Economics Education in the 21st Century
A Quantitative Analysis of Bachelor Curricula in the Netherlands
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Rethinking Economics Economics NL
What do Dutch economics bachelor programs teach?

- Data source: course outlines
- 275 courses
- 62 indicators for each course
- Triangulated by students who followed the courses
Figure 1: Average distribution of course types in Dutch economics curricula.
Sub-questions

1. Research methods
2. Critical thinking
3. Theoretical approaches
4. Real world economics
What research methods are taught?
What research methods are taught?

Figure 2: Proportion of research methods in methods courses.
What tools for critical thinking are taught?
What tools for critical thinking are taught?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obligatory Course(s) on</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>5 of the 9 universities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>6 of the 9 universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Methodology</td>
<td>5 of the 9 universities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Proportion of ethics, philosophy of science and economic methodology courses
What disciplines are taught?
What disciplines are taught?

Figure 3: Distribution of disciplines in theory courses in Dutch bachelor curricula.
What economic approaches are taught?
What economic approaches are taught?

Figure 4: Percentage of economic theoretical approaches in theory courses of the entire bachelor
How much real world economics is taught?
How much real world economics is taught?

Figure 5: Proportion of real world economics in theory and methods courses (>50% of the course)
How much real world economics is taught?

Figure 6: Proportion of real world economics (economic problems, economic sectors and/or economic history) in theory and methods courses
What should be the focus of an economics education?

A. Learning to “think like an economist”

B. Understanding “the economy”