

VLHORA

Flemish council for UC

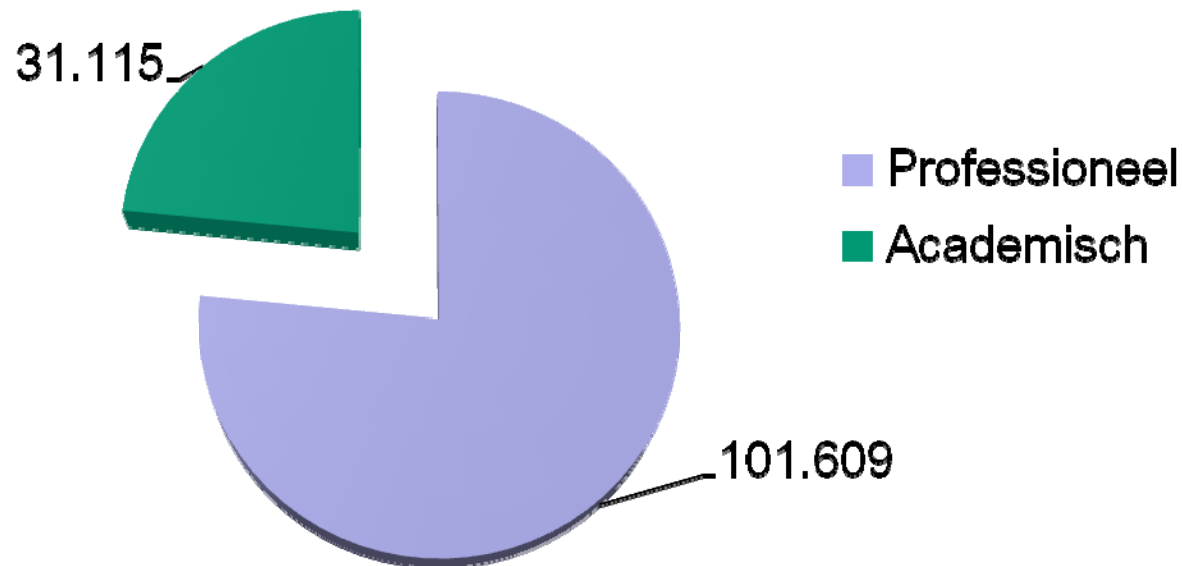
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Secretary-general VLHORA

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The sector of the UCs

132.724 students

76,6 % professionally oriented

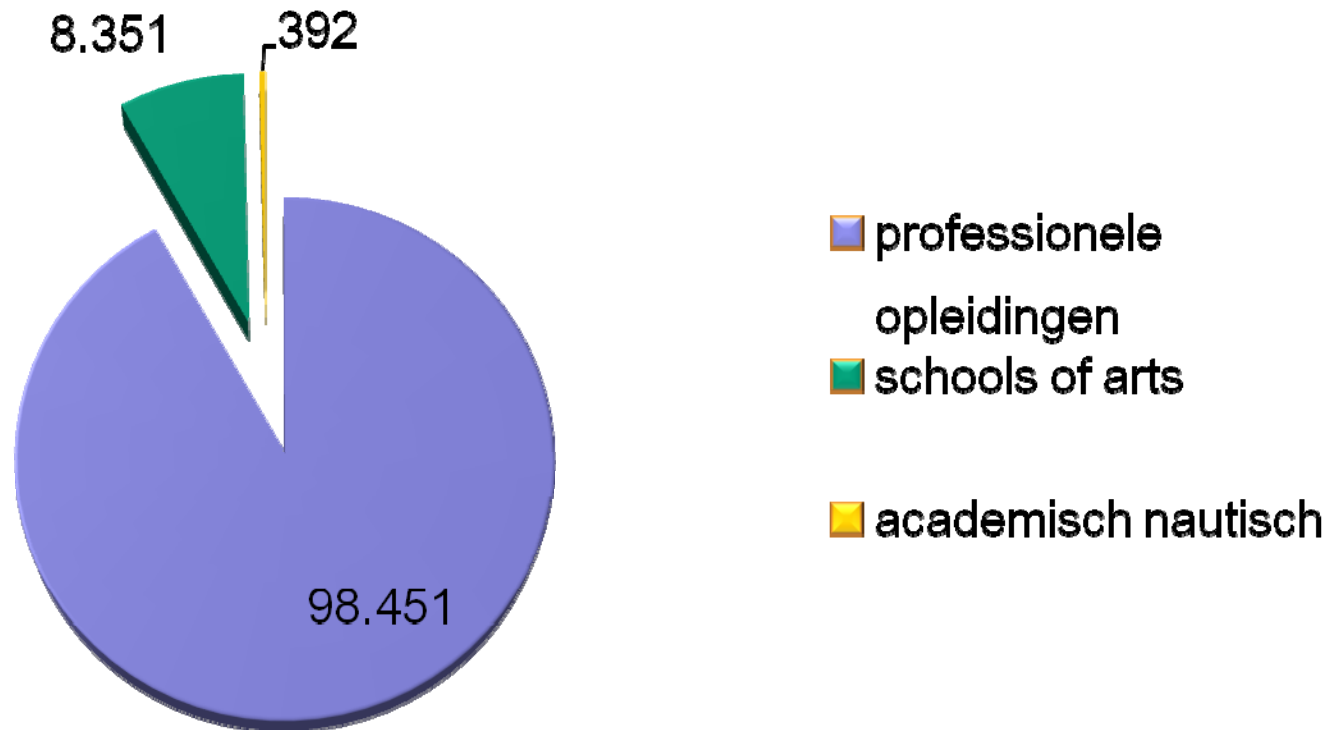


New situation from October 13

-
- Professionally oriented
 - Schools of Arts
 - Maritime Academy

Total students (on basis okt 12): 107.194

New situation from October 13



Institutions

- 5 universities
- 21 university colleges
- 5 associations, each combining one university and at least one university colleges
- Mergers:
 - Plans for 6 mergers
 - 13 University Colleges in '15 ('16)

VLHORA



Umbrella organisation for all 21 university colleges (universities of applied science)

Start of VLHORA

- In 1994 (new decree on Higher Education) no real representation of University Colleges
- In 1995 start of contacts crossing traditional confessional / non-confessional lines
- 1996 start of VLHORA as a private non-profit organisation
- Gradually all university colleges became a member
- July 7, 1998 special decree establishing VLHORA as official council for the UCs

Decree

- Official partner of the minister
- All UC are member
- Representatives of ministry can join in meetings
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of votes for a formal stand point
- All financial means come from the members (on basis of their government subsidies)
- Information to be given to the government
- Personnel can be seconded by UC

Formal assignments

- Official advise by VLHORA asked in several decrees
 - New programmes
 - Names of programmes
 - Qualification structure
 - Quality assurance system
 - ...
- Official representation in many bodies
 - Educational council
 - Council on innovation and research
 - Internationalisation
 - ... (many more)

Mission statement

VLHORA is an umbrella organisation advocating the interests of the university colleges built on a strong and widely accepted view on society.

- Umbrella organisation
- Interests of university colleges
- View on society

Mission statement

- Voice and spokesperson of the university colleges. Partner of all stakeholders in particular of government
- Active networking in order to promote the added value to society of the university colleges on a national and international level.
- Joint agreements in order to use the public resources as efficiently and effectively as possible

Mission statement

- Facilitating international policy evaluation and benchmarking through active participation in international networks
- Focussing on a number of specific themes
- Active cooperation in the Flemish Higher Education Council (umbrella organisation together with traditional universities)

Quality Assurance Agency

- Autonomy in exchange for accountability and quality assurance system
- Ownership of the institutions of HE is stressed by assigning task to the Councils
- Independence is guaranteed by procedures
 - Transparency
 - Peer evaluation
 - External commission
 - Accreditation
- Now transferred to a joint QAA with Universities

Organisation

Structure

- General assembly (21)
- Board (12: 5, 3, 2, 1, 1)
- Working groups (12)
- Fora (21)

Additional representatives of government

Additional representatives of students' union

(Structure will probably change to one board member per institution.)

Operations umbrella organisation

- Board of directors
- Working groups
- Secretary-general and staff members
- Study work
- Documents prepared and revised
- Communication
- Government consultation
- Representation in several bodies

Working Groups

Funding

Personnel

Educational policy

Research and innovation

Social policy

Quality assurance

Internationalisation

Also discipline oriented groups/ IT / Electronic
information services / ...

Expenses

- Staff costs (65%)
- Overhead (17%)
 - Premises
 - Maintenance
 - ICT
 - Meeting costs
- Membership, courses and conferences (10%)
- Representation and travelling (3%)
- Investments (3%)
- Rest (2%)

Premises

- Centre of Brussels (1min from central station)
- One floor with Universities' Rectors' Conference
- Offices and meeting rooms !

Operations Council (examples)

- Negotiations on collective labour agreements
- Negotiations on new educational legislation
- Standpoints: e.g. tertiary short cycle
- Lobbying: e.g. applied research
- Policy preparation: e.g. integration of Ac programmes
- Consultation: e.g. rationalisation, european rules on certain professions (nursing)

Operations Council (examples)

- Communication: annual student figures, news letters, press releases (also see lobbying)
- Budget discussions
- Projects (learning outcomes, student affairs ...)
- ICT-contracts
- Electronic information systems package deals

Why an umbrella organisation

(Also see mission statement and operations before)

- Unity makes stronger (otherwise ‘Divide et impera’)
- Recognition of a collective identity
- Contact person for government
- Single point of contact for members and other organisations/stakeholders
- Recognised and respected partner
- Defending common interests
- Consultation, bringing people together

Why an umbrella organisation?

- Economies of scale
- Defending common interests
- Consultation, bringing people together
- Communication and information
- Capacity building
- Exchanging best practices / professionalisation
- Stakeholder representation
- International position

Any reasons why not ?

- Compromises/consensus
- Give up some of your individual positions (but benefit from collective force)
- Time needed to come to conclusions (to overcome particular interests)

International

- Important cooperation on international level, preferably on the level of other conferences/umbrella organisations
 - EURASHE
 - UASNET : especially on research for UAS (10 national conferences)

Flemish HE Council

- Rationale
- Organisation
- Operations
 - Contact government
 - Internationalisation and development aid
 - Quality assurance agency