



Regional Networks for Secondary Education – Higher Education

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(“Regionale VO-HO netwerken”)

Collaboration between secondary education, higher education and businesses is becoming ever more important. The Strategic Agenda 2015-2025 of the Dutch Ministry of Education emphasizes that students are best served by more regional chain cooperation. This cooperation is essential when it comes to investing in 1) a better exchange and connection between secondary and higher education, 2) the professional development of teachers and school leaders, and 3) innovation of curricula.

When it comes to the STEM curriculum the ‘Regionale VO-HO netwerken’ are an important educational infrastructure in the Netherlands. There are 11 networks within the ‘Regionale VO-HO netwerken’, that together cover most of the Netherlands. The networks started in 2004 and have developed since then. In 2014/15, these 11 networks consist of 12 universities, 19 universities of applied science, 365 secondary schools and many other regional partners and companies that work together intensively.

‘Teachers are essential when it comes to the quality of STEM education. Therefore we help and inspire STEM teachers by stimulating and facilitating broad collaboration. The students will only profit from this practice.’

Martin Bruggink – head of ‘regionale VO-HO netwerk Zuid-Holland’ (University of Delft)

Goals

The goals of the networks are:

- Improving the exchange and connection between secondary education, higher education and businesses. This leads to:
 - A better decision making process for upcoming students orienting themselves to higher education;
 - A higher rate of study success and lower drop-out rate in the first years of college;
 - Valorization of relevant research (about curricula and teaching).

- Stimulating attractive and up-to-date STEM education in secondary school (didactic, content based and differentiated). This means:
 - Connecting teachers from higher and secondary education and business people who together develop and improve courses;
 - Challenge talented students in secondary education with talent programs in higher education.
- Investing in the professional development of teachers and school leaders, thereby:
 - Making the teaching profession more attractive;
 - Giving secondary schools an impulse as constantly learning organizations.

Activities

In every regional network the local network partners organize many activities. Each network has its own character, depending on the wishes of the partners and members. Activities are aimed at teachers, school leaders and students in secondary schools.

A few examples of teacher and school leader activities are:

- Course innovation that takes place in teams of teachers;
- Content based or didactic professionalization programs;
- Exchange programs.

And, examples of activities for students are:

- Pre university colleges, masterclasses, summer schools;
- E-learning;
- Research/lab supervision and training.

Together the networks reach more than 43.000 students and more than 4.300 teachers/school leaders per year.

Networks

Regional VO-HO network Amsterdam

Regionally known as: Bètapartners / Its academy
www.itsacademy.nl

Regional VO-HO network Brabant (i.f.)

Regionally known as: Betabreed
www.betabreed.nl

Regional VO-HO network Leiden

Regionally known as: Regionaal Steunpunt Leiden
www.regionaalsteunpuntzuidholland.nl

Regional VO-HO network Nijmegen

Regionally known as: HAN College of Technology / Radboud Pre-University College of Science
www.ru.nl/pucofscience

Regional VO-HO network Limburg

Regionally known as: VO-HO network Limburg
Website is being developed

Regional VO-HO network Noord

Regionally known as: Aansluitingsnetwerk VO-HO Fryslân / Breed Regionaal Steunpunt Noord / Hanze Junior College, Bètasteunpunt / Science LinX / Studiestijgers
www.rug.nl/sciencelinx/docenten

Regional VO-HO network Utrecht

Regionally known as: U-Talent
www.u-talent.nl

Regional VO-HO network Oost

Regionally known as: Bètasteunpunt Oost / Programma Bètatechniek Saxion / Twente Academy
www.beta-oost.nl

Regional VO-HO network Wageningen

Regionally known as: Bètasteunpunt Wageningen / Food Valley Scholennetwerk
www.betasteunpunt-wageningen.nl

Regional VO-HO network Zuid-Holland

Regionally known as: Bètasteunpunt Zuid-Holland
www.regionaalsteunpuntzuidholland.nl

Regional VO-HO network Zeeland

Regionally known as: Bèta Plaza Zeeland
www.betaplazazeeland.nl



More information?

Check out the website www.vohonetwerken.nl (in Dutch) or connect to the Dutch STEM Platform ('Platform Bèta Techniek') by calling 0031 70 311 9711 or by e-mailing info@platformbetatechniek.nl.



regionale
VO-HO netwerken