

Promoting school attendance  
in the Netherlands through  
regional and national policy  
and initiatives



# Workshop program

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Presentation: Dutch policy regarding school attendance

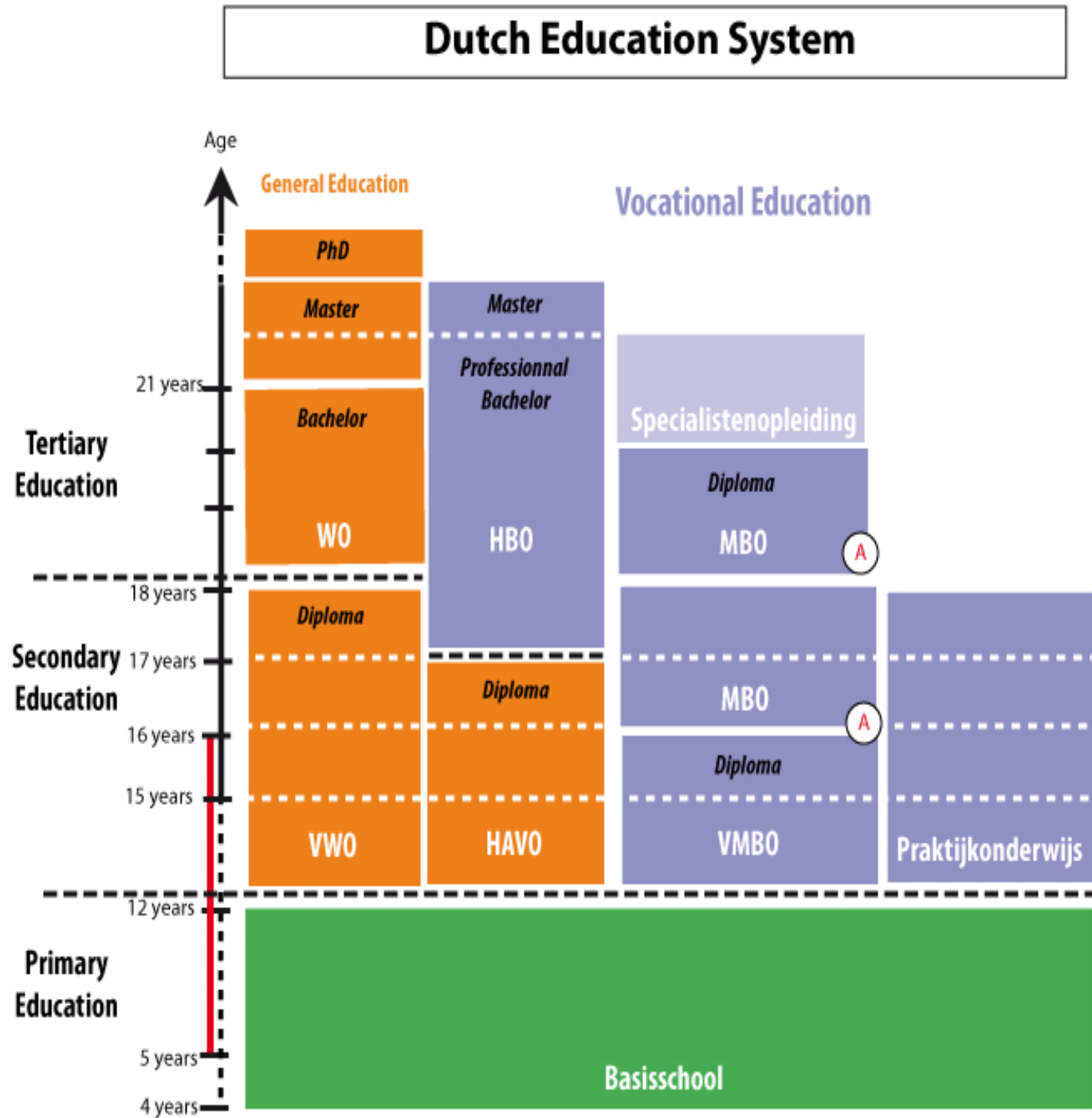
Workshops for promoting school attendance:

- National policy and the role of national organizations
- Regional collaboration
- Knowledge exchange: a collaboration between science and practice

# Education in the Netherlands

Education in the Netherlands consists of the following levels and is highly segregated:

- Primary education
- Secondary Education: Praktijkonderwijs, VMBO, HAVO en VWO
- Tertiary education
  - Vocational education (MBO)
  - Hogeschool (HBO)
  - University





# Special education

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## Cluster 1

Visual impairments

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## Cluster 2

Language impairments and deaf children

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## Cluster 3

Cognitive, physical impairments and/or chronic illness

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## Cluster 4

Severe behavioral problems

# Together but not the same

## Municipalities

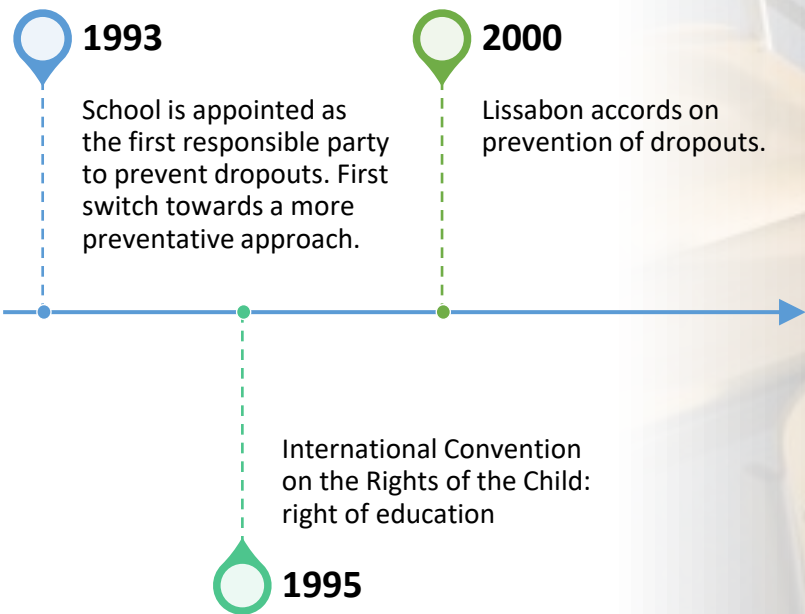
Youth mental health, youth care, school attendance and truancy officers, GCD



## Samenwerkingsverbanden (2014)

Regional educational collaboration for children with special education needs







**2004**

Herstart: children (4-18 years old) who don't attend school for longer than 4 weeks without any perspective at school attendance.

**2006**

Rebound: educational time-out facility for children with acting out behavior

**2005**

Op de rails: children > 10 years old who influence the safety at the school are temporarily placed in a special education school.



# 2014: Passend Onderwijs



- Children with special educational needs
- Goal: every child can go to school

→ Oprichting thuiszittersoverleg



National collaboration: Thuiszittersoverleg

# 2016: Thuiszitterspact

**Commitment:** No child stays at home for longer than 3 months without perspective on school attendance and/or a youth care plan

## Regional approach

- Reduction of numbers of non-attenders/ children with chronic and severe absenteeism
- Prevention of dropout
- Collaboration between education and youth care
- Tailor-made education
- Providing a perspective on school attendance with the proper support
- Reducing exemptions compulsory education

**2020:** goals have not been achieved





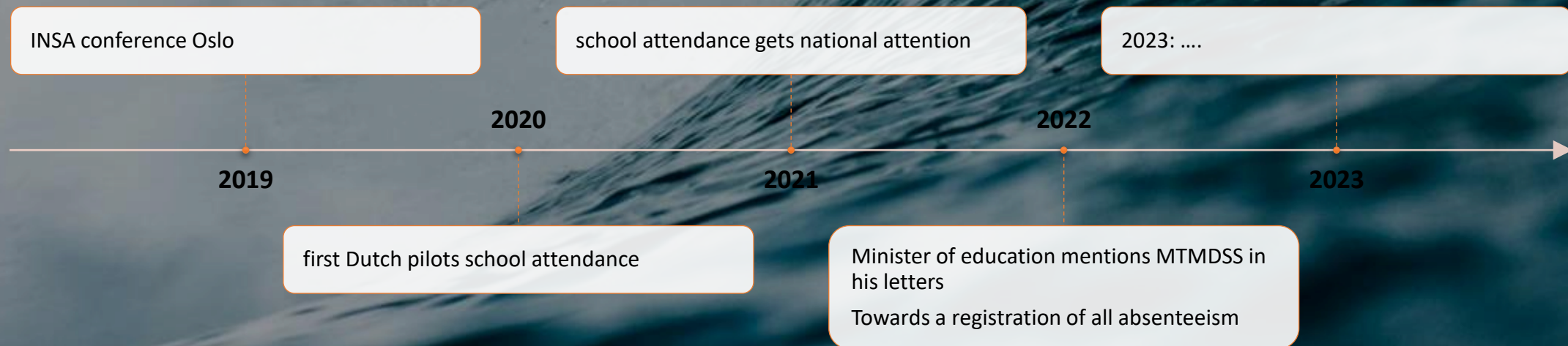
## Working elements

- Urgency is felt on both national and regional level
- Commitment to goals to reduce number of non-attenders
- Shared definition of non-attenders
- Improved registration of absenteeism

# Challenges

- Limited definition of non-attenders (thuiszitters)
- Complexity and diversity of educational needs
- Complex and segregated educational system
- Collaboration youth care and education
- Different interests

# Towards an attendance policy





# National policy - Lines of action

1. Every child in the picture
  - Registration of all absenteeism
  - Analyse absenteeism data
2. Appropriate education for every student
  - Educational interventions
3. Utilizing distance learning for children and youths who are not attending school



Ministerie van Onderwijs,  
Cultuur en Wetenschap



We need all the  
pieces of the  
puzzle





# How can you make waves?

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1. National policy & collaboration
2. Regional collaboration
3. Knowledge exchange: a collaboration between science and practice