

How much flexibility is enough?

An example of a National Experiment on Flexible Learning Design the Netherlands

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This talk

- 1. Short Introduction**
- 2. Pre-existing flexibility**
- 3. National Experiment**
- 4. Implementation in HU UAS Utrecht**
- 5. Lessons Learnt**



1. Introduction

HU UAS Utrecht

- **“Behind every door in the region someone from HU UAS”**
- **38,000 Students**
 - **>100 Degree Programmes**
- **4,400 Staff**
 - **Education, Research, Support**
- **QA Team**
 - **18 persons**
 - **Advisors**
 - **Institutional Research**
 - **Portfolio**



Eltjo Bazen

- **Senior Advisor QA**
 - Leading Strategic Innovation Program QA
 - Advising departments, leadership
- President of Dutch Network for Quality Management HE
- Chair of audit panels EQA HE
 - Netherlands & Europe
- Co-lead Community of Practice QA
 - EURASHE
- EQAR Register Committee Member
- Philosophy, Business Management, Quality Management



2.

Pre-existing Flexibility

What choices could you make?

Content

- **Individual agreements**
- **Orientation**
 - **Academic / Professional**
- **Minors (30 ECTS credits within B)**
 - **In-depth or Widening scope**
- **Specialization**
- **Electives**

Form

- **Mode of Delivery**
 - **Full time / Part time / Dual / Distance**
- **External Student → certificates ('extraneus')**
- **RPL through exemptions**



3.

National Experiment

Intermezzo: OECD

- **Value of degrees / value of skills**
 - **Badges / Microcredentials**
- **Functions of HEI**
 - **Qualification - Content - Guidance**



Experiments

- **Background**
 - **Labour Market needs**
 - **Not enough LLL**
 - **Run time 2016 - 2024**
- **Experiment Flex-studying**
 - **FT**
 - **‘pay per credit’**
- **Experiment Finance by demand**
 - **Only Technical / Health care**
- **Experiment Learning Outcomes**
 - **PT**



Experiment L.O. (Flex PT)

- **Mindset, stimulation**
- **Legal**
 - **Decouple ECTS-credits from Study Load**



4.

Implementation HU UAS Utrecht

Approach

- **Maximum flexibility**
 - **Starting moment**
 - **Speed**
 - **Order**
 - **Ways of proving LO's**
- **Voluntary**
- **Learning community**
- **Standardizing**
 - **Framework**



Standardizing



- **Learning contract with every student**
 - **Intake & matching**
 - **Every year**
- **Redesign curriculum: Alignment!**
- **Unit min. 5 ECST-credits**
- **Learning Route Independent Exams**
- **Learning Route Independent Assessments**
 - **RPL? No exemptions**
- **When competence based:
auto-prove lower levels**

5.

Lessons Learnt



Lessons Learnt



- **Internally**
 - Very useful!
 - More / deeper thinking
 - Goals of Program, LO's, alignment
 - Costs work & energy
 - Involvement support staff
 - Everybody should be involved!
- **Student**
 - 90 – 98% not interested
 - Benefitted from better study career guidance
- **Externally**
 - Interinstitutional did not work
 - Did we reach goals?

Application In FT and General

- Alignment
- LO's
- More creativity in testing
- More active TLN
- More conversation about education
- Mindset new developments
 - Microcredentials
 - EU Alliance
- Flexibility in Indicator for Quality:
Study Success → Student Success





IMPACT YOUR FUTURE

HOGESCHOOL UTRECHT