

Study visit Dutch Delegate Istanbul, 17 – 20 January

There is great demand for their scientific knowledge and skills on the job market as there still is a shortage of (female) technical professionals in the sciences in the Netherlands. In 2004, the Dutch government commissioned an independent foundation, the National Platform Science & Technology, with the task to design a comprehensive approach towards allocating and monitoring the Dutch efforts to improve the science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM) and labour market.

The aim of the National Platform is achieving 15% more graduates in scientific subjects in 2010 than in 2000. In order to achieve this goal; The Platform launched the Sprint Program for universities for applied sciences and research universities. Higher education institutions in science and technology which commit to the 15% goal are rewarded with several years' support in the form of funding and expertise. Each university has a Sprint Coordinator.

VHTO, National expert organization girls/women and science/technology makes an effort in many different ways to increase the involvement of women and girls in science and technology education, the technological employment market and government policy. VHTO is organizing (commissioned by the National Platform) three study visits for key stakeholders of institutes of higher education. The participants are policy advisors (coordinating or advising on outreach activities) with a special focus on achieving more graduates in scientific subjects. All the participants are working within technical or engineering faculties.

The aim of the study visit is to learn from other countries how they achieve in attracting more female students to choose for engineering and mathematics education.

The following universities are represented in the study visit to Turkey:

- Avans University of Applied Sciences
- Hanze University Groningen University of Applied Sciences
- HAN University of Applied Sciences
- Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences
- University of Amsterdam
- University of Applied Sciences Utrecht
- VU University Amsterdam
- Windesheim Universities of Applied Sciences
- Delft university of technology
- University of Twente