

# Continuing digitalising programme

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 NETHERLANDS

## Timeline

2019 Approved/Agreed

2020 Implementation

2021 Implementation

2022 Completed

ID number 40043

## Background

The administrative agreement (2018-22) between the education ministry and the Council for upper secondary VET schools (*MBO Raad*) on their joint ambitions includes further promoting digitalisation in VET. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the use of ICT in education has expanded enormously, especially for instruction and supervision. Much has been learnt during this extraordinary time. However, developments have been driven mostly from necessity, based on what was technically feasible, rather than on education theories. Schools and institutions have been forced to work with tools already available to them. The full potential of digital tools is far from being exploited.

## Objectives

Schools need to evolve from emergency remote teaching to well-considered digitalisation, structurally anchoring flexible and blended learning. This could also improve the connection to the labour market. This programme has three main pillars:

- (a) adapting the content of education;
- (b) achieving flexibility in education;
- (c) facilitating digitalisation of learning

## Description

Further promoting digitalisation in VET is considered fundamental to achieving the ambitions for upper secondary VET (MBO) set in the administrative agreement between the education ministry and the *MBO Raad*. Well-considered digital education requires a different didactic approach, specific skills and new tools for teachers. For the practical implementation of the agreement, a programme was drawn up called the Continuing digitalising programme (*Doorpakken op digitalisering*).

The programme was developed by the Cooperation organisation of VET colleges on ICT (*saMBO-ICT*). It includes actions in eight thematic areas: lifelong learning, digital citizenship, education logistics, data-supported education, teacher support, taking initiative, stimulating the development of learning materials nationally, developing personal files for

learners and stimulating innovation.

### **2019 Approved/Agreed**

The Continuing digitalising programme was approved in November 2019.

### **2020 Implementation**

In newsletters from MBO digitaal, no detailed progress per team is reported. All actions seem to have moved from the design phase to the implementation phase, as all teams are formed and no further reporting on the design phase of some teams is done.

### **2021 Implementation**

In newsletters of MBO digitaal, no detailed progress per team is reported. New publications and tools continue to be published on the website.

### **2022 Completed**

The programme ended in 2022, as scheduled. While no general results have been formulated, the deliverables of all eight themes have been published on several relevant websites and gathered centrally on one website about tackling digitalisation, as well as in the 2022 year report and the overall final report of the programme.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Cooperation organisation of VET colleges on ICT (saMBO-ICT) (until 2020)
- Council for upper secondary VET schools (MBO Raad)
- Cooperation organisation of VET colleges on ICT (MBO digitaal)

## **Target group**

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Acquiring key competences

Integrating digital skills and competences in VET curricula and programmes

### **Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences**

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## **Further reading**

Annex to policy letter on the National education programme, support programme for recovery and perspective, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, 17 February 2021

---

Web page on Continuing digitalisation programme

---

Administrative agreement MBO 2018-22

---

State of affairs: an update of the programme as a whole

---

Report based on the year plan 2022

---

Final report based on the intended output of the programme plan

“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Continuing digitalising programme: Netherlands. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/40043>