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Outreach through the Dutch school setting: collaborative partnerships for equal opportunities in education

AFFILIATIONS

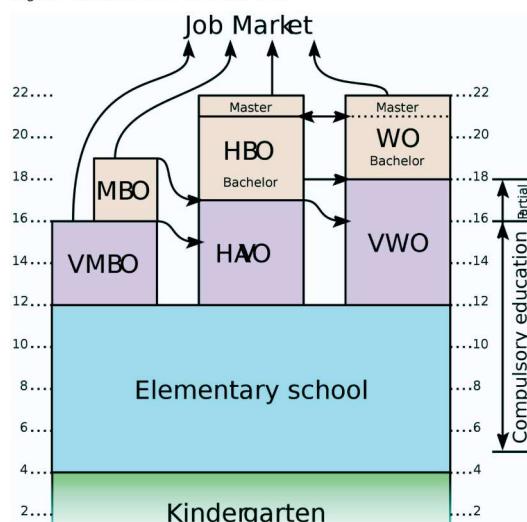
Academic Outreach Programme
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access
Center
Erasmus University Rotterdam,
The Netherlands

1. Introduction

In an era marked by dynamic societal shifts and an ever-evolving global landscape, universities are increasingly recognizing their responsibility to engage with and contribute to the communities they serve. This poster sheds light on a comprehensive university outreach programme that not only reflects the commitment of the institution to social responsibility but also underscores its dedication to cultivating socially conscious graduates. By engaging with local schools and partnering with various stakeholders, the programme seeks to create a symbiotic relationship where knowledge flows in both directions, leading to a more informed, inclusive, and resilient society.

2. The Dutch educational system

The Dutch school system consists of three stages: primary education, secondary education and higher education. The system is characterized by its early tracking and differentiated pathways. Students are typically placed into one of three tracks after primary school: pre-vocational education (VMBO), higher general secondary education (HAVO), or pre-university education (VWO). Each track prepares students for varying levels of post-secondary education or vocational training. Historically, students from disadvantaged backgrounds have been structurally underrepresented in VWO tracks and in higher education (both HBO and WO).



3. Recruitment & selection of partner schools

Recruitment process

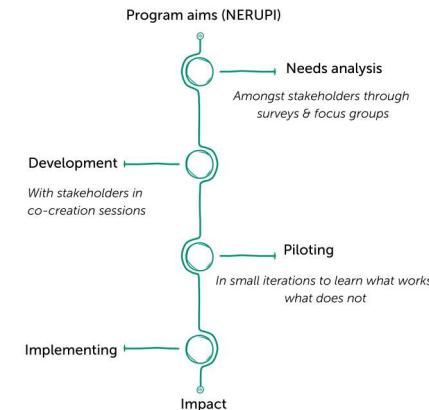


Selection criteria

1. Schools with a large percentage of students from disadvantaged backgrounds
2. Schools that offer VWO tracks (pre-university secondary education)
3. Schools with a sizeable student population

4. The co-creation process

In line with our vision to ensure a symbiotic relationship between programme team members and stakeholders (i.e., students, schools, and parents) our interventions are created through collaboration with these stakeholders in the following

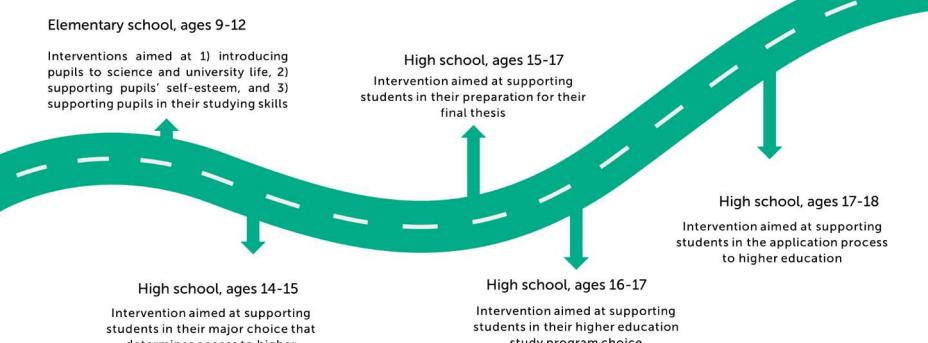


6. Impact

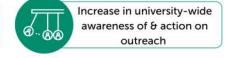
 Reached 1864 youth	800 elementary pupils 1000 high school students
 Designed 15 interventions	5 Know and Become interventions for elementary school pupils 6 Know, Choose, Become, and Practise interventions for high school students
 Collaborated with 10 partners	6 high schools in Rotterdam 4 elementary schools in Rotterdam
 Initiated 5 research studies	On 1) the effectiveness of our interventions, 2) the implementation of the interventions and the programme as a whole and 3) the development of our student-ambassadors
 Trained 23 students	On didactic skills, presentation skills, and being a role model by teachers from our partner schools and experts in the field

5. The interventions

The Academic Outreach programme encompasses a spectrum of interventions designed to bridge the gap between academia and the wider Rotterdam community. These interventions provide a platform for students, faculty, and researchers to actively participate in initiatives that make a tangible difference in the lives of Rotterdam youth from historically disadvantaged youth.



7. Lessons learned

 Impact of stakeholder management and co-creation	 Collaborating with student-ambassadors is a 'win-win'
 Role models are key!	 Increase in university-wide awareness of & action on outreach
 Want to know more about our city engagement efforts? Join session 1C!	
 Want to know more about our strategy to attract diverse student ambassadors? Join session 2A!	
 Want to keep in touch? Scan the QR-code to receive our newsletter	