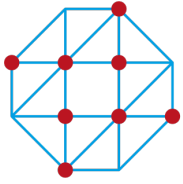


National pilot with Microcredentials in The Netherlands

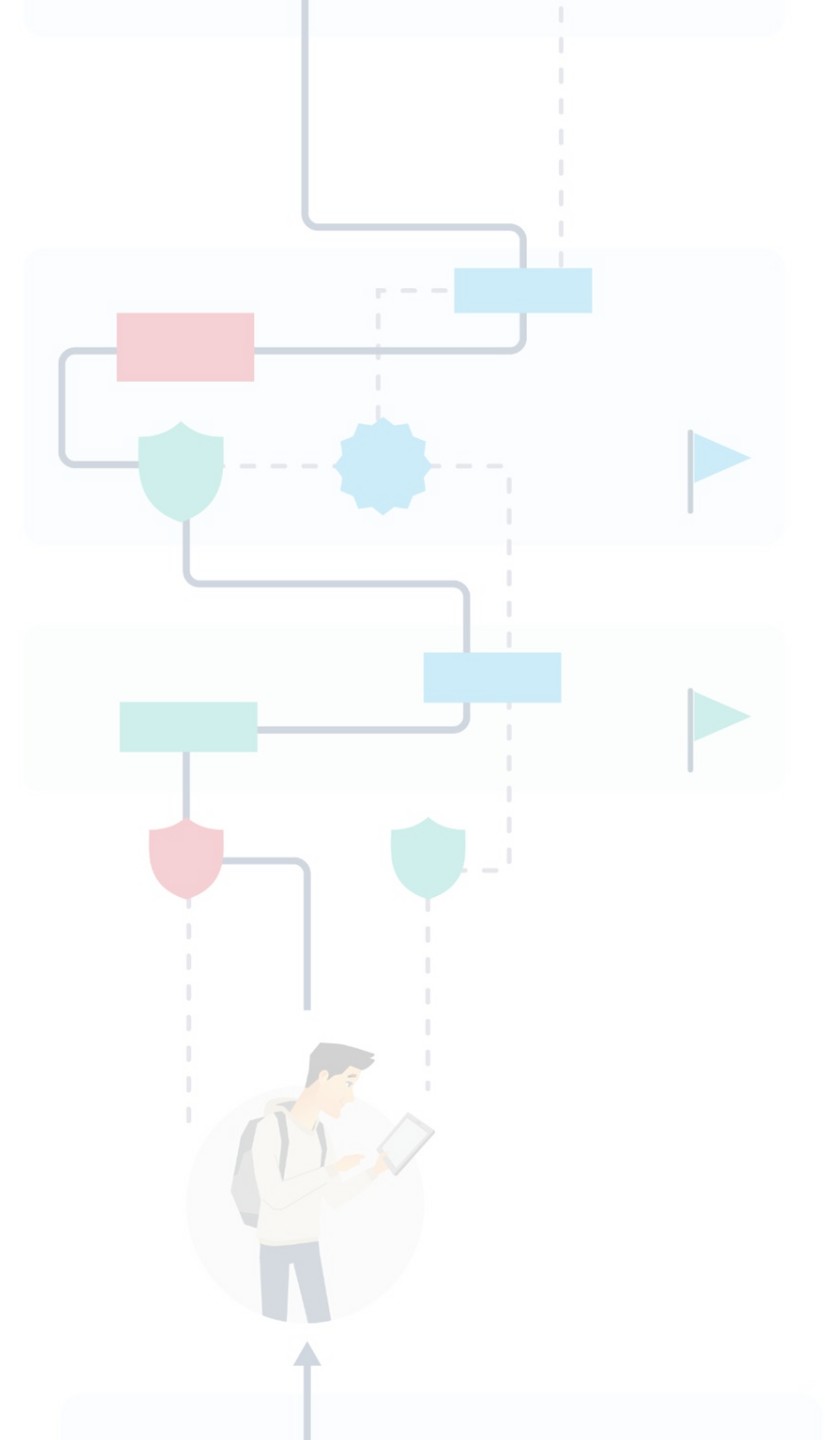
15-12-2021 – Paul den Hertog

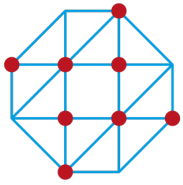


Versnellingsplan Onderwijsinnovatie met ICT

Introduction

- *Paul den Hertog*
- *Captain of the Flexible Education team at the National Acceleration Plan*
- *Senior Consultant Flexible Education at SURF*

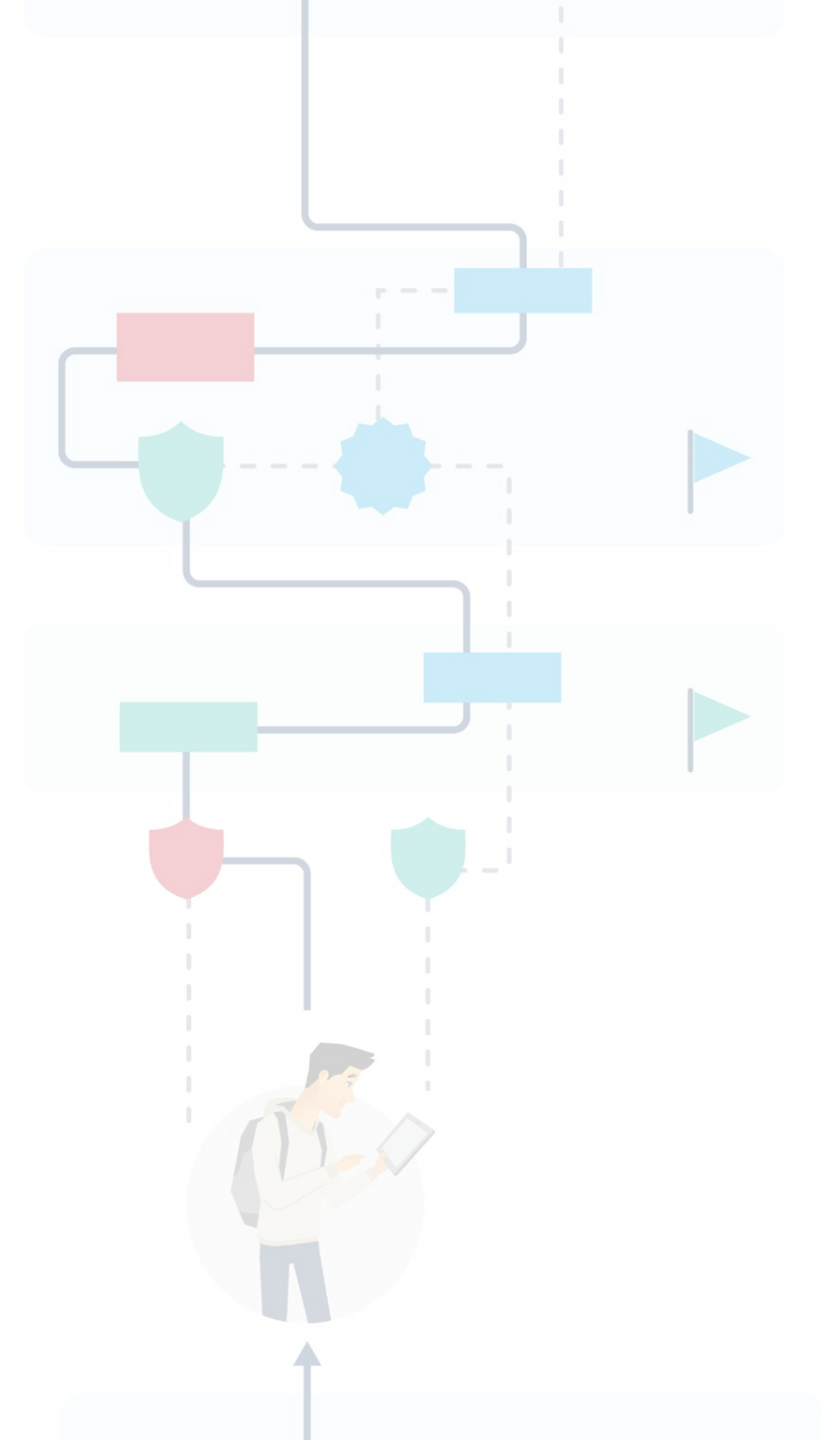


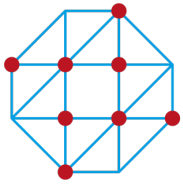


Versnellingsplan
Onderwijsinnovatie
met ICT

A National Pilot with Microcredentials

- ***Challenges***
- ***Technology***
- ***Design Process***

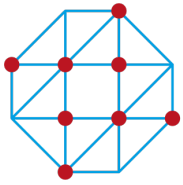




Why Microcredentials?

- ***Trend: Digital Transformation of Higher Education***
- ***Certificates for smaller units of HE support personal learning pathways, flexible education and student mobility***
- ***MC present a great opportunity for professionals who struggle to find time for degree-programs***
- ***MC enable a personal stack of HE certificates, potentially leading up to a degree***



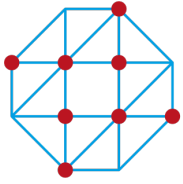


Versnellingsplan Onderwijsinnovatie met ICT

How did we end up here?

- **December '20**
 - *roadmap structuring relevant questions such as governance, quality assurance, scope, target audience and of course, funding*
- **June '21**
 - *formal pilot proposal was approved by steering committee and umbrella organisations. All public HE-institutes are invited to participate in the pilot*
- **October '21**
 - *Start of the pilot, with 32 (out of 55) institutes!*
- **December '23**
 - *Evaluation of the pilot including proposal for formal legislation*

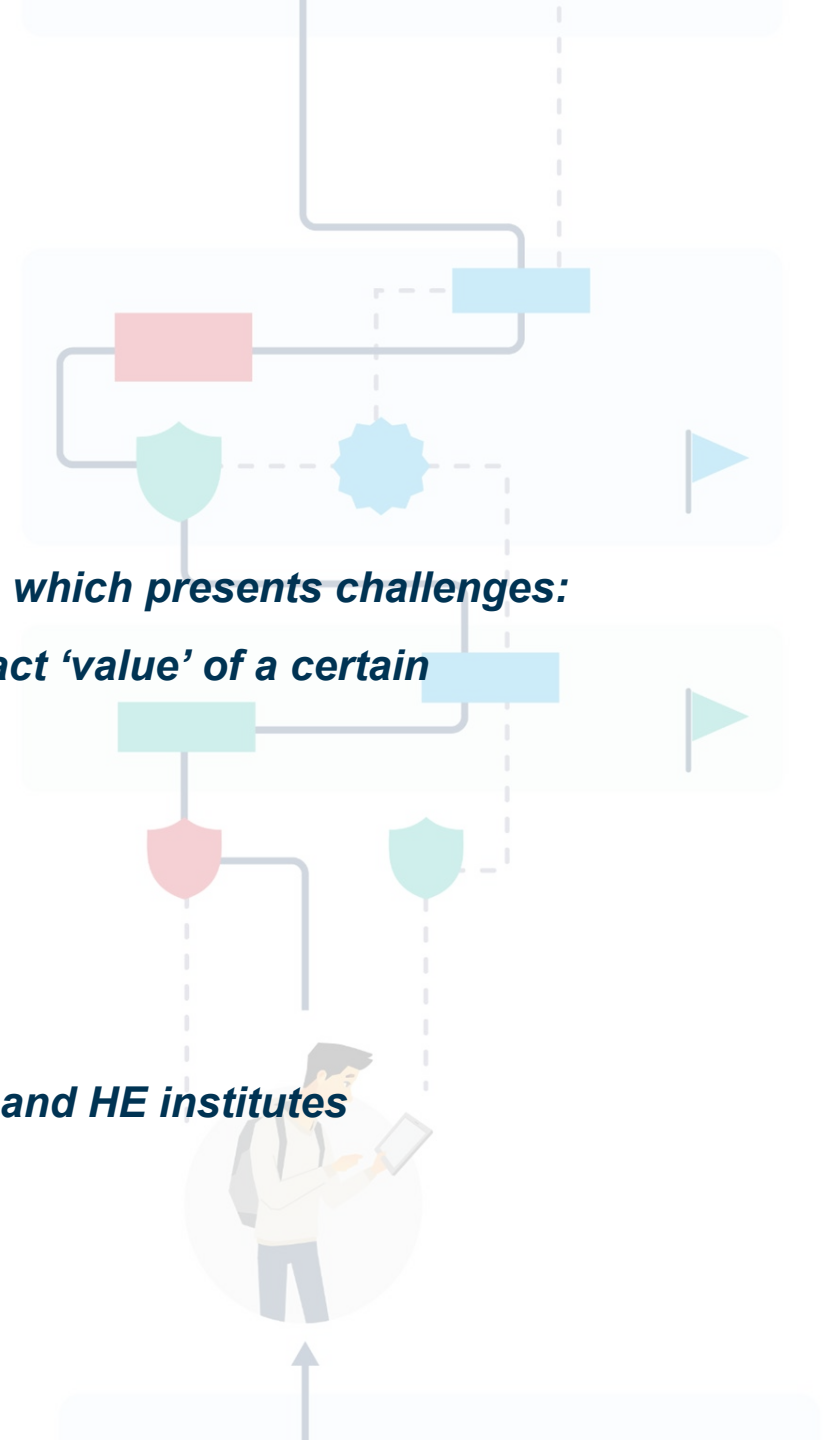


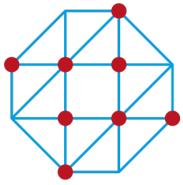


Versnellingsplan Onderwijsinnovatie met ICT

Our challenges

- ***Currently, Dutch HE certificates are mostly non-standardised, which presents challenges:***
 - ***Citizens, employers and HE-institutes don't know the exact 'value' of a certain certificate***
- ***Requirement: an unambiguous definition of:***
 - ***Contents (Learning Outcomes?)***
 - ***Level (EQF/NLQF?)***
 - ***Study load (Hours / ECTS?)***
- ***To enhance and simplify recognition for students, employers and HE institutes***

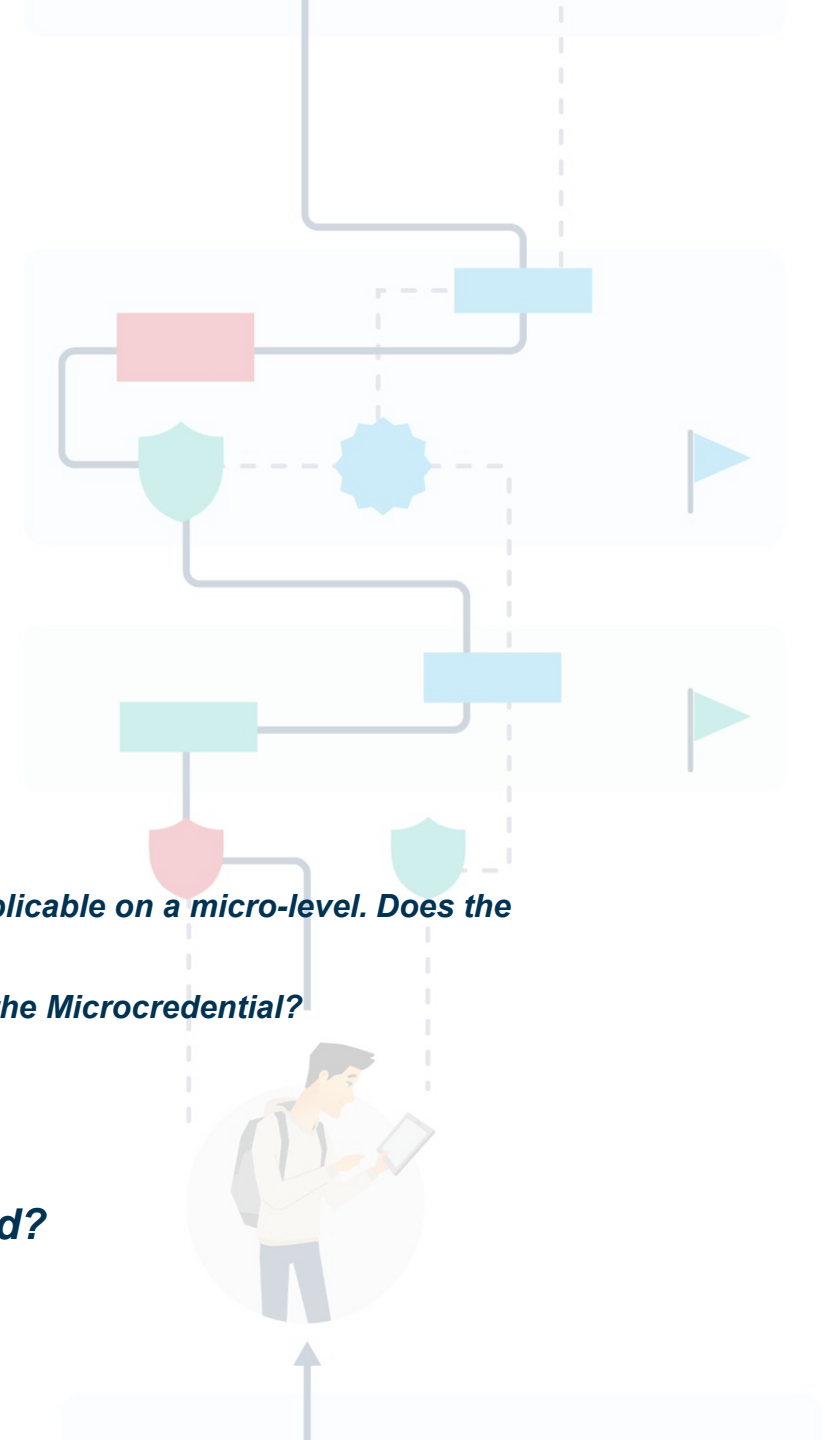


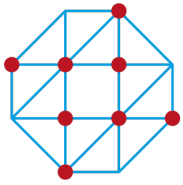


Versnellingsplan Onderwijsinnovatie met ICT

Some more challenges

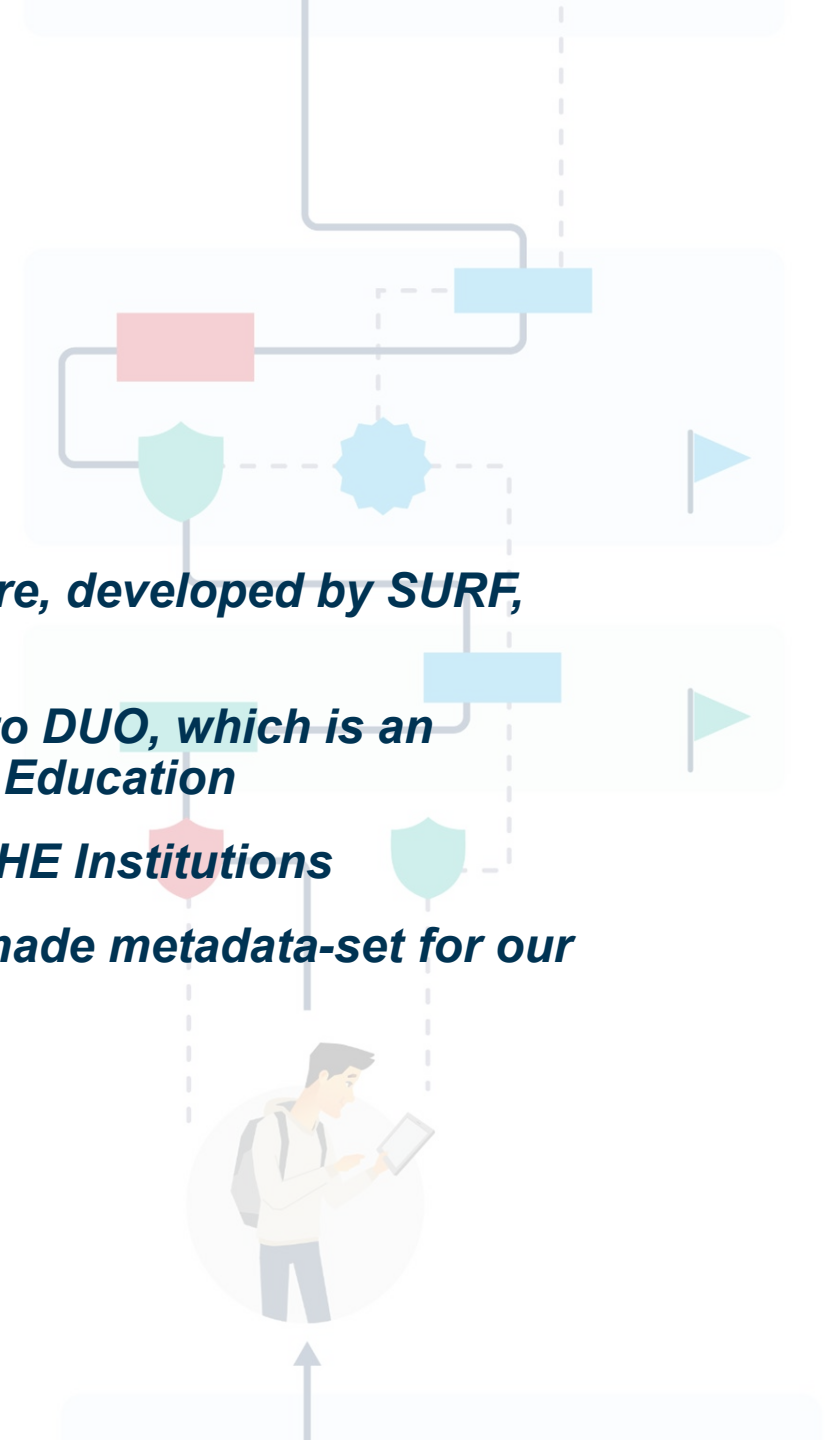
- **Which bits of higher education could be a Microcredential?**
 - *Should there be a minimum or maximum size and/or level?
Eg. EQF-5 and upwards, maybe ranging from 3-30 Ec?*
 - *Which (small) programs are 'worthy' of issuing a microcredential?*
- **What about accreditation?**
 - *The Netherlands has program-level accreditation, but this system is not applicable on a micro-level. Does the Microcredential perhaps require Institutional Accreditation?*
 - *What QA-measures need to be in place in order to guarantee the quality of the Microcredential?*
- **Can we do this in-line with Europe (ESGs and Microbol)?**
 - *Press release last Friday!*
- **How do you think QA for Microcredentials should be regulated?**

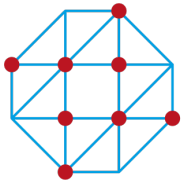




SURF Edubadges Infrastructure

- ***Our pilot will be hosted on the Edubadges infrastructure, developed by SURF, based on a derivative of Open Badges technology***
- ***During the pilot we hope to migrate the infrastructure to DUO, which is an administrative organisation affiliated to the Ministry of Education***
- ***Edubadges are already accessible for all participating HE Institutions***
- ***Edubadges infrastructure will accommodate for a tailored metadata-set for our Microcredential pilot***

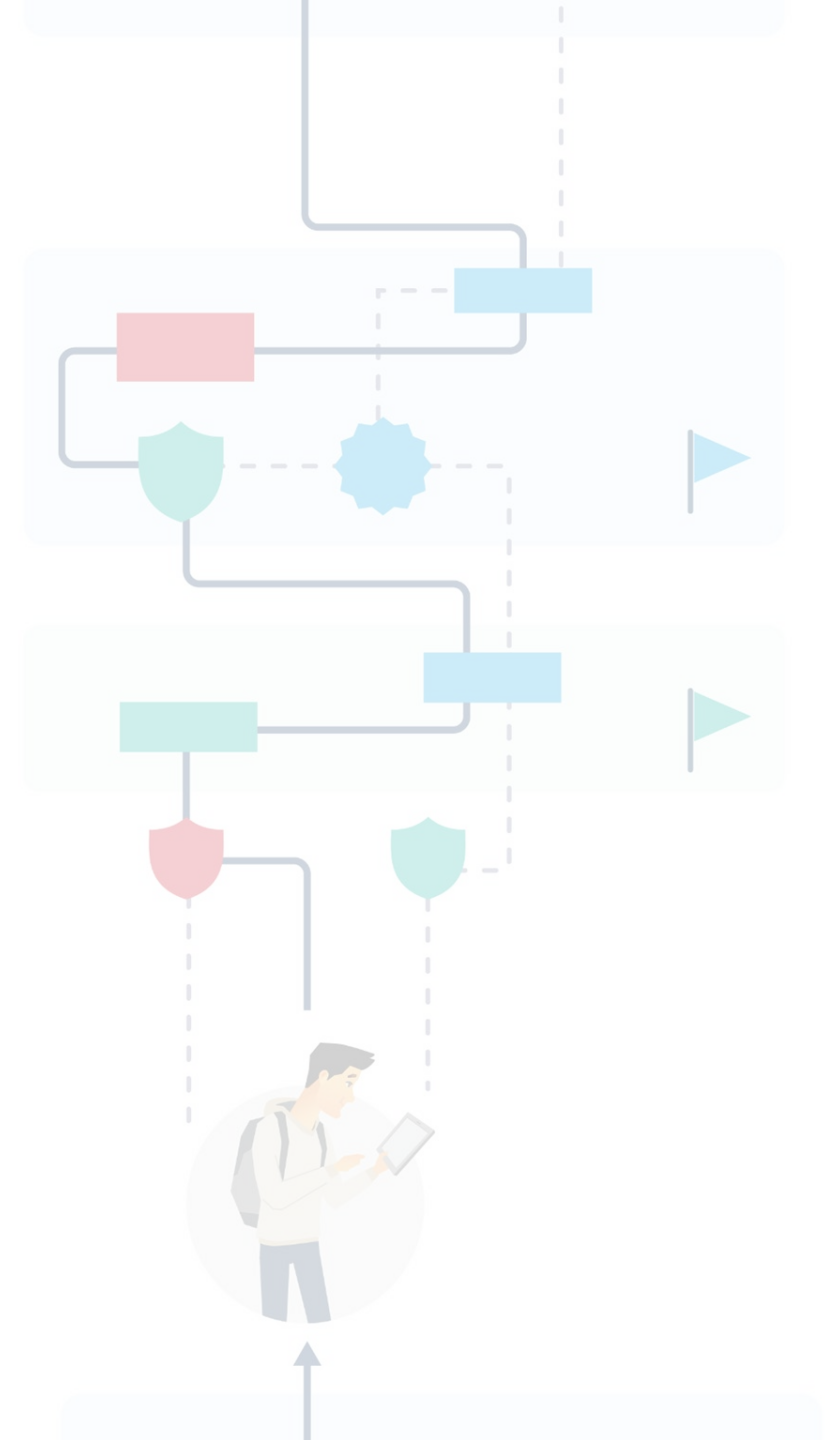


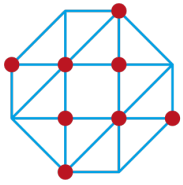


Versnellingsplan Onderwijsinnovatie met ICT

Design Process

- **Monthly meetings for the institutes:**
 - *Quality Assurance*
 - *Technology*
 - *Meta-data (Level, Study load and Learning Outcomes)*
 - *Communication*
- **Steering Committee w. umbrella's, SURF**
- **Working Groups**
 - *Identity and Access Management*
 - *Legal*





Versnellingsplan
Onderwijsinnovatie
met ICT

Let's keep in touch!

Paul den Hertog

paul.denhertog@surf.nl

<https://versnellingsplan.nl/english/>

