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Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap

## Measures improving completion in higher education in the Netherlands

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## Outline presentation

Measures improving completion in Dutch higher education:

1. Performance agreements
2. Social lending system
3. Each student in right place (Quality in Diversity)
4. Matching
5. Enrolment date: large effect
6. Matching approaches and first results
7. Other types of measures to improve completion



# 1. Performance Agreements (PA)

- Performance Agreements made with individual HEI's (2013-2016)
- 7% of funding of HEI is Performance Based Funding
- Study success criteria: completion rates, drop out rates, study switch
- Improvement of educational quality
  
- HEI's apply measures optionally according to institutional vision and goals
- Focus on transparency and accountability towards stakeholders
  
- Trilemma: entry (level) of students + quality of education + completion rate
- National debate: too much focus on efficiency and output oriented policy making



## 2. Social Lending System

- Recently introduced in September 2015
- Rationale: invest the same budget directly into the quality of education
- Key criterion: financial access to higher education must be secured
  
- Basic grant abolished. Instead:
  - Full social lending system by government for all students
  - Income-linked supplementary grants
  
- Indirect effect: social lending system can lead to higher completion rates
- Expected effects: short term – long term



### 3. Each student in right place (Quality in Diversity)

New law contains large number of measurements aimed at a future-sustainable higher educational system

- Providing more diversity by allowing more profiling and more differentiation
- Raising the bar (a stricter study climate)
- ‘Each student in the right place’
  
- Goal: Dutch higher education to be among the top 5 of the world
  
- For instance:
  - Early subscription (before May 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Matching / Study choice check
  - Broad spectrum Bachelors



## 4. Matching

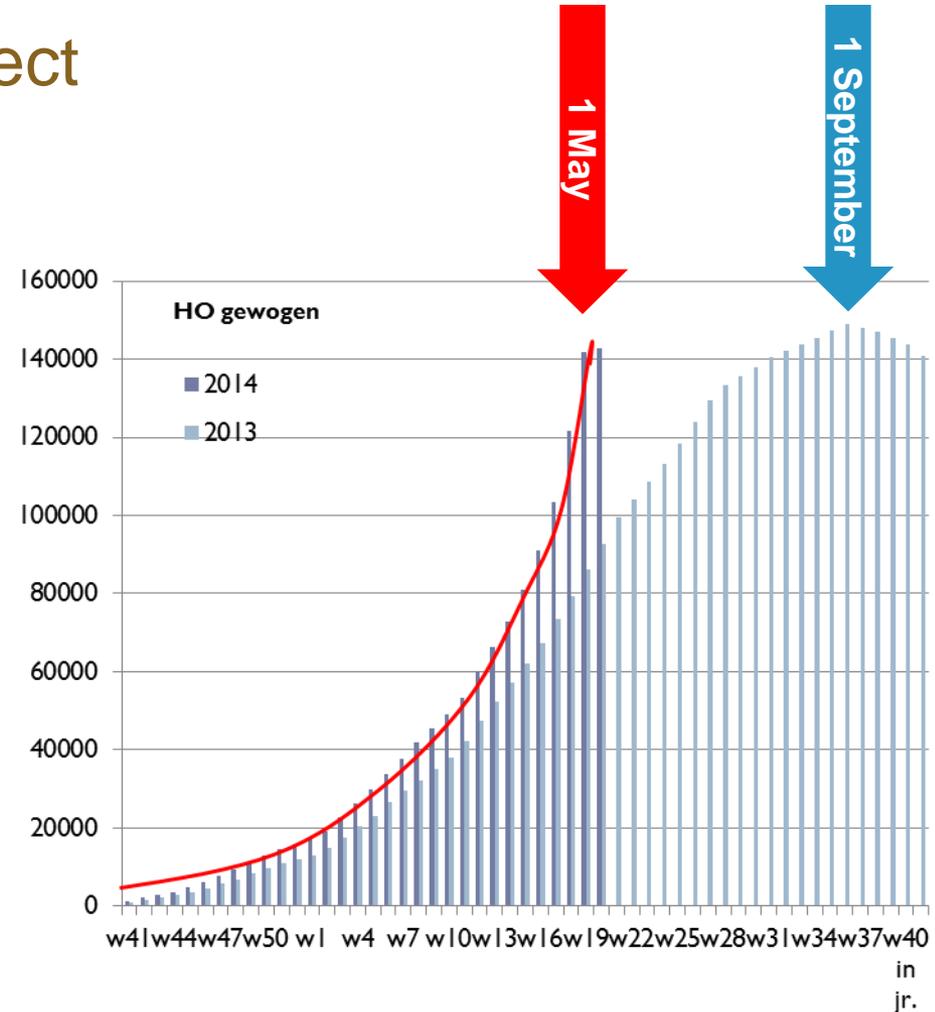
- 2013-2014: all bachelor's can introduce a compulsory 'matching' procedure
- This matching procedure runs before the start of the academic year
- Enrolment date to May 1th to enable HEI's to organize matching activities
- Matching should enable student and institutions to check that the correct choice of study has been made
- Form, content, obligation to participate: to be determined by institutions
- Participation includes an advice (recommendation if enrolled before 1th May)
- Students have a legal right to participate in a matching activity

## 5. Enrolment date: large effect

Request to enrol made before 1 May:  
student keep right to admission,  
provided other conditions are met

Request to enrol made after 1 May:  
no right to admission right ,  
HE institution decides

Student can change his/her study  
choice (in case there is no 'match')





## 6. Matching approaches of HEI's

- Different approaches, from online (10 minutes) to few days at Uni
- At most HEI participation is obligatory
- Late enrolment – advice is often binding

Joint research of 6 HEI's show

- Students are very positive (once they participated!)
- Teachers are also positive
- First effects are small – drop out, amount of credits

Future research will compare 6 different Matching approaches (Dec. 2015)



## 7. Other types of measures to improve completion

Both carrot and stick measures. For instance:

- Binding study advise (BSA)
- Experimental BSA in 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Matching
- Improving transition
- Mentoring and coaching
- Summer schools



## References

Full report Quality in diversity

<http://www.government.nl/ministries/ocw/documents-and-publications/reports/2012/08/30/quality-in-diversity.html>

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