



SHare, Improve, develop: today's excelleNce for tomorrow's HVET
Project n°. 2015-1-IT01-KA202-004792

Intellectual Output 1 – National surveys

The Netherlands

Developed by:
EfVET

February 2016

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
This document reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Table of Contents

Summary.....	3
Education in The Netherlands.....	4
Primary education	5
Secondary education.....	5
Senior secondary vocational education and training (mbo)	5
Higher education	5

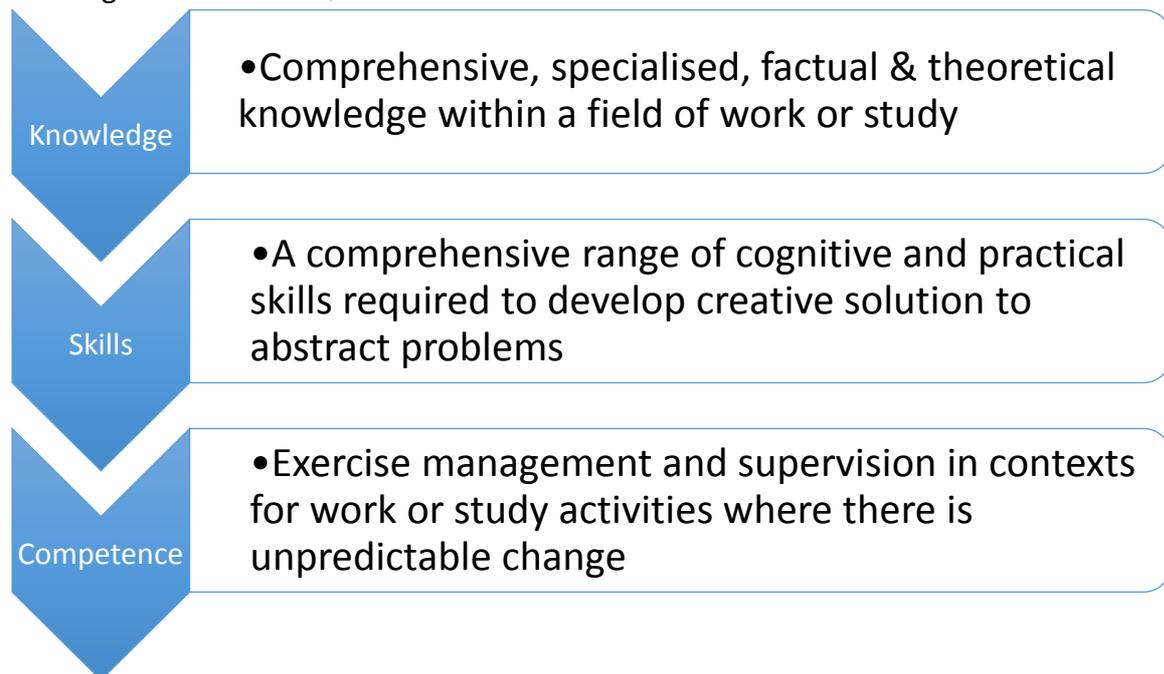
This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This document reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Summary

HVET on EQF 4 or 5 in Europe consists of Master craftsmen exam. It shows that EQF level 5 qualifications play an important role in providing access to employment and career advancement. The study in Netherland show that EQF 5 is a bridge between education and training institutions and subsystems, allowing learners to move more easily between different types of education and different level.

The Netherlands has decided to follow up the Recommendation and has started to develop the Dutch National Qualifications Framework- NLQF. Qualifications is classified at the appropriate level in the NLQF and , thus is aligned to an appropriate EQF level
Learning outcomes at EQF level 5 are:



Many EQF level 5 qualifications are designed to up-skills individuals already in employment and provide them with advanced technical and /or management skills: for example, Management and health care. Almost all students enrolled in this type of programme are

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This document reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

already employed and are seeking to upgrade their management competences to enable them to reform team leader roles in the organisations in which they work.

Secondary education, which begins at the age of 12 and is compulsory until the age of 16 and is offered at several levels. VMBO programmes for four years combine general and vocational education, after which pupils can continue in Secondary Vocational Education and Training – MBO lasting one to four years. The two programmes of general education that grant admission to higher education are:

- HAVO (five years)
- VWO (six years)

Some of students in the third year of secondary education take part in one of these programmes.

Higher professional education is open to students with upper secondary general education diplomas and graduates of level 4 upper secondary VET programmes. Half of such VET graduates enter the job market and the rest continue to higher professional education. Also, two years associate degree programmes open to MBO level 4 graduates and leading to EQF level 5 have recently been development

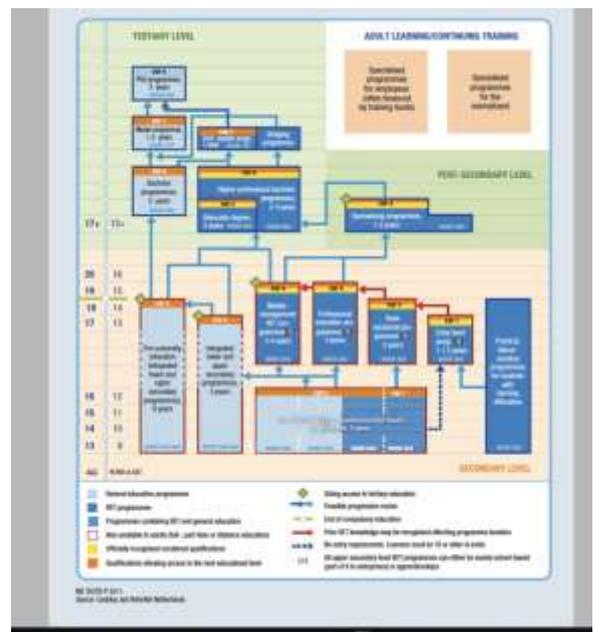
Education in The Netherlands

The Dutch education system is to give a good opportunity for education and prepare for independence and responsibility in life. The education system in The Netherlands is coordinated by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science on national level and on regional level by municipalities. Education is compulsory from the ages 5 to 18 and is provided in public, religious and private schools. Therefore, the Dutch education system is that pupils choose their path (type and Level) of education in an early stage.

In the Netherlands, full-time education is compulsory from the ages of 5 to 16. From the age of 16 until 18 students are obligated to attain a starting qualification that is sufficient for entrance at the labour market.

The Dutch education and training system comprises the following main elements:

- Primary education
- Special education
- Secondary education (pre-vocational secondary education and general secondary education)
- Vocational education and training and adult continuing education
- Higher education



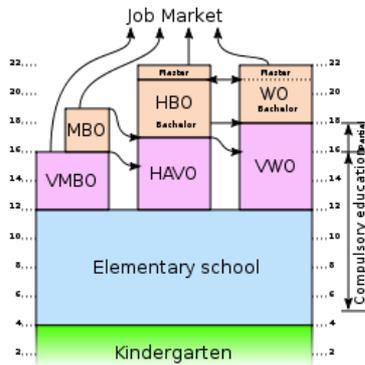
This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This document reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Primary education

The children in The Netherlands are allowed to begin school at the age of four, but are not legally required to do so until the age of five. Primary education last eight years, in the last year of which pupils are advised as to the type of secondary education they should pursue.

Secondary education



The secondary education is beginning at the ages of 12 and is compulsory until the age of 16, is offered at several levels. **Vmbo** programmes (4 years) combine general and vocational education, after which pupils can continue in senior secondary vocational education and training lasting one to four years. The two programmes of general education that grant admission to higher education are **havo**-five years; and **vwo** – six years. Students are enrolled according to their ability, and although **vwo** is more rigorous, both **havo** and **vwo** can be characterized as selective types of secondary education. The

havo diploma is the minimum requirement for access to **hbo**. The last two years of **havo** and the last three years of **vwo** are referred to as the tweede fase, or upper secondary education. During these years, students focus on one of four subject clusters, each of which emphasizes a certain field of study in addition to satisfying general education requirements. Each cluster is designed to prepare pupils for programmes of study at the tertiary level. A students enrolled in **vwo** or **havo** can choose from the following subject clusters:

- Science and Technology
- Science and Health
- Economics and Society
- Culture and Society

Senior secondary vocational education and training (mbo)

Senior secondary vocational education and training is offered in the areas of economics, technology, health, personal care, social welfare and agriculture. **Mbo** programme vary in length from one to four years as well as in level (1 to 4). Graduates of **vmbo** programmes are eligible fro admission to **mbo**, and completion of **mbo** programmes at level 4 qualifies pupils for access to **hbo**.

It is mostly seen as the end of initial education, completed with an initial qualification. For others, it is regarded as an alternative route to higher professional education. Most students follow the vocational education pathway although general education is viewed as a superior path. Improving parity of esteem between the two routes is a policy priority.

Higher education

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This document reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Higher education in the Netherlands is offered at two types of institutions: Research universities and universities of applied sciences. Research universities are primarily responsible for offering research-oriented programmes. Dutch research universities provide education and conduct research in a wide range of disciplines: language and culture, behavior and society, economics, law, medical and health sciences, natural sciences, engineering, and agriculture.

The higher education system in The Netherlands has been organized around a three-cycle degree system consisting of bachelor, master and PhD degrees. At the same time, the ECTS credit system was adopted as a way of quantifying periods of study. The higher education system continues to be a binary system, however, with a distinction between research-oriented education and professional higher education.

The higher education, leading to a doctor degree, will be offered only by research universities. All research universities in the Netherlands are entitled to award the country's highest academic degree, the **doctoraat**, which entitles a person to use the title doctor. The doctorate is primary a research degree, for which a dissertation based on original research must be written and publicly defended. The minimum amount of time is four years.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This document reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.