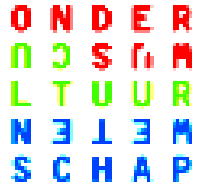
# Accreditation

- NVAO: Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Board
- An autonomous agency regulated by law.
- Every program has to be tested every 6 years
- Peer review
- Every new program has to be approved
- National standards for degrees
- Loss of accreditation means loss of recognition and funding.



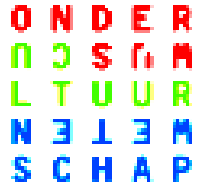
## Some performance indicators

- Participation rate HE in pop 18-25 yr: **38%**
- Participation is rising: of the 1981 cohort **46%** in HE
- Prognosis is **50%** by 2011
- Graduates in labour force: **35%** (44% in 2020)
- Among EU-countries and VS participation in NL is high
- Nr of science/engineering graduates is low (OECD)
- Succes rate is low: **73%** of wo-students graduated within 7 yrs, 62% of HBO students within 6 years.



## International Benchmarks

- EU Ranking: 7 Dutch universities in top 25 (citation impact, CWTS)
- Times Ranking: 11 in top 200, highest rank: 48
- Sjanghai Ranking: 12 in top 500, highest rank: 42



# National policies 2007-2015

## Balkenende IV Coalition Agreement

(Labour Party (PvdA), Christian Democrats (CDA),  
Christian Union (ChristenUnie))

- The importance of well-educated professional population and therefore more graduates
- The importance of greater excellence in higher education and research
- The need (across the entire education sector) for greater quality, a lower dropout rate and a stronger position for teaching staff

## Documentation

- Key Figures 2002-2006, OCW 2007
- Kennis in Kaart, OCW 2007
- Education at a glance, OECD
- The Education System in the Netherlands, NUFFIC
- [www.minocw.nl](http://www.minocw.nl)
- [www.nvao.net](http://www.nvao.net)
- [www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl)

ONDER  
ONDER  
LTIJDE  
NIEUW  
SCHAP

fransdezwaan@minocw.nl