**PVE is well underway with the renewal of vocational exam programmes**

**SUMMARY**

**Introduction**

Several developments have given cause for the renewal of vocational exam programmes in Pre-Vocational Education (PVE). The most important aspects of this renewal are the connections between PVE, continuing education, and the job market; an attractive and lasting educational offer when the number of students decreases; improvement of career choices; positive image of vocational subjects; and finally the distinctiveness of PVE. The new programmes will become simpler, clearer, and up-to-date. Made-to-measure education will be available for students in order to optimally prepare them for their continuing education and future profession.

The management of the project ‘Renewal vocational programmes PVE’ and the ministry of education are interested in knowing to what extent schools are prepared for the implementation of the new vocational programmes. Therefore, they asked KPC Groep to conduct a study. They designed a digital questionnaire that was filled in by 1,028 respondents (mostly vocational teachers and immediate supervisors). The responses help to clarify the inquiry with regards to the schools’ readiness for the new vocational programmes.

**Content of the new programmes**

Schools are familiar with the content of the new programmes to a large extent: 98% of the schools know about the new PVE structure with profile- and optional subjects; 87% are acquainted with the content of the new vocational exam programmes; and 71% of the schools know the content of the new exam programmes, exam syllabi, and resources.

A positive observation is that half of the schools have made a decision with regards to the profile- and optional subjects they will offer. Moreover, a quarter of the schools have chosen the profiles. In the current stage of the project, this can be valued positively. Some pilot schools have only just started (Groen, D&P and MVI), but the schools have until August 1, 2016 to fill in the profiles.

**Process of renewal**

At almost half of the schools, the introduction of the new vocational programmes is being managed by a team rather than a single person. Most schools have a plan available for the realisation of the new profiles. The vocational teachers and school management are all involved in the renewal.

Over half of the schools indicate to be collaborating with fellow PVE schools. Almost half of the schools collaborate with SSVE (continuing education): teachers see remarkably less cooperation with SSVE than the immediate supervisors and the school management. Only a third of the schools collaborate with local businesses. With regards to the (strategic) interests of the renewal, it is remarkable that there is little collaboration with continuing education and businesses.

Most schools (82%) expect to start the new vocational programmes on August 1, 2016. This start is not always voluntary. Fortunately, there are also schools who consider the renewal a chance to re-establish PVE in a positive way.

The implementation of the new vocational programmes involves a few difficulties. For more than half of the schools, these are problems with organizability, extra training for teachers, and the availability of teaching material (because publishers await certainty from rules and legislation). A number of schools anticipate difficulties with the contents of Career and Education Guidance (CEG), the inventory, teaching hours, and sample exams. Schools foresee the least difficulties with regards to providing information for SSVE/business and students and parents. A comparison of pilot schools and non-pilot schools demonstrates that both anticipate the same difficulties, which gives reason to take these very seriously. Some other (possible) problems could be: lack of a clear direction for the school, collaboration with SSVE and business, the connection between PVE and continuing education, and the programming of vocational profile- and optional subjects in year 3 and 4. A few respondents emphasized that the renewal makes way for exciting opportunities and challenges.

**Action points**

Despite the fact that the process of renewal is well under way, many schools are on the right track, and the ministry of education provides finances for extra training, a few action points remain to be considered.

The management of the project ‘Renewal vocational programmes PVE’ will continue to provide information on profiles and exams and to encourage the development of teaching material and exams. Exchange of information will be facilitated by organizing network- and platform meetings and by setting up a digital platform on which face-to-face contact allows schools to learn from each other.

The ministry of education is being consulted about the desired transparency and flexibility with regards to rules and legislation. They have also been given to consider extra financial means for investments in housing and inventory.

Schools are challenged to make clear decisions and to deploy implementation strategies from management, to program the vocational profile- and optional subjects in years 3 and 4; to organise CEG; and to improve the collaboration and connection with SSVE and businesses.