Early School Leavers
Dutch perspective

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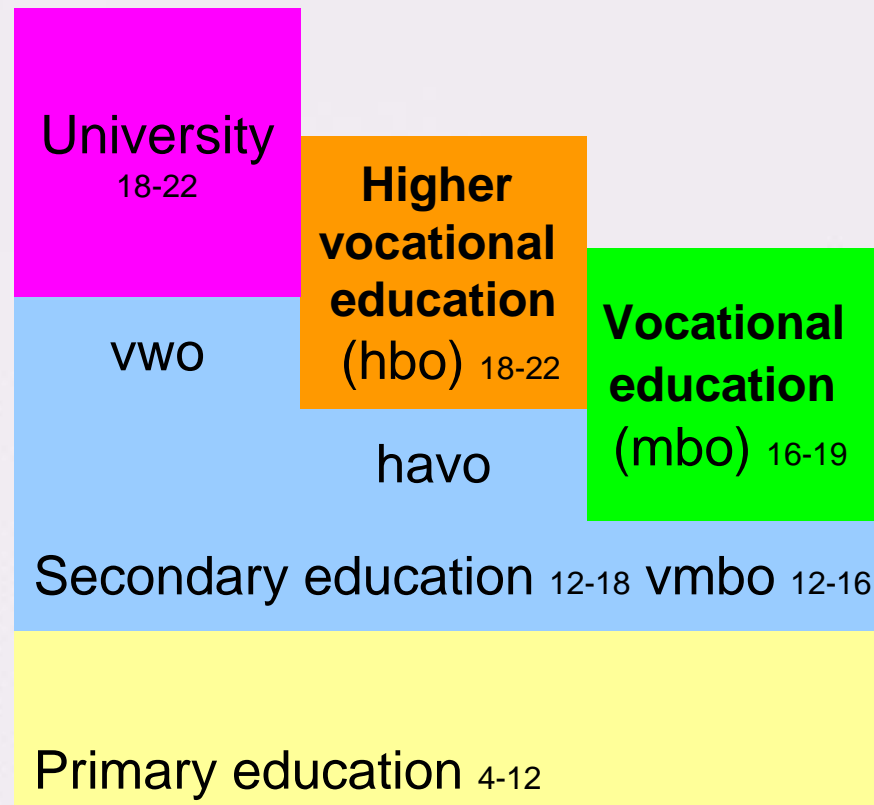
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Dutch educational system

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- **Primary education**   **1.549.000 students**
- **Pre-vocational education**   **795.000 students**
  (vmbo)
- **Secondary vocational**   **475.000 students**
  education (mbo)
- **Higher vocational**   **346.000 students**
  education (hbo)

Pre-vocational education

4 learning directions:

- Technical
- Economics and trade
- Care and well-being
- Agricultural

4 levels:

- differentiation from a lot of theory to a lot of practice

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Secondary vocational education

4 levels

- **level 1: junior assistant**
- **level 2: assistant**
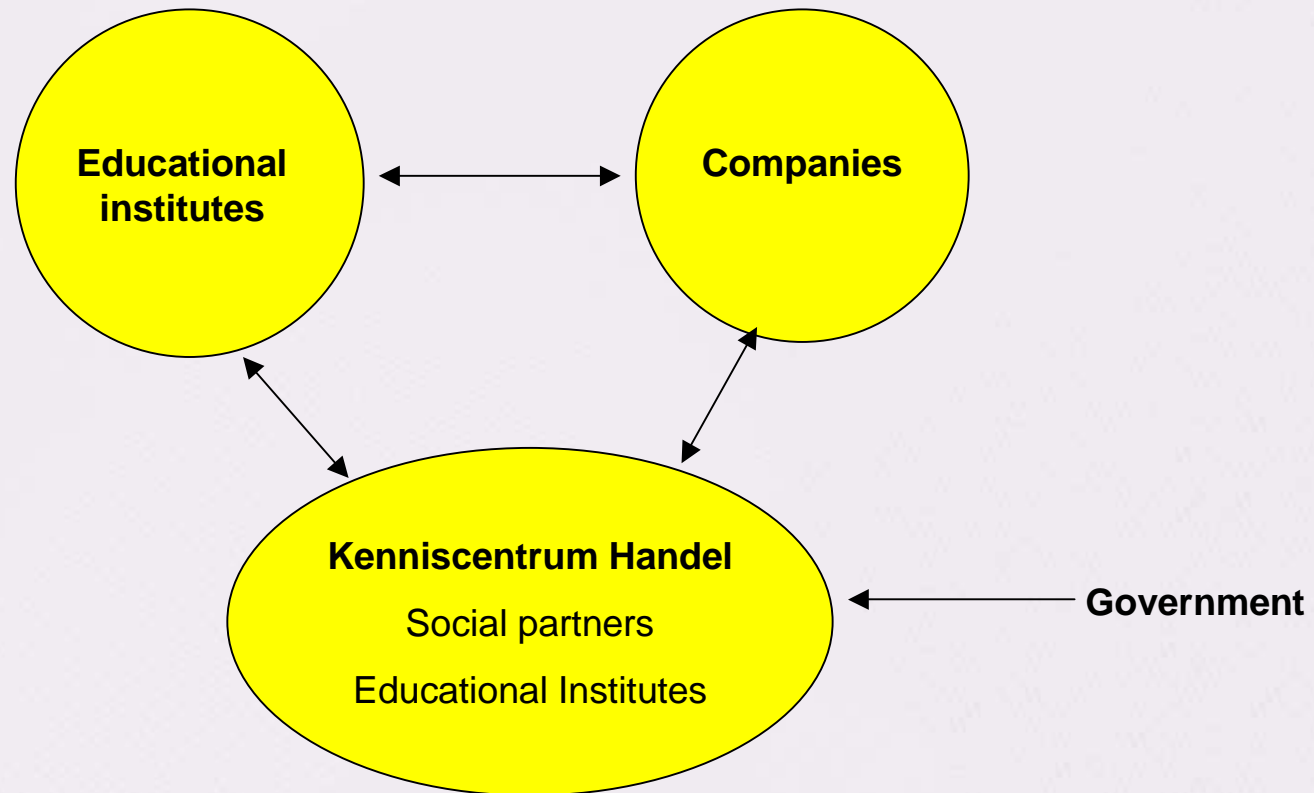- **level 3: specialist**
- **level 4: manager**

2 ways of learning:

- **20% practice training, 80% theory (BOL, 332.000 students)**
- **80% practice training, 20% theory (BBL, 143.000 students)**

Actors in vocational education

Early school leavers in Holland

Definition

Social

The student starts an education but leaves the school previously, without having a diploma.

Technical

Youngsters until 23 years leave the school system without a starting qualification

Figures

- **70.000 early school leavers (2005)**
- **12% leaves pre-vocational education without diploma**
- **25% students quits education after pre-vocational education**
- **47% doesn't finish level 1 (junior assistant)**
- **40% doesn't finish level 2 (assistant)**
- **37% doesn't finish level 3-4 (specialist, manager)**

Causes of early school leaving

1. Youngsters have found a different challenge outside school (for example work)
2. Lack of motivation to finish school
3. Youngster is ordered to leave school because of behavior problems, insufficient results etc.

Different challenge

1. During high economical times youngsters choose to work.
2. Youngsters want to work and earn money.
3. Personal reasons (home situation, pregnancy).

Lack of motivation

1. Learning difficulties
2. Not enough practice training
3. Great gab between school and work environment
4. Wrong school choice
5. Insufficient knowledge of profession and education

Personal related causes

1. Behavior problems
2. Insufficient results
3. Low level in language
4. Learning delay
5. Lack of talent

Interventions

Governmental interventions

1. Lower age for learning duty (2 or 3 years)
2. Introduction of learning-work duty (until 23 years)
3. Installation of Taskforce Youth Unemployed
4. Budget for practice facilities, guidance, new training programs
5. Financial subsidy for companies who take trainees and/or unemployed youngsters

School interventions

1. More practice training during education
2. More accompaniment during education
3. Better guidance in choosing education
4. Replacement of learning process to company-environments
5. Investing in connection between pre-vocational en secondary vocational education
6. Investing in harmonization businesses and education

Effects of interventions

Project Zuidplein

- **Example of replacing the education towards a working environment**
- **students learn and work at the same time, in the same environment**
- **more practice training**
- **a lot of accompaniment for the student and the company**
- **each student has one tutor from school**

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Project Samen doen

- **Example of intensively accompaniment by one coach**
- **the coach is the link between school, student and company**
- **a lot of practice training**
- **education at school is based on the experience at the training/working place**
- **intensively contact with companies, shopping areas**

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Centre of Work and Income: Jongerenloket

- **The Centre of Work and Income has installed several counters for youngsters (Jongerenloket)**
- **More attention for early school leavers**
- **Better assessment programs**
- **Special youngster advisors**
- **More attention for combining work and education**

Transfer within vocational education

- **Realization of one school for vocational education, including pre-vocational and secondary education**
- **Better transfer from pre to secondary (in programs and accompaniment)**