

A man on the left and a woman on the right are shown from the chest up, facing each other. Both have their hands raised to their foreheads in a contemplative or 'thinking' pose. The man is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a dark green puffer vest. The woman is wearing a brown and white striped sweater. The background is a solid light beige color.

# Social Dimension

Flemish Community

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**sl**  
**Ho** SUPPORT CENTRE INCLUSIVE  
HIGHER EDUCATION

A photograph of three young men of diverse backgrounds (two white, one Black) cheering enthusiastically. They are all wearing casual clothing like hoodies and beanies, and have their mouths wide open in a shout or cheer. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a tan hoodie. The man in the middle is wearing a pink jacket and a red beanie. The man on the right is wearing a brown sweater and has his arm raised. They are all looking towards the camera with expressions of joy and excitement.

Het Steunpunt Inclusief Hoger onderwijs (SIHO) ondersteunt de Vlaamse hogescholen en universiteiten en beleidsmakers bij het realiseren van inclusief hoger onderwijs

[www.siho.be](http://www.siho.be)

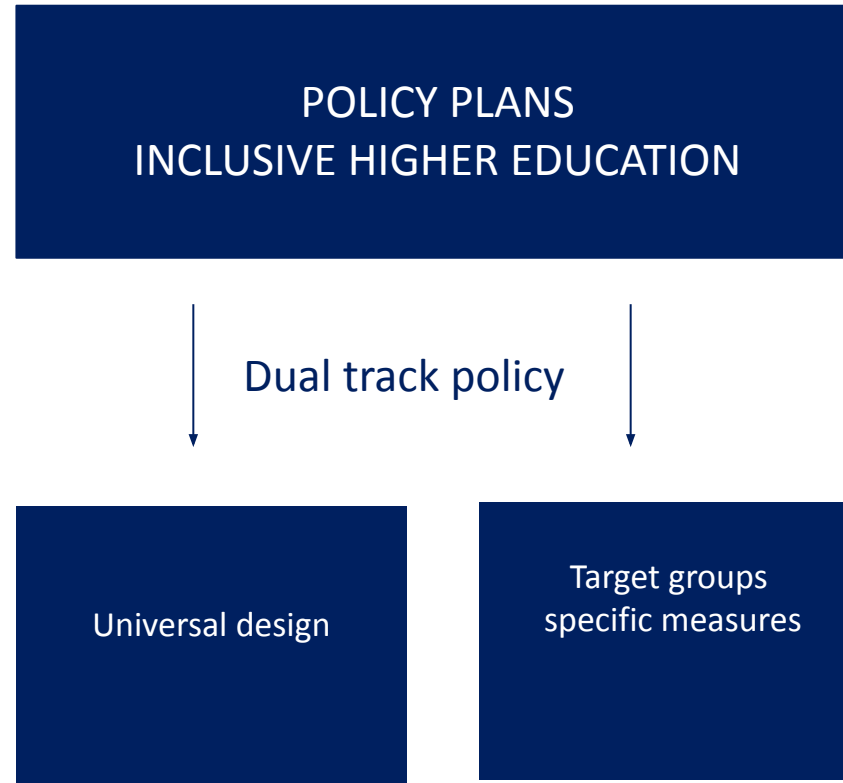
# Inclusion in HE strategy - principles

- General and broad measures give advantages to both students from disadvantaged groups and all other students.
- Specific measures only when general and broad measures are not possible or do not apply.
- Focus on access, continuation and successful completion in HE.
- Based on registered data, survey data as well as students needs assessment.

# Inclusion in HE strategy - principles

- Financial incentives social inclusion: 2009-2015:  
matching funds:
  - Diversity officers;
  - Diversity plans;
  - Dual track policies;
  - Target group measures;
  - Universal design

# Inclusion in HE strategy - principles



# Inclusion in HE strategy - principles

- Sustainable policy schemes social inclusion underrepresented groups/disabilities:
  - Student services;
  - Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities;
  - Support Center Inclusive Higher Education;
  - Regulation Inclusive Higher Education;
  - Registration underrepresented groups;
  - Inclusion and mobility strategy.

# Student services

- Established by law.
- Budget supplied by Flemish government.
- To provide services in the following areas:
  - Student housing;
  - Student alimentation/restaurants;
  - Social services (financial support);
  - Medical and psychological services;
  - Mobility;
  - Support of initiatives initiated by student organisations (sport, culture etc,);
  - 2017: Regulation Inclusive Higher Education (disabilities!).

# Reasonable adjustments

- Belgium ratified UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2009.
- Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities embedded by decree (Codex Higher Education; II.276, §3):
  - HEIs have to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities who experience barriers;
  - HEIs have to implement clear procedures on how to apply for reasonable accommodations; and how to proceed (internally) when accommodations are refused;
  - Support Center for Inclusive Higher Education (SIHO) supports HEIs with the implementation.

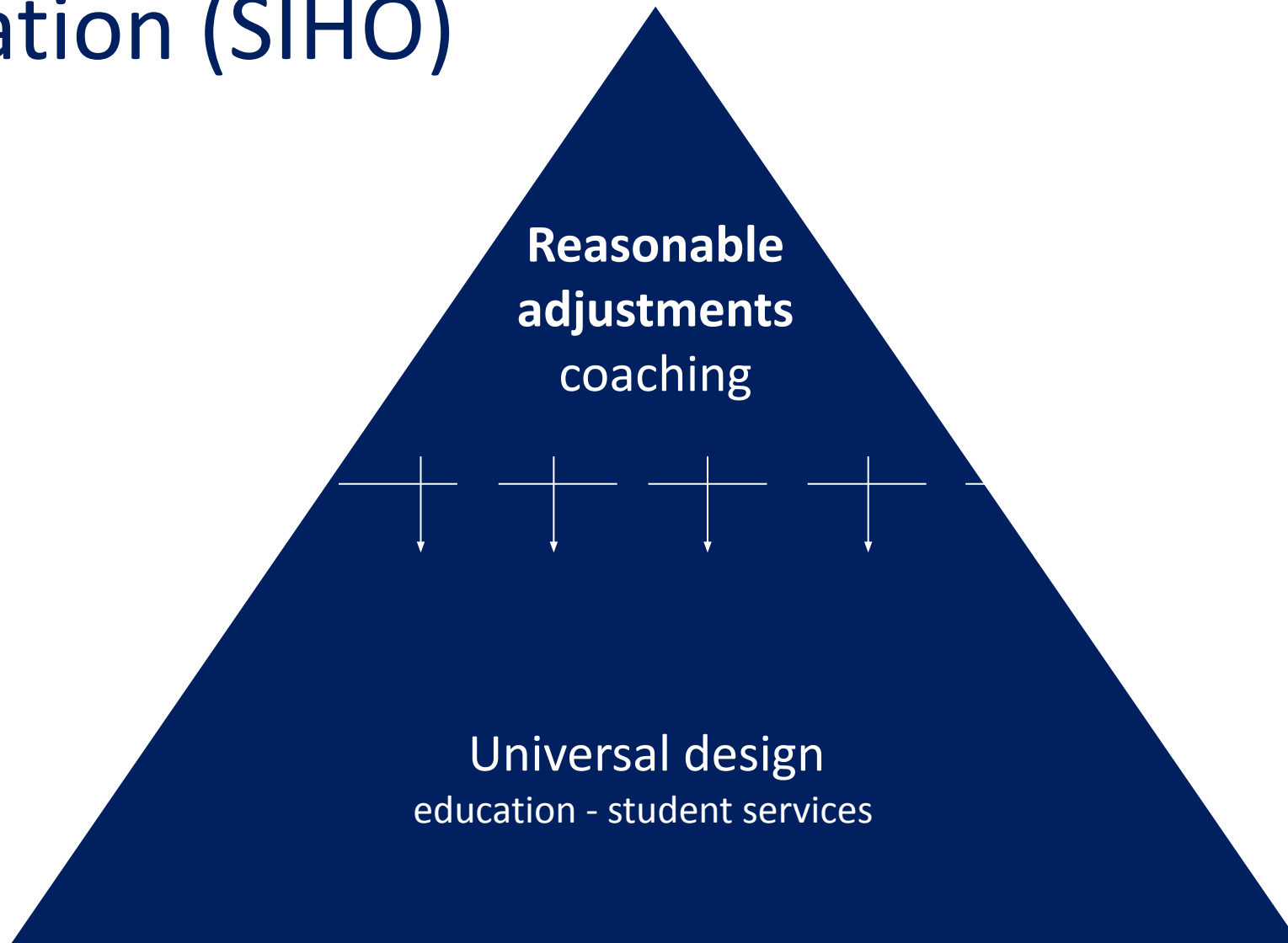
# SIHO

- Collaboration Flemish government and united universities associations.
- A covenant describes the core-tasks:
  - Supporting Flemish HEIs in the implementation of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities;
  - Main focus lies on enhancing the participation of students with a disability in Flemish higher education, increasing the representation of these students in higher education and optimizing their chances of obtaining a degree;
  - Functions as a link between the different HEIs in Flanders in order to exchange and develop knowledge and experiences;
  - Creates a bridge between policymakers and educational institutions and is proactively involved in policy changes and development (from an expert position).

# Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education (SIHO)

- Since 2017 new approach/coordination with **focus on:**
  - Developing expertise - learning network - guidelines;
  - Policy schemes, quality standards and monitoring;
  - Evidence-based, demand-driven and solution-based approach.
  - Student mental health

# Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education (SIHO)





**Inclusive universities**

# Registration disadvantaged groups

- Consultation with stakeholders (incl. students) (Flemish Education Council, 2015)
- Charter between HEIs (2017):
  - Definitions of disadvantaged groups;
  - Guidelines on implementation;
  - Scope of registration is monitoring;
  - Report aggregated data to the broader society.
- Flemish Ministry of Education and Training and HEIs agree to register data in HE-database
  - Policy making and monitoring on the basis of systematic and validated data.

# Registration disadvantaged groups

- Students with a disability;
  - Students with a migration background;
  - Foreign-language students;
  - Multilingual students;
  - Working students;
  - Students receive a (near) study grant;
  - Students short-educated and medium-skilled family background.
- Indicators based on registered data, survey data as well as students needs assessment.
  - A growth scenario: HEIs implement registration procedures at the latest in academic year 2018-2019 ('picture 15/12/2019').

# Student mental health