

Guidance arrangements

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 NETHERLANDS

Timeline



ID number 28446

Background

From 2011 to 2016, career orientation and guidance in VET was promoted through the Incentives project in MBO (*Stimuleringsproject LOB in het mbo*), which helped VET schools cooperate to develop and implement career orientation and guidance, and resulted in a website subsidised by the education ministry with practical knowledge and tools.

In a 2015 letter on career orientation and guidance, the education and labour ministries stated that career guidance still deserved attention in education; they announced a follow-up letter about guidance in all education sectors (lower and upper secondary general education, VET and higher education). Despite much effort in recent years, improvement is still needed to support students in making an appropriate study choice, to professionalise teachers in career guidance, and to support transition from pre-vocational education to upper secondary vocational and higher professional education.

Description

In September 2016, the Secretary of State for Education announced in a letter to parliament measures to improve career orientation and guidance in general and in vocational education. The most important actions implemented were:

- (a) in collaboration with stakeholders (e.g. sector councils, teacher associations, education institutions, the Expertise centre for guidance), competence profiles of school-based experts in career orientation and guidance were designed. An overview of career orientation training courses and training providers was also produced;
- (b) as of August 2017, career orientation and guidance became part of the assessment carried out by the Inspectorate of Education on the quality of programmes in primary, secondary general education and upper secondary VET;
- (c) a study undertaken by the secondary education council (*voortgezet onderwijs, VO*) assessed the feasibility of a cross-sectoral centre of knowledge and expertise on guidance.

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

In July 2017, a cross-sectoral Centre of expertise (*expertisepunt LOB*) on guidance began operating. It is based at the Council for upper secondary VET schools (*MBO Raad*) and aims to exchange information and good practice between all education sectors (primary, secondary general, pre-vocational, upper secondary VET and higher education) and to ensure efficient career guidance for students.

2018 Implementation

At the end of 2018, the Choose VET portal was launched and has been fully operational since then, offering comprehensive and updated information on VET programmes from both learning pathways, VET qualifications and their respective labour market perspectives. This digital portal has been developed by the Cooperation organisation for vocational education, training and the labour market (*Stichting Beroepsonderwijs en Bedrijfsleven, SBB*) in collaboration with the Council for upper secondary VET schools (*MBO Raad*), the business community and youth organisations on behalf of the education ministry. This portal aims to help learners in secondary education, their parents and mentors to make informed career decisions.

2019 Implementation

In 2019, a new measure was published describing the eight indicators of the portal. These indicators are: student satisfaction, schools' yearly results (percentage of successful students), progression to higher professional education (HBO), progression between the different levels in upper secondary VET (MBO), the chance of getting a job, the labour market position of graduates, the chance of finding an internship or apprenticeship and starting salary.

2020 Implementation

Learners found themselves in a difficult situation to orientate themselves on further education and career opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic as labour market perspectives changed drastically for several sectors.

The education ministry stated in a policy letter (February 2021), based on 2020 research, that guidance was well established in upper secondary VET and other education sectors. The Career guidance monitor (LOB) showed that in 2020 more VET schools (MBO schools) than in 2018 offered company visits and short-term internships (*snuffelstages*) as guidance activities. The use of other guidance activities did not change that much. However, the biennial satisfaction survey among upper secondary VET students (JOB monitor 2020) showed that VET students felt the need for better guidance and information when choosing further education or entering the labour market.

The policy ambitions described in this letter, aiming to improve career guidance, have three objectives. The first objective is to ensure that career guidance is a part of VET curricula by including good practice gathered and disseminated by the Centre of expertise for career guidance (*Expertisepunt LOB*). The second policy objective is to further foster permeability between education sectors (secondary education, VET, and higher education). Third, the policy aims to streamline the labour market information flow, especially towards learners with a migration background (who tend to be less well informed about the labour market opportunities of specific courses), in combination with preventing the labour discrimination that these students experience when looking for internships or jobs.

2021 Implementation

The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

2022 Completed

The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
- Cooperation organisation for VET and the labour market (SBB)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Lifelong guidance

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Digital portal Choose VET](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for Education on the form and content of the necessary information for applicants to choose an appropriate course](#)

[Policy letter on career orientation and guidance measures, 26 February 2021](#)

[Second report of Career guidance monitor 2020](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Combating discrimination in the workplace

In 2015, within the City deals programme, the labour ministry concluded agreements with the Netherlands' five main cities: Amsterdam, The Hague, Eindhoven, Leeuwarden, Zaanstad (including: their municipalities, schools, the Employee Insurance Agency (UWV), employers and intermediate organisations)

 NETHERLANDS

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

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