

Dear colleague,

On 10 March, we will strike against the government's disastrous budget cuts. The announced cuts to universities and universities of applied sciences will devastate education and research. They form a threat to not only the future of education in the Netherlands but also the future of Dutch society. The budget cuts will make higher education less accessible and endanger the knowledge and innovation that is so necessary in a world full of challenges. No other explanation has been given for these financial decisions than: 'We have to cut the budget'. This is while national debt is decreasing and billions of euros are being given away to large corporations. So budget cuts are not a necessity but a choice, and a very unwise one at that!

On 25 November, 25,000 of us stood strong, supported by many partners from society, on Malieveld with one clear message: 'Do not do it!'. But this has not led to the government to fundamentally change course. It did reduce the higher education cuts from 2 to 1 billion, but this was by taking money from other parts of the public sector. This government appears to see the public sector as a burden that can be cut at will without consequences. A government that stands for the prosperity, peace and safety of the Dutch population does not make cuts, but invests in education, healthcare, the public broadcaster and public transport.

That is why we have to raise our voices again and – with the support of Leiden University's Executive Board – strike. All university staff (excluding those from the LUMC) can strike if they wish. You do not have to catch up on missed work and, although you do not have to ask your manager for permission, you should inform them that you are going to strike.

If you have questions about what striking means and your rights, see the [FNV](#) or [AOb](#) website or ask the action committee. The action committee is holding various planning meetings at different locations for the 10 March strike. Watch this space. Below is a list of meetings.

The importance of this strike cannot be underestimated. This government refuses to even engage with us about the budget cuts. Nor will they listen to society and corporations pointing out how shortsighted these cuts are: every euro invested in education more than pays itself back. This is why we are forced to raise our voices. We, as Leiden University staff – from PhDs to policy advisors and from professors to facility staff – and our students will kick off the staggered strike at Dutch universities on 10 March. Leiden University of Applied Sciences staff will join us.

Our colleagues in Utrecht will follow on 11 March, those from Radboud University Nijmegen on 13 March and those from the University of Amsterdam on 17 March. Staff of

other universities are also organising and more strikes will follow. Let us in Leiden and The Hague lead by example and raise our voices on 10 March.

Further information on the strike locations, programme and more will follow soon. Join our [Teams environment](#), Signal groups and the unions to keep in touch or share your ideas.

One of the specific actions being organised is a teach-out in solidarity with the education sector. If you would like to teach at a school or public institution, contact the action committee or go to the Teach Out channel in [Teams](#) or fill in [this form](#).

Join us, talk to your colleagues, inform students and be there on 10 March! The more people join, the louder our voices will be: Schoof Administration, do not do this!

In solidarity

Leiden and The Hague Action Committee

Action meetings

<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences	Wednesday 26/2, 10:00-11:00	Pieter de la Court 1AA01 online
Faculty of Archaeology	Thursday 27/2, 12:00-13:00	Van Steenis tba online
Leiden Law School	Monday 3/3, 10.00 - 11.00	KOG A0.08 online
Administration and Central Services	Tuesday 4/3, 10:00 –11:00	Academy Building: Social and Behavioural Sciences Faculty Room online
Faculty of Science	Tuesday 4/3, 14.00 – 15.00	Gorlaeus DM1.0 online
Faculty of Humanities	Tuesday 4/3 16:00-17:00	Hertha Mohr 0.02 online
LUC	Wednesday 5/3, 10:00 –11:00	Tba online
FGGA	Wednesday 5/3, 12:00-13:00	Wijnhaven 3.46 online
Leiden University of Applied Sciences	Thursday 6/3, 14:00 – 15:00	Room F2.082 online
Online meeting	Friday 7/3 10:00-11:00	online