

# The curriculum in higher education challenged

VLOR dissemination conference on curriculum design  
Brussels, April 18, 2018

Cis Van Den Bogaert (UAntwerp)  
Chair of the VLOR Working Group on Curriculum Design

# The Erasmus+ project

## VLOR Working Group Curriculum Design Discussion paper

### Experts

Ben Brabon  
Liz Thomas  
Bruce MacFarlane  
Michaela Horvathova  
Tine Prøitz  
  
Jakob Ravn  
Filip Dochy  
  
Paul Ashwin  
Paul Blackmore

### Peer Learning Activities

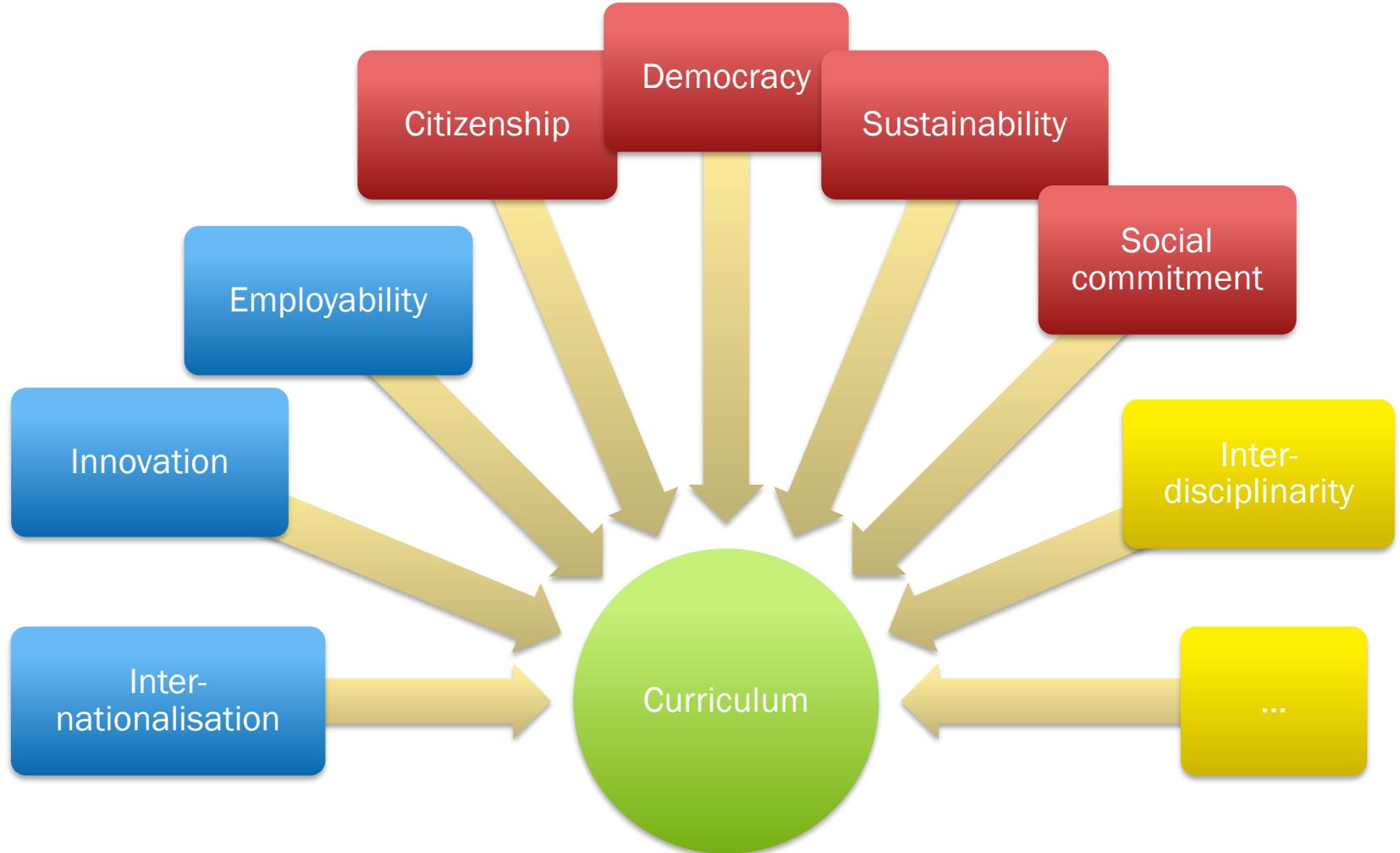
Ministry of Croatia  
University of Bristol  
Artevelde University College  
University of Grenoble  
University of Uppsala  
University of Amsterdam  
University of Iceland  
Faculty of Design, Slovenia  
University of Rome Tor Vergata  
Autonomous University of Madrid

### Dissemination

Report  
European Higher Education Area  
Learning outcomes  
What is a curriculum?  
Curriculum design in HEIs  
  
Your good practices  
  
VLOR Advice Student-centered curricula

[www.vlor.be/curriculum-higher-education-challenged](http://www.vlor.be/curriculum-higher-education-challenged)

# Society's expectations



How can HEIs deal with increasing societal demands placed on the curriculum?

# Flemish HE leaders meet the challenge ...

*De universiteit van de toekomst wordt een soort compagnoen de route doorheen je hele leven.*

De Tijd, maart 2018

*Vroeger gingen [studenten informatica] meteen voor een bepaalde [specialisatie], nu schrikken ze meer af van zo'n keuze. Om niet meteen een label te hebben op de arbeidsmarkt.*

HBvL, november 2016

*De universiteiten gaan in elk geval sterk veranderen. Is het niet denkbaar dat studenten die straks op de arbeidsmarkt terechtkomen, eerder dan een diploma een portfolio voorleggen? Met vakken die ze al dan niet digitaal hebben gevolgd, gesprokkeld in universiteiten hier en elders?*

De Tijd, augustus 2017

*Ik wil de samenwerking over disciplines heen versterken en meer zichtbaar maken ... In dat opzicht wil ik werk maken van gecombineerde trajecten.*

De Standaard, september 2017

*Als we onze studenten echt tot wereldburgers willen opleiden, moeten we hen voorbij de muren [van de campus] leren kijken ... Met veel inbreng van het beroepenveld. Zo kunnen we ook meteen komaf maken met de wereldvreemdheid die ons soms wordt verweten.*

Knack, september 2017

*We zijn nog geen echte internationale universiteit. We moeten daarin nog stappen zetten. De Standaard, september 2017*

# Flemish HE leaders meet the challenge ...

*Internationale en interculturele competenties ontwikkelen  
Duaal leren, een toekomstgerichte vorm van co-creatie  
Een leven lang leren mogelijk maken  
Creativiteit en interdisciplinariteit, des te meer nodig voor  
oplossingen voor het werkveld*

...  
VLHORA-congres Talent voor morgen, april 2018



## To take forward

### Shared vision on teaching and learning

- Interdisciplinarity
- Independent Learning & Support/guidance
- Collaboration and Co-creation
- Focus and Alignment
- Autonomous HEIs - Supportive governments
- Platforms for curriculum development

- Academic leadership
- Institutional profile
- Decentralisation and autonomous implementation
- Staff training

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Copenhagen Business School:

- *No single department can offer a programme (at least two departments and usually more).*
- *Interdisciplinary programmes combine two or more academic disciplines into one activity (not a double curriculum!)*
- *Interdisciplinary programmes demand interdisciplinary research or at least platforms for close cooperation between researchers from different disciplines*

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Liz Thomas:

*Teaching people how to think, rather than about transmitting knowledge is a fundamental principle underpinning HE.*

...

*There is scope to develop the independent learning curriculum to meet many of the HE challenges in the 21st century.*

*This will require transparency about the relevance of the curriculum to students, a directed learning approach to support students to develop the skills required, and engaging contents: students were more engaged by ‘real-world’ and employment-relevant learning*



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**Bristol Students Union – why we like it...**

*Bristol Futures sets out a political vision of what Bristol graduates should look like.*

*It prioritises values like sustainability, ability to work across disciplines, creativity and conscientiousness, and we believe these priorities are exactly appropriate for the world today.*

*Most importantly, it allows students the chance to move outside of the classroom, meet people from across the University and beyond, and become reflective and self-aware learners through the use of PDP.*

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**Bruce Macfarlane:** *focus and use the principle of student academic freedom*

*You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time. (John Lydgate, Poet)*

**Jacob Ravn**

*How can we cope with all these trends (and more) at the same time? My response: we cannot.*

*How can curriculum be expanded and 21st century skills be added to the curriculum? My response: they cannot.*

*My approach: Re-think organisations and make them innovative.*

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*In order to change learning,  
you need to plan for  
sustainability and win  
hearts and minds.*

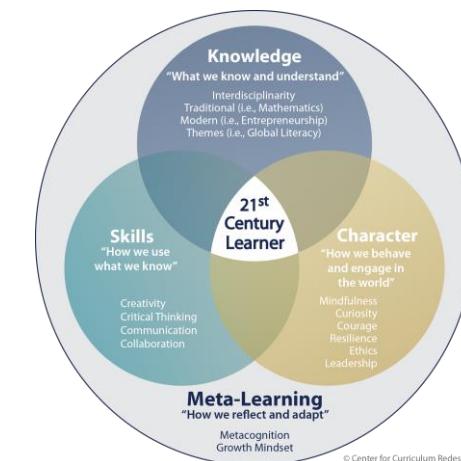
(John Gardner – from Filip Dochy)

- Quality Assurance
- Joint programmes / degrees
- ...

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## Your good practices (1/3)

- Artesis Plantijn Hogeschool: Lesgevers ondersteunen in het ontwikkelen van een brede focus in lesgeven via het KAMELEON-model
- Arteveldehogeschool: Valoriseren van leerkansen in de stad - Cities for learning - Gentlestudent
- Arteveldehogeschool: 21st century skills in de opleiding verpleegkunde
- Erasmushogeschool Brussel: Instellingsbreed initiatief met betrekking tot curriculumdesign in functie van internationale competenties
- Hogeschool Gent: Curriculumdesign - een leerresultaatgerichte en duurzame aanpak
- Howest: Curriculumdesign lerarenopleiding - focus op stapsgewijze opbouw van zelfregulatie naar zelfsturing bij leerkrachten kleuter- en lager onderwijs in opleiding



## Your good practices (2/3)

- Karel de Grote Hogeschool: Werken met ervaringsdeskundigen in een professionele Bacheloropleiding
- KU Leuven: Curriculumdesign - veel uitdagingen, één geïntegreerd beleidsplan
- Odisee Brussel: Short mobility in teacher training
- PXL: Integrale ontwikkeling van een leerlijn internationaal en intercultureel handelen
- Thomas More: Zorg over de grenzen – Internationalisering voor elke student vanaf de start
- UCLL: Enhancing the international competences of biomedical students through an European exchange project
- UCLL: De leraar als wereldburger': wie, wat, hoe?
- UCLL: Leraars bewegen met hun hele zijn. Het curriculum (BAKO Brabant) uitgedaagd



## Your good practices (3/3)

- UAntwerpen: Duurzame ontwikkeling in de opleiding Meertalige Professionele Communicatie
- UGent: De competentiebenadering als hefboom bij curriculumdesign
- UHasselt: Sterke afgestudeerden vormen door opleidingsprogramma's die academische én employability skills integreren
- VIVES: Connected Curricula
- VUB: UNIVER.CITY