



# GLOBAL POLICY FELLOWS PROGRAM

An Initiative of the Institute for Higher Education Policy

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## ***Access and Life Long Learning in The Netherlands***

Global Policy Fellowship Programme

Bellagio Conference Centre, Italy, August 18– 22, 2008

Leon Cremonini

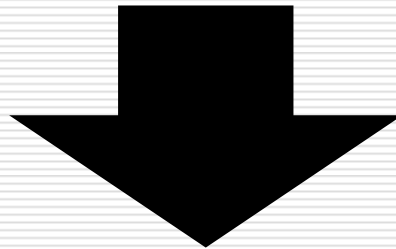
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# Defining Access

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- Access with participation:
  - Ensuring that students are granted entry and acceptance at a higher education institution
- Access with success:
  - Need to monitor and enable students' success in their studies

*In the Netherlands students with the appropriate secondary qualification are entitled to enter tertiary education.*

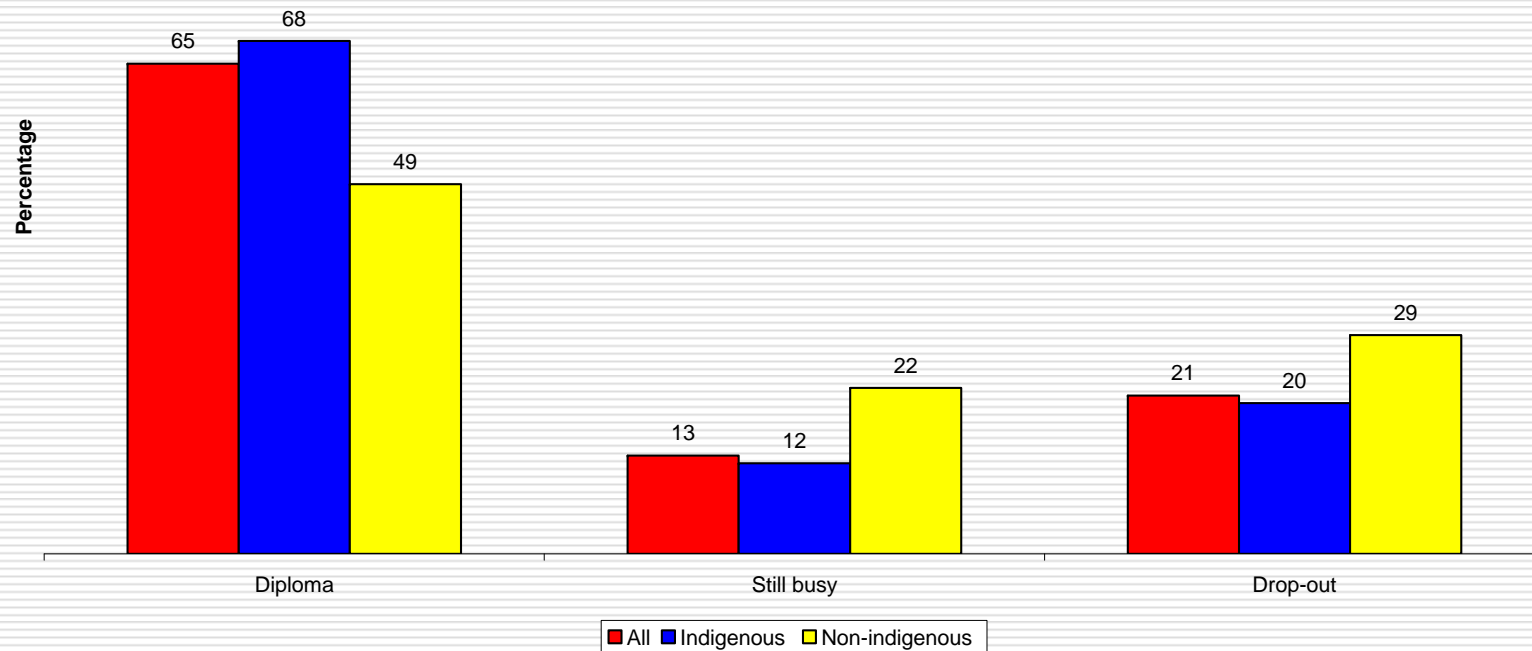


*Entry with participation is not the biggest problem*

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# Performance in Higher Ed (After 6 years, HBO)

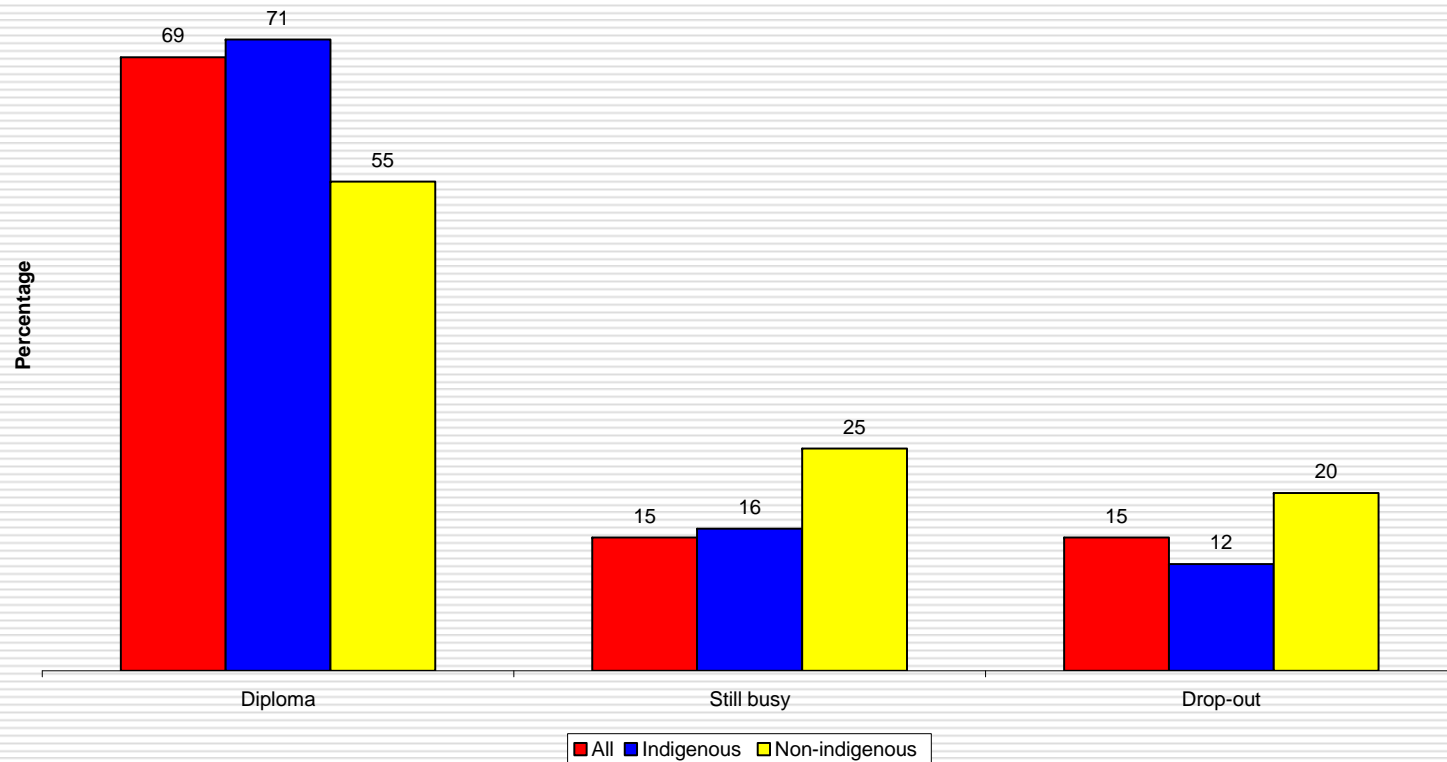
1999 Cohort Performance (HBO)



Source: Kennis in Kaart, 2007 (MoE)

# Performance in Higher Ed (After 6 years, WO)

1999 Cohort Performance (WO)



# Key Access Issues in the Netherlands

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- Drop-outs
- Differentials in access among different groups in society
  - Immigrant vs. non-immigrant background
  - Socio-economic status
  - “Mature” students vs. “traditional” age cohorts
  
- *Early tracking is an issue that will have to be addressed*
- *If the Netherlands wants to be a knowledge-based society and effectively contribute to the Lisbon objectives, its efforts in Life Long Learning (LLL) should be intensified*

*(OECD, 2007)*

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# Expectations to Achieve a Degree

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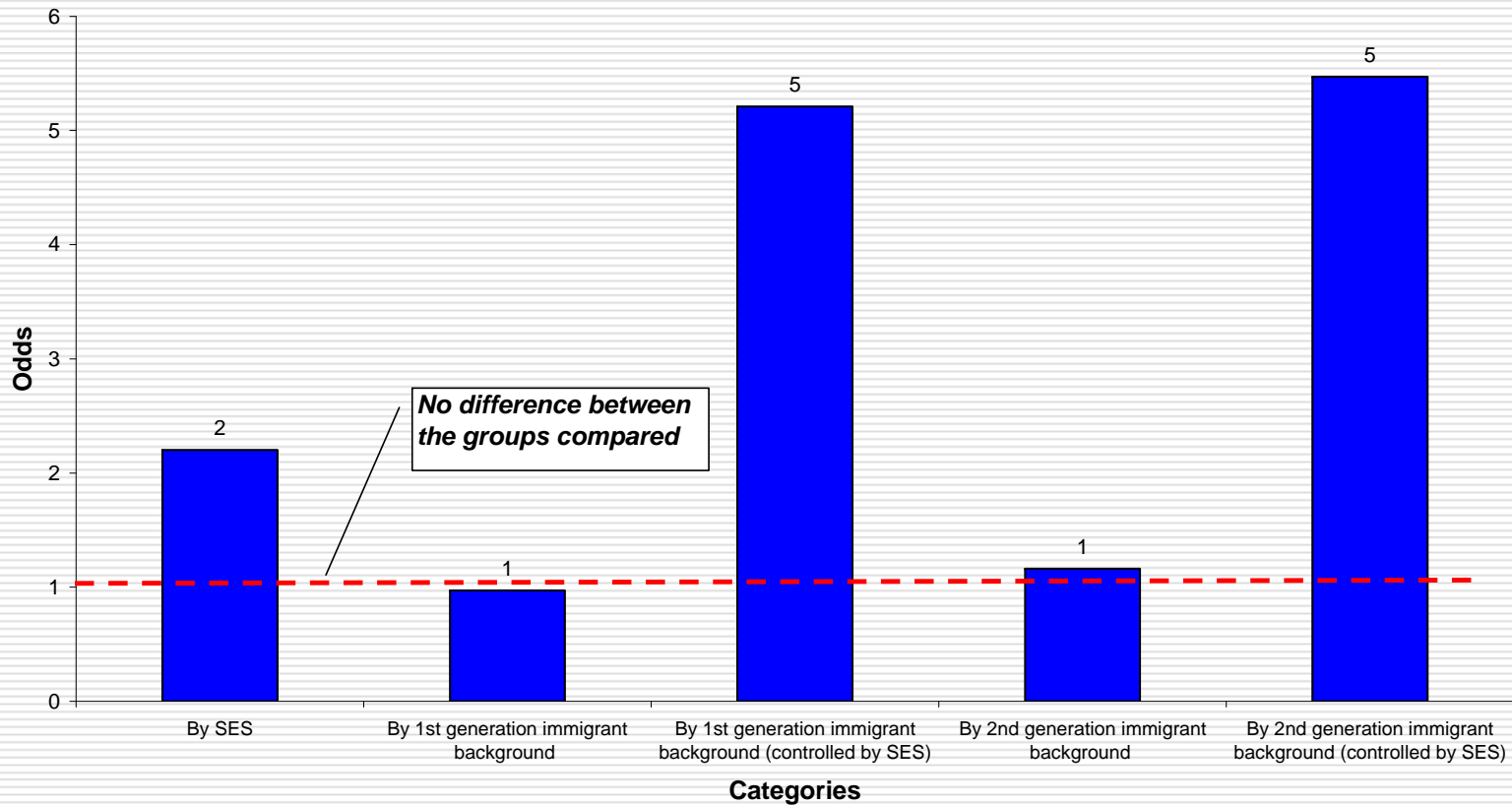
- 41% of students in the Netherlands at age 15 expect to get a degree. This is lower than the OECD average of 51% but...
  - Other countries score low too, including Germany (19%), Austria (24%), France (34%), etc.
  - Other countries have higher expectations: Korea (78%), US (64%), Australia (63%), Finland (51%), Ireland (53%) etc.

*Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2007*

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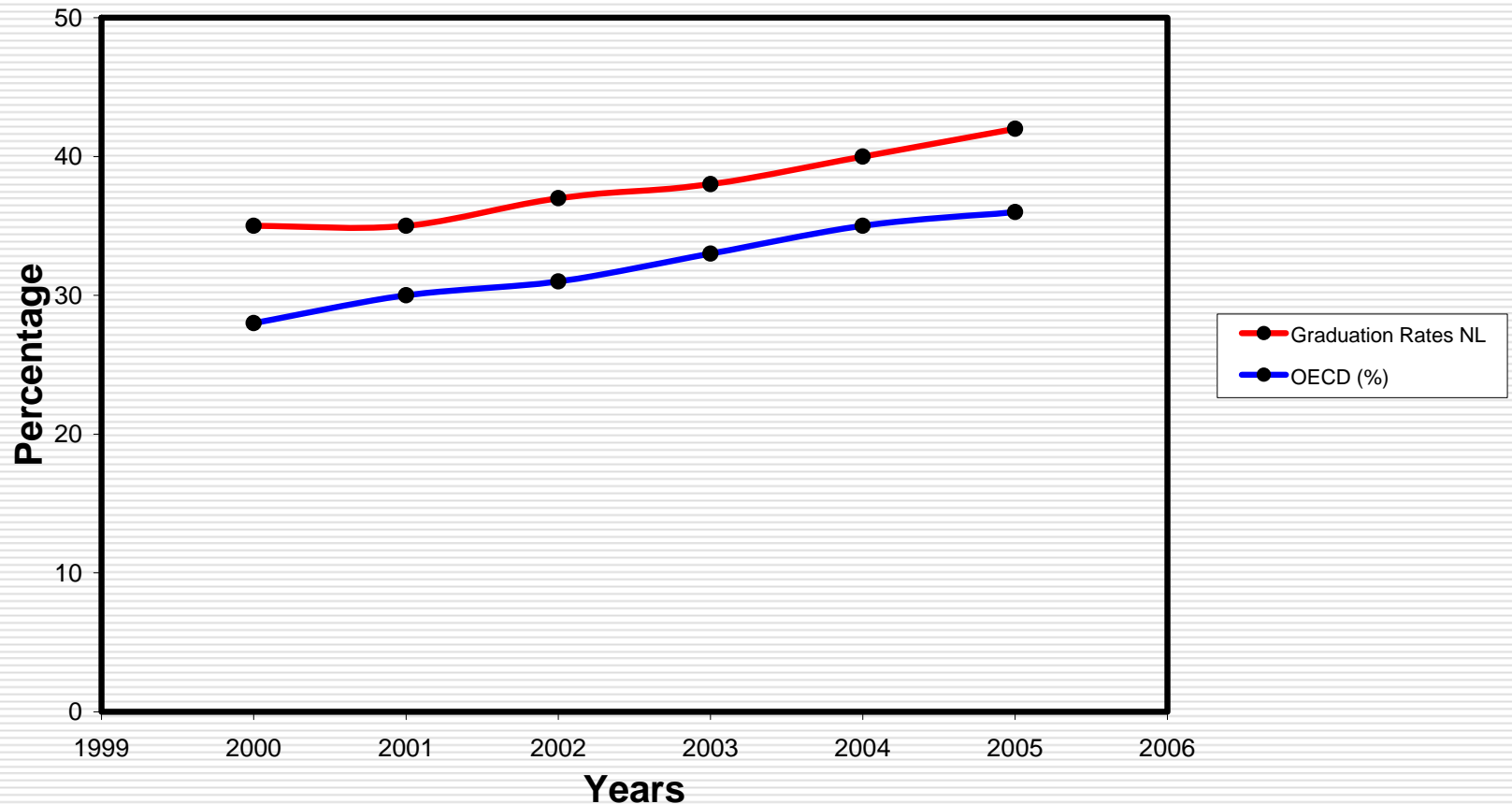
# Expectations at Age 15

Odds Ratio that 15 Year Olds Expect to Complete Tertiary Ed (5A-6) in NL



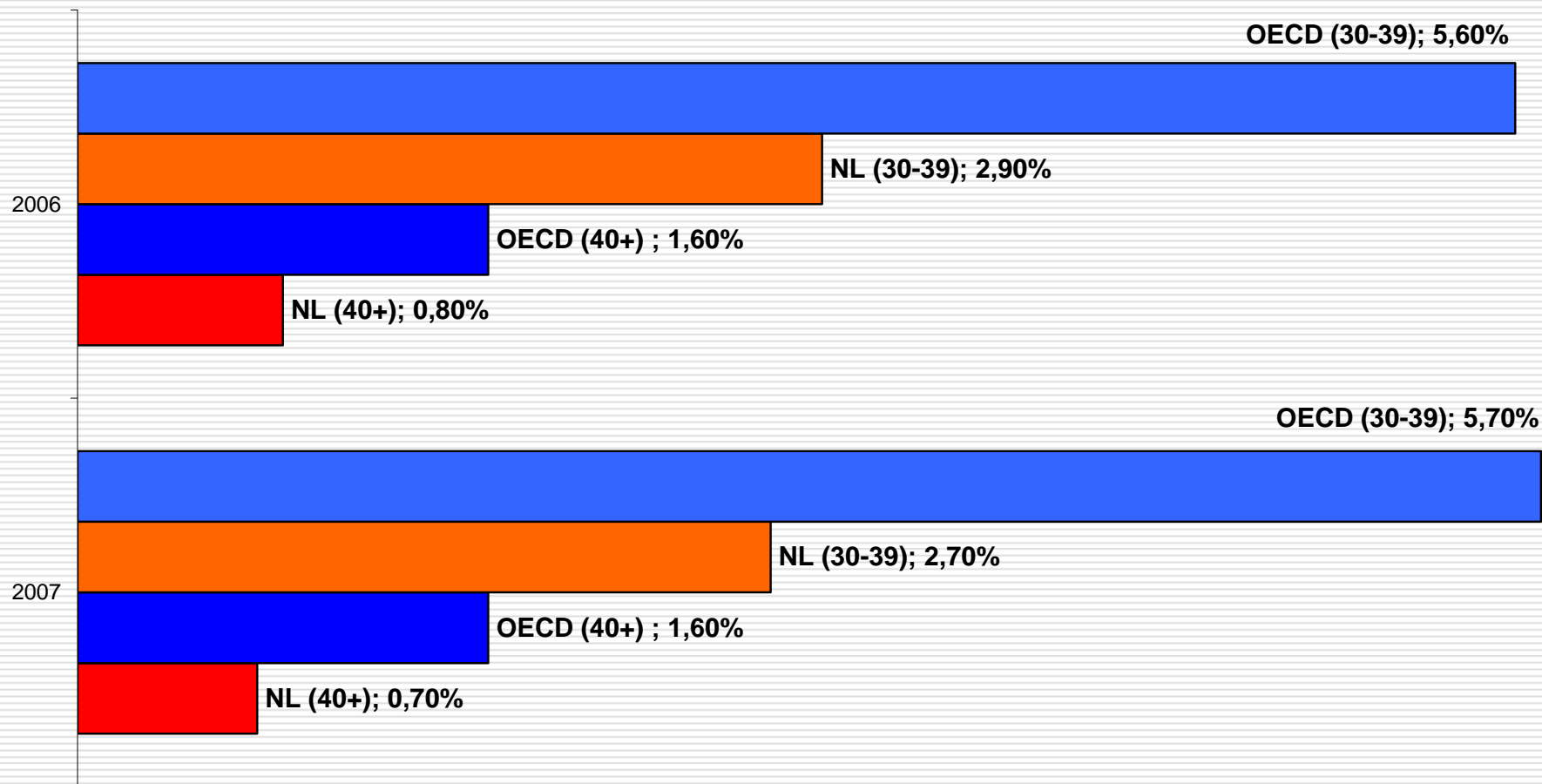
# Graduation Rates in the Netherlands

Dutch Graduation Rates 2000-2005

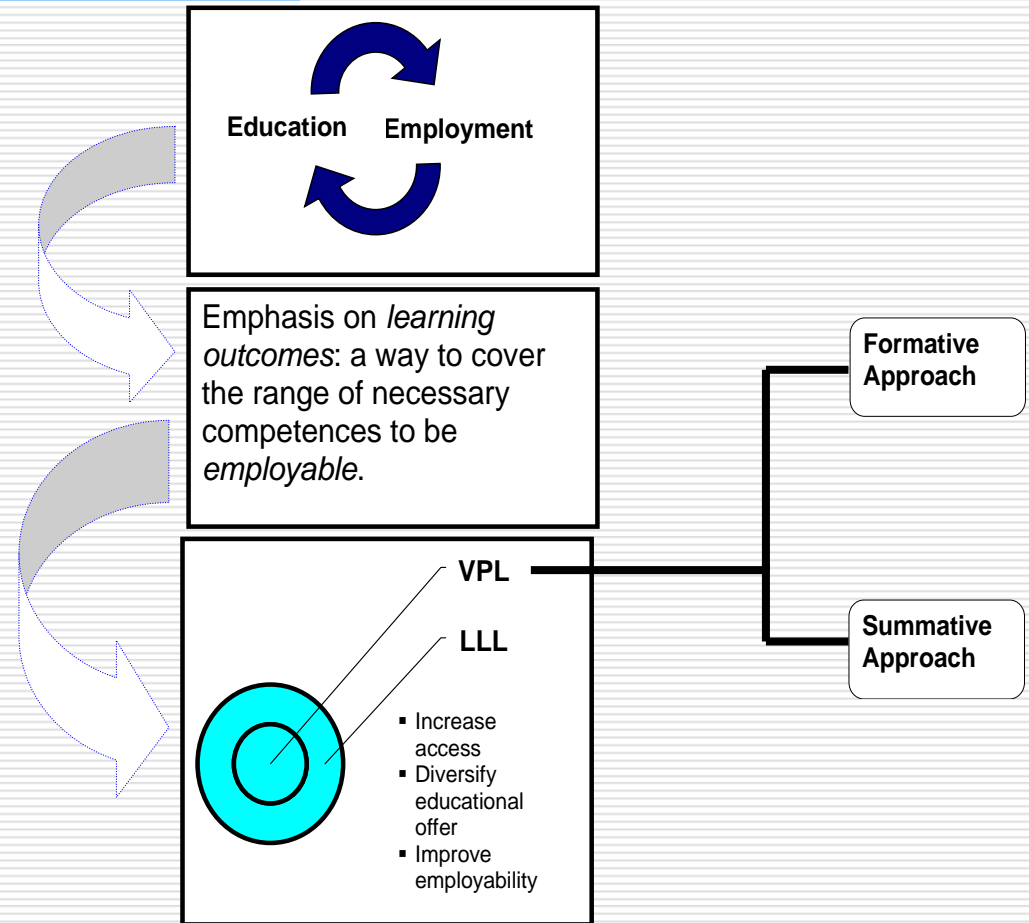


Source: OECD, *Education at a Glance*, 2007

# Enrolments of Mature Students in 2006 and 2007

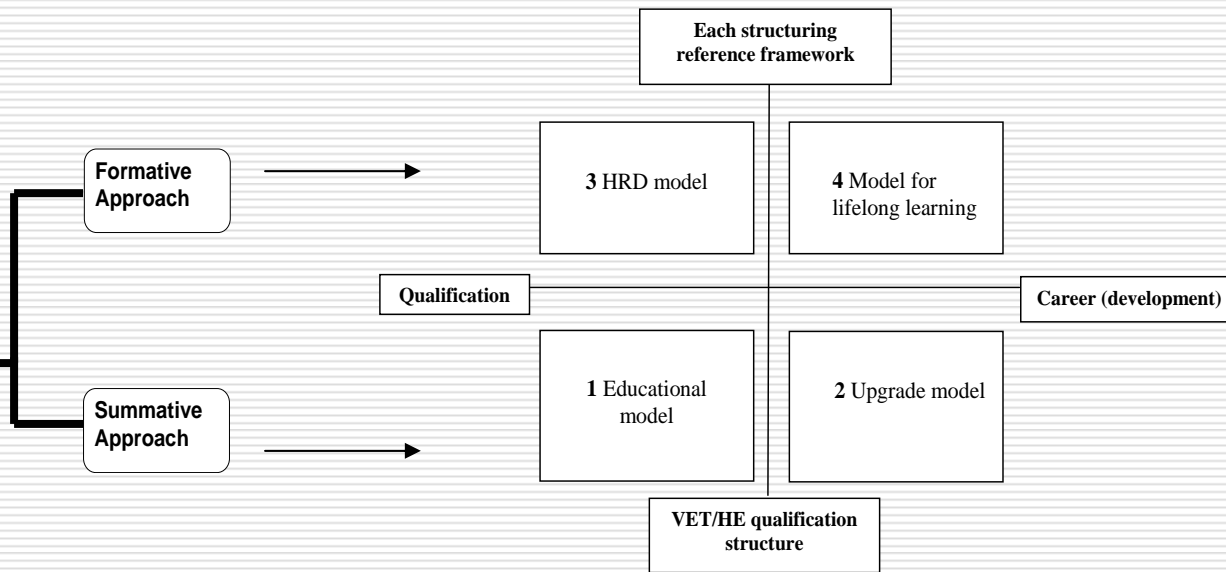


# Life Long Learning...



# ... And Valuation of Prior Learning

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Source: Feenstra, et al, 2003 (taken from Duvekot, R., 2008)

# What is Valuation of Prior Learning (VPL)?

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VPL is the process of :

- ❑ Assessing and matching personal competencies within the socio-economic context, including the HE system
  - ❑ Offering a personal development-strategy
  - ❑ Creating the *learning triangle* individual/organisation/learning system
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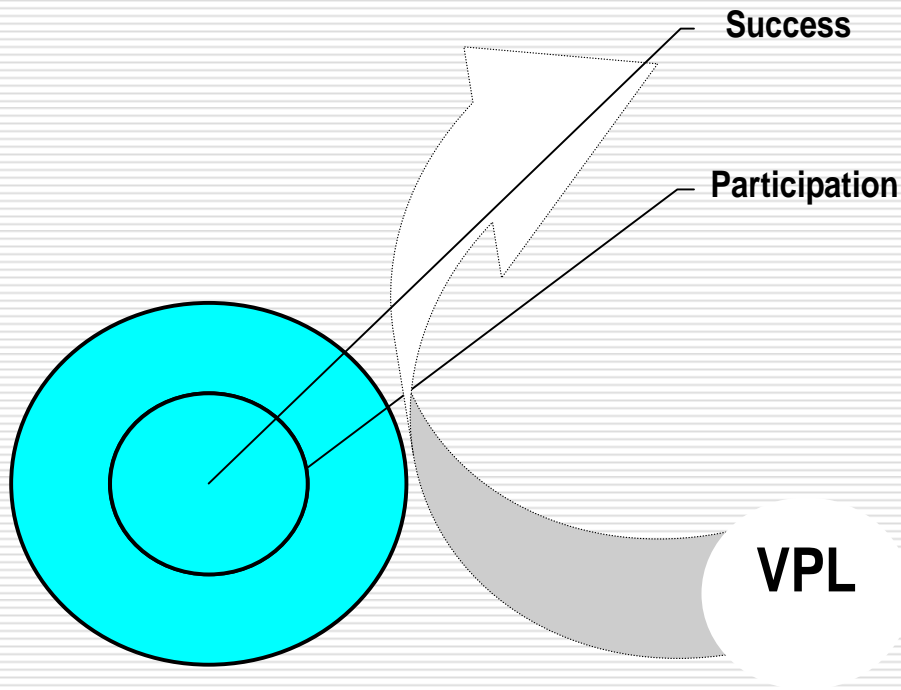
# VPL in Dutch Higher Education

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- ❑ On Bachelor-level: project EVC in HBO
  - ❑ Master-level: pressure from companies
  - ❑ Connecting VPL with EQF
  - ❑ Arranging knowledge circulation between business and university
  - ❑ Building a peer-assessment system
  - ❑ Building up new learning route for LLLers
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# VPL and Access

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*VPL can lead to success*

*VPL has helped many drop-outs return to study, thanks to credit exemptions. This has helped successfully complete the educational path*

*But there is an issue of quality*

# Example of VPL process

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- ❑ Candidate fills in application form
- ❑ Candidate gets personal information
- ❑ Candidate builds up showcase/portfolio
- ❑ Assessors perform pre-assessment
- ❑ Actual assessment
- ❑ Valuation & advice
- ❑ Validation & offer learning made-to-measure

*(Duvekoot 2007, EVC centrum – HvA)*

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# Example: Bachelor 'Social-Legal Advisor'

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Seven competencies:

1. Implementing laws and regulations
2. Informing citizens on rights, appeal, etc.
3. Advice & support in social-legal procedures
4. Indication and linking to legal services
5. Assisting clients and representing them
6. Developing policy and innovation
7. Supporting professionals and volunteers

*(Duvekoot 2007, EVC centrum – HvA)*

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# Example: Bachelor 'Social-Legal Advisor' (cont.)

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Example of Accepted evidence:

- Case-reports
- PR-plans
- Client-dossiers or legal advice
- Appeals
- Policy-plans
- Coaching programmes

*(Duvekoot 2007, EVC centrum – HvA)*

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# Actions So Far

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- Poster at international conference (12 September 2008, Antwerp, Belgium)
  - Meetings with EVC expert at Hoogeschool InHolland
    - Future collaboration?
  - Audit visit in October with Netherlands Quality Agency
    - Invitation pending
  - Ideas for further study (template)
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