



The Triple Helix in The Netherlands and the role of applied research

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Nationaal Regieorgaan Praktijkgericht Onderzoek SIA



Triple Helix and applied research in The Netherlands

The Triple Helix

“A Triple Helix of University-Industry-Government Relations” for knowledge-based economic and social development

Loet Leydesdorff (Ams) and Henry Etzkowitz (NY) 1995



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Key questions:

How to strengthen the systems of market/enterprise, science/knowledge production and their interaction in order to achieve a stronger economy and greater welfare?

Which type of (national) governance works best?



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The Knowledge Triangle (OECD, Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy)

Key questions:

How to combine science/innovation, enterprise/market, education/human capital on regional strengths?

for a stronger economy and higher quality public sector?

Which governance is effective (national, regional, institutional)?



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The Netherlands national policy relevant for Triple Helix and Knowledge Triangle

- Top Sector Policy (Ministry of Economic Affairs):
- Higher Education Policy and National Research Agenda (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science)



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Top Sector Policy

9 Top Sectors + ICT (horizontal)

- Innovation Contracts (focusing science system, esp. part of NWO-funding agenda on innovation needs of industry/SME)
- Human Capital Agenda's (esp. STEM shortages)



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Higher Education Policy

New Strategic Agenda Higher Education and Research

“The value(s) of knowledge” (2015-2025), focus on:

- Quality improvement of education (also connecting education-research-practice)
- Talent development, life long learning
- Connecting with society (labour market, private and public sector; also valorisation; entrepreneurship)



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Higher Education Performance Agreements between Minister and universities/UAS (2012-2016) – 7% of education funding

- Quality improvement of education
- Profiling on research strengths
- Improving valorisation/entrepreneurship education

To be evaluated in 2016 (both results and instrument)



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The Higher Education system

- 14 research universities (3 technical, 1 agricultural): 250.000 students
- 37 universities of applied sciences (UAS): 500.000 students

All legally three tasks: education (UAS: professional), research (UAS: applied), dissemination of knowledge

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The National Research Agenda

Request of the Cabinet, developed by the “Knowledge Coalition” =

Associations of Universities, UAS, University Medical Centres, Employers (industry, SME), Institutes for Applied Research, Royal Academy, National Research Council



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The National Research Agenda

11.700 questions from civilians, researchers, ministries, experts, societal groups/organisations, industry, etc.

grouped into 140 clusters

25 examples of knowledge chains combining content and partners

NRA to underpin focus and cooperation in triple helix



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Summary of Triple Helix inspired policy

Cabinet policy stimulates

- cooperation between knowledge production and knowledge demand (both industry/SME and society/public sector)
- focus/profiles/strengths
- linking with education/human capital
- regional knowledge triangle development



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The role of UAS/applied research in the Triple Helix Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

- educate 2/3 of higher education students (mainly BA level, but also MA and some doctorates)
- provide applied knowledge in close cooperation with private (SME) and public sector

OECD Innovation Review The Netherlands (2014):

UAS important for innovation skills and bridging gap between non-innovative firms and universities/PRIs

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The UAS applied research system

- 37 UAS with 600 professors, 3000 researchers, in *block funding from Ministry of Education (OCW)*
- Taskforce for Applied Research (SIA), *competitive funds, €30 per year from OCW*
- Centres of Expertise (around 25): pilots, *often initial funding Performance Agreements, goal: PPP funding*



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The Taskforce for Applied Research

- since 2014 entity at Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research NWO
- Governing Board: Confederation of Industry and Employers, Royal Association MKB-NL, NWO, TNO (Organisation for Applied Scientific Research), Chamber of Commerce, Association of Universities of Applied Sciences
- 15 staff members



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The Taskforce for Applied Research

Mission:

- fund and stimulate demand driven applied research by UAS and its quality
- stimulate application of this research in SMEs and public sector
- stimulate flow of new knowledge into curricula UAS
- stimulate development of knowledge communities and connection with universities/PRIs



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Questions?

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