

# SoS

Dispersal pamphlet n° 0; distress signals for high education. School of Success — July 2012

## School of Success, a platform for education struggle

SUCCESS AS THE ULTIMATELY VALUE OF KNOWLEDGE.

What happens when the only goals and objectives of a school, university or post-academic institute is not to develop a general knowledge and a personal critical thinking but to develop suitable skills in order to become productive and successful on doing a specific task?

Should the schools give room to build the personal thought and interests of the student or should the schools teach the student a specific 'productive' knowledge allowing the student being competitive and successful on the market?

The announced cuts in education in the Netherlands – and other countries – can lead us into a future scenario where studies not suitable to feed market's productivity and competitively will shrink – or even make disappear – some studies offered by schools, shortening the ability of decision for the student, the future productive and successful worker. Success as the only purpose of the future education.

School of Success is a project focused on creating a discussion about the current alarming situation of the high education. Primarily focused on the Netherlands, where the former government announced a strong cut in the education budget, the School of Success attempts to analyse the agents that take part on that scenario. Obviously it concerns to a broader general situation of the high education system since not only the Netherlands has been affected. Other countries as Spain, – where the actual right party has realised a cut of 10.000 millions in education, or England, where the tuition fees were almost tripled – are suffering for strong cuts on education.

On a contemporary time where seems that the goals and objectives of the schools and universities are switching from getting knowledge to feed the market needs, the School of Success pretend to be critical and ironic to that, and offer a place for struggle, just what the universities and schools should be.

The first step of the School of Success has been to analyse the situation in the Netherlands creating a map (on this first pamphlet could be found a small explanation of few different kind of figures that appears on the map) which explores the possible consequences that the political and economical decisions are causing or can cause on both, schools and students. Thus, the relation between the school, the student and the economical troubles for both, are crucial on the research. In the case of the students, there is a tendency of getting big amounts of debt, as it's

already happening in the United States of America. For schools, the decrease of government aids could provoke a tendency of privatise schools, which will affect the freedom of the own schools and their capabilities to criticism and experimentations; as well as cause a barrier – or a heavy loan in form of debt – for a big percentage of students.

The information found on the map it's extended with several pamphlets which shows reactions and opinions about cuts in education.

There is three main topics divided in three different colours. Green for all information strongly related with economic issues emphasising the debt problem over the students; Blue for essays and analysis of the nature and actual conception of the education system; and red for reactions as manifestos or letters against the cuts.

An index of the first eight pamphlets – which forms the map by joining them from the back side – can be found on the back of SoS n° 0.

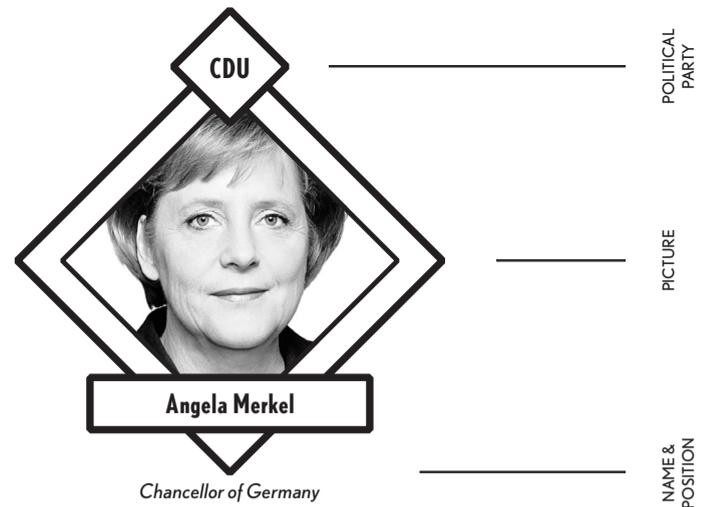
In every pamphlet, can be also found a hashtag related to the topic encouraging to the reader to take part and take action spreading the information, related content or even his/her contributions to the subject.

In addition, a website is being developed in order to make the pamphlets – and it information – more accessible while operating as a platform for education struggle.

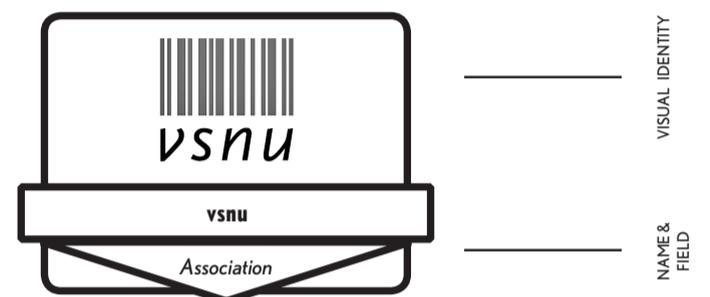
How is the school going to evolve? How is it going to be the school of the future? This research doesn't pretend to answer these questions but by analysing and «mapping» all different agents (economics, politics, schools, organisations, students, and so on) and their point of views, thoughts, and reactions; it hopes to open a dialogue while giving some clues toward which directions can take education in the future.

As it's said in the Netherlands:  
SUCCEs!

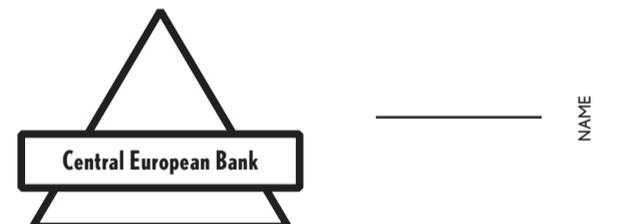
INDIVIDUAL



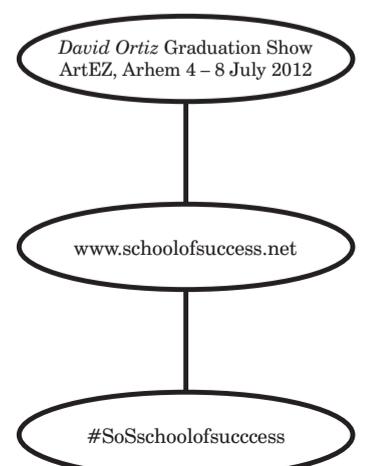
ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTION, ASSOCIATION



BANK



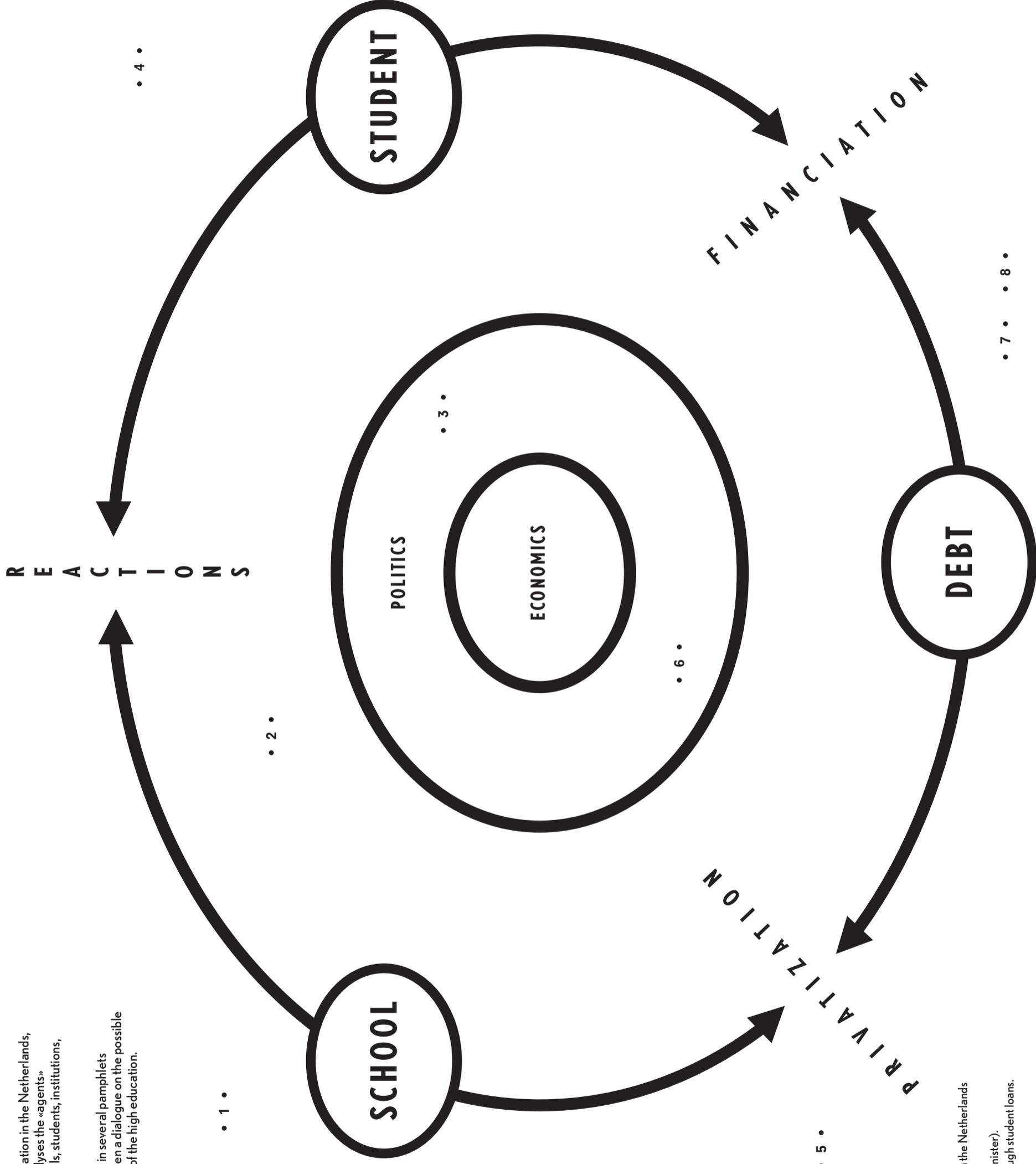
MORE INFORMATION & REACTIONS



## AREAS OF CONFLICT

Due to the coming cuts on the high education in the Netherlands, the School of Success explores and analyses the «agents» that take part and the reactions of schools, students, institutions, politics, economics and thinkers.

Some of this conflict areas are extended in several pamphlets giving different perspectives that can open a dialogue on the possible consequences and future development of the high education.



- 1 • On the savage cultural cutbacks in the Netherlands
- 2 • Manifesto against education cuts.
- 3 • Letter to Zijlstra (Dutch former minister).
- 4 • Europe privatizes public debt through student loans.
- 5 • Utopia and education today.
- 6 • Education as culture machine.
- 7 • What is debt? – part 1 –
- 8 • What is debt? – part 2 –