

Cover note University Council

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Details		
Topic		New Educational Master Primary Education (ESSB)
To be discussed before		May 25th, 2021
Author / Section		Van Aart-Soppe (ESSB) / Eenhuizen (AZ)
Handled by (to be invited to the committee)		Van Aart-Soppe (ESSB), Eenhuizen (AZ)
Date		10-5-2021

Context / Reason

ESSB plans to develop and start a new Educational Master Primary Education (*Educatieve Master Primair Onderwijs*, EMPO). This 120 EC academic master aims to train students to act as an excellent teacher in primary education in the Netherlands, specifically in an urban context, based on pedagogical knowledge and skills. In doing so, this master's could make a significant contribution towards solving the current teacher shortage, that is increasingly the subject of political and societal debate in the Netherlands, and that is most severe in urban contexts. As mentioned during a meeting with the UC chair, the UC's advice on starting this master's is important and would therefore be highly appreciated. This advice is also a necessary step in the EUR procedure to start a new programme. Therefore, in this covernote we would like to detail the context, goals and contents of the EMPO (see: Summary) and the procedure for starting up this new programme and advice process (see: Jurisdiction UC / Question to UC).

Jurisdiction UC / Question to the UC

We would like to ask the UC **for advice** on the new master's programme, based on the draft Assessment New Programme (*Toets Nieuwe Opleiding*, TNO) application, that is included in **appendix 1**. We ask for advice based on the TNO application because this details our plans for the programme. The final application will also serve as the basis for the NVAO to assess whether the envisioned programme is of sufficient quality and therefore qualifies for accreditation (see: follow-up process).

In asking the UC for advice, we kindly request for an **urgent processing**, that leads to a formal UC advice per May 25th, as discussed with your chair, for the following reasons:

- Following a positive advice of the Committee for the Macro-efficiency of Higher Education (CDHO) on the EMPO, the minister of education decided in March that the EMPO can indeed be considered macro-efficient and would therefore receive public funding. This decision is valid for a period of 10 months (although one extension is possible), meaning that in principle, accreditation has to be successfully completed in December.
- To that end, the TNO application has to be submitted in the first week of June at the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO) considering the summer recess of the NVAO that starts soon after, and that would prolong the processing time of the application.
- Submitting in early June would also enable us to start the accredited EMPO in 2022-2023, which is our goal, given that the Free University/University of Amsterdam/Leiden University together plan to start a similar master's at that time. When our programmes start

simultaneously, interested students can choose which programme suits them best, instead of having to enrol in the programme that starts first.

Of course, in requesting an urgent process, we fully understand that this is only possible when the faculty council and university council are positive. Therefore, we took the following actions in advance:

- First, we discussed the TNO application with the Faculty Council extensively. We received a positive advice from the faculty council, accompanied by a few suggestions and questions that we gladly take to heart. **Appendix 3** is the FC advice, while **Appendix 4** details our response to the FC advice.
- Second, upon the recommendation of the UC chair, two UC representatives, Ana Uribe Sandoval and Afrodita Dobрева shared their feedback upon reading an earlier draft TNO application. In **Appendix 4** we also explain how we address this feedback.

Short Summary

EMPO results from a collaboration between the ESSB and NIVOZ and focuses on the societal challenge of providing (primary) education in an urban context. This profile of the EMPO is distinctive from those of other teacher training programmes for primary education. With the EMPO, we also introduce a new route to becoming a primary school teacher, one that is attractive for bachelor graduates who wish to pursue an academic master's degree and who aspire to become a primary education teacher. The EMPO therefore suits the ESSB/EUR strategy of making a positive societal impact, by contributing towards solving the current, severe teacher shortage. As mentioned, the VU/UvA/LU are developing a similar programme. EMPO would nonetheless be unique, with a focus on the urban context and with pedagogical sciences as its foundation.

Follow-up process

- When the UC shares a positive advice about the envisioned programme, the Executive Board will formally submit the final TNO application by the beginning of June 2021. Of course, the UC's advice will be taking into account in drafting the final TNO Application.
- When the application is submitted, based on that application the NVAO will assess whether the envisioned programme is of sufficient quality and therefore qualifies for accreditation, within approximately 6 months.
- As part of the assessment, NVAO will make a so-called 'site-visit', in which an accreditation panel will speak with representatives from EMPO about the TNO application. We expect to learn during this site-visit whether accreditation may be expected to be successful or not. We aim to organize the site visit around September 2021.
- In order to be able to start with a fully thought-through and well-prepared programme in September 2022, we aim to organise a pilot year in 2021-2022. This means that we will offer a small group of potential EMPO students (maximum 10) the intended exam components of the first master year in advance. This helps EUR/ESSB with the organisational and substantive preparations and enables us to start making an impact as soon as possible. We will make a final decision on whether or not we will be offering the pilot programme, based on, amongst other things, the number of interested students, at the end of May 2021.

Specifics

Please note that we are legally obliged to submit the TNO application at the NVAO in Dutch. We understand however that the UC needs to have documentation in English to be able to formulate an advice. Therefore, we have translated the main text of the TNO application to English.

Attachments are mostly only available in Dutch. We kindly ask the UC to inform us in case there are any questions about the design of the EMPO, as we would be glad to answer these.

Documents to be attached

- Appendix 1: Draft TNO application, version April 28th
- Appendix 2a: Attachments to the TNO application (in Dutch)
- Appendix 3: Advice of Faculty Council of April 26th
- Appendix 4: Response to FC advice and UC feedback of May 10th