

Position Paper HBO-I

Information and communication technology (ict) has become an indispensable part of our society. Without ict the economic motor of the Netherlands would stop instantly. In fact, ict-applications are present in every aspect of our public and private lives. And its importance is still rapidly growing. To keep on supporting this increasing impact of ict we need more and more professionals, with the right competencies in this field. Of course, education in this field has become increasingly important as well. Institutions of professional education have provided in the need for ict-professionals of all kind, since 1980. In 2004, almost 20,000 students were entered in several ict-programmes throughout the country ranging from Communication & multimedia design to computer science. Many more deal with ict and ict-education in their educational programmes.

The HBO-I foundation (HBO-I) is a cooperation of ICT programmes within Higher Professional Education in the Netherlands (formerly known as "HBO-I platform"). These programmes include programmes for Information Technology, Business Information Technology and Computer Science. HBO-I wants to contribute to a strong position and image of all ict-programmes in the Netherlands, for both future students and industry. HBO-I wants to help improve the quality of ict-education. Furthermore HBO-I wants to stimulate an increase of the number of students in ict-education, convinced of the increasing importance of ict in all aspects of society. Enough professionals, with the right competencies, in the full range of the domain of ict will become indispensable to the development of the Netherlands as a knowledge-economy.

HBO-I acts as the national platform of all ict-programmes, and represents those programmes in meeting with universities of professional education, the HBO-council (The Dutch Association of Universities of Professional Education), organisations in ict-industry, companies and other stakeholders at home and abroad. Sharing knowledge with members of the foundation is a main goal of HBO-I, for managers of these programmes as well as for their teachers.

One of the results of the work of HBO-I is national consent on professional and programme profiles, and national initiatives in the field of public relations and imagebuilding towards future students. Furthermore, the foundation is the foremost partner in all kinds of national meetings, to defend the interests of ict-education.

HBO-I agrees with the advice of the HBO-council to award the graduates of their programmes the title 'Bachelor of ICT'. Because of the growing importance of ict, HBO-I thrives for an independent position of the ict-programmes, apart from the 'classical' sectors of economy and technology. HBO-I wants to represent programmes in the full range of the ict-domain. This means it also wants to represent ict programmes, other than (business) information technology and computer science. This desire meets the expectation that broad range ict programmes will emerge, because of the growing importance of ict in all aspects of society. HBO-I welcomes this development, because it can and will stimulate an increase in the number of students participating in ict programmes, and because it presents a higher chance of retaining young talent in our field of work.

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