



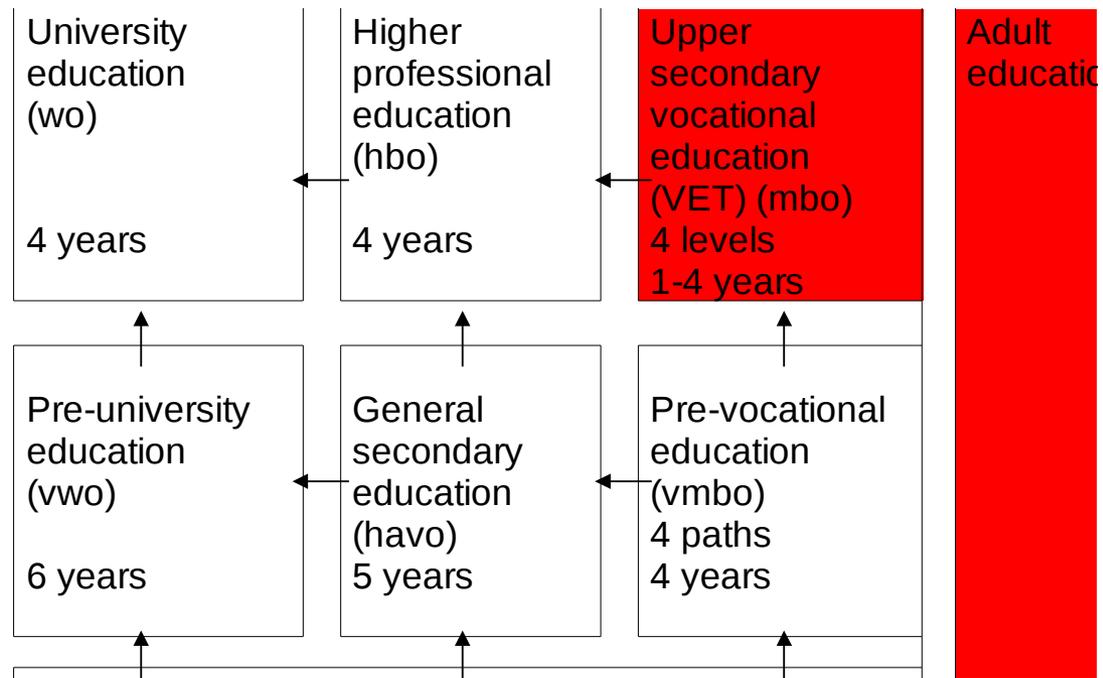
# The system of vocational and adult education in The Netherlands: how it works, major developments, focus for the future

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# Overall view of the educational system





## Vocational and Adult Education Act (1996)

Major developments:

- Merging of upper secondary vocational and adult education
- Merging of school based system and apprenticeship system
- Establishment Regional Training Centres (RTC or, in Dutch, 'ROC')
- Deregulation and decentralisation (lump sum financing)
- (Increasingly 'proportional') inspection by the Inspectorate of Education



## Facts and figures (2011)

Apart from Agricultural VET (30.500 students in 12 Agricultural Training Centres, financed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation):

- 484.900 students in initial upper secondary vocational education
- 59 funded schools (45 RTC's)
- Private schools
- 17 Centres of Expertise on vocational education and the business world



## Facts & figures 2 (2011)

- Vocational Education: € 3479,8 mln
- Centres of Expertise: € 98,8 mln
  
- Adult Education: € 115,9 mln
  - from 2010, € 50 mln was taken out of a higher budget of € 202,4 mln to finance a 'Deltaplan' to improve literacy and numeracy among VET-students ('better to prevent than to cure')
  - from 2011 another cut on the budget has been implemented
  
- Integration of newly arrived migrants is financed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment) (severe cuts on the original budget of € 290 mln from 2011)

From 2009 the last two categories, together with a budget to redirect people to the labour market, are part of an integrated 'Participation budget' at municipal level.



## Vocational education

### Two learning paths:

- School based system (337.600 students; 20%-60% in practice)
- Apprenticeship system (147.300 students; over 80% in practice)

### Four levels:

1. Assistant level: 'entry training' without threshold
2. Basic vocational training: starting qualification for the labour market
3. Professional training
4. Middle-management / specialist training

Over 700 qualification dossiers reduced to 237 by using the concept of 25 key competences (still 612 qualifications for over 5000 professions).

Further simplification required (task of the new 'Corporation for Vocational Training' comprising the Association of VET Colleges (MBO Raad) and Colo).

Introduction of broader 'domains' from 2014.



## Adult Education

### For people over 18, on a voluntary basis:

- Secondary education for adults who missed out (VAVO); 14.800 in 2011, 60% in general secondary education (havo);
  - From 2014, this part will be 'recentralised' (the ministry financing the RTC's directly)
- BE: basic education, aimed at self reliance;
  - for instance (about 12.000) literacy courses
- NT2 (Dutch as a second language)

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- Integration of Newly Arrived Migrants (**obligatory**)



## Focus for the future

Government increasingly steering on results

Towards Good Governance

- Horizontal dialogue/accountability
- Supervisory boards in institutes

More transparency

- Voluntarily benchmarking on performance (in co-operation with the Association of VET Colleges (MBO Raad)), f.i. on the number of drop outs

From 2013:

- . Reduction of training duration, VET training lasting no longer than 3 years (intensifying the number of hours to be spent at school)
- . New financing arrangement (a higher budget per student during the first year of training, gradually declining; continuation of the 'diploma bonus')



## Further information

See:

<http://www.government.nl/issues/education>