

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Country information on youth policies



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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NETHERLANDS, 2006

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

3,555,928 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

21.8 %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
3,8 %	3,6 %	3,6 %	3,6 %	3,6 %	3,7 %

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

Male	Female
22,3 %	21,3 %

1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	3,6 %	3,5 %	3,5 %	3,5 %	3,6 %	3,6 %
Male	3,7 %	3,7 %	3,7 %	3,6 %	3,7 %	3,7 %

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

6,7 %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

19,6 %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

15,2 %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

23,0 %

1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population



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5,4 %

1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N/A *persons*

2 Actors and structures

2.1 National public authorities

2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

There is no specific youth department. A number of ministries have autonomy in their field to aspects of youth. However, the Directorate of Youth Policy, a department of Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has a coordinating role in youth policy.

Name of minister

Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports: Hans Hoogervorst Secretary of State responsible for youth policy: Clémence Ross

Duration of mandate

48 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

50 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

www.postbus51.nl

Function, role and competence of youth department

There is no specific youth department. The role of the central government is: - coordination of youth policy - legislation with regard to youth - responsible for central budget with regard to youth policies.

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

Immediately below central government, the twelve provincial (regional) authorities form the second level of government. A number of larger cities enjoy a comparable status in relation to youth care. The third level of government is formed by 458 local municipalities. The provinces are responsible for the youth care service, while the local authorities are responsible for local youth policy (sport, leisure time etc.) and general facilities for young people and their parents / caretakers

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Members of parliament are seated in parliamentary commissions. Almost each ministry has its own parliamentary commission. In the Netherlands, there is no specific parliamentary commission on youth. Neither is there an interparliamentary commission on youth. However, within each commission youth can be a topic on the agenda. Especially, in the Commission on Welfare, Health and Sport; Justice and Education; Culture and Science youth topics are often high on the agenda.



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www.tweedekamer.nl.

2.1.4 Other national public authorities

IPO: Interprovinciaal Overleg: Association of Provincial Authorities is the representative on behalf of the twelve Provinces on different topics from youth care, social policy, environment to mobility www.ipo.nl. VNG: Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten: The Association of Dutch Municipalities is the representative of all Dutch municipalities, VNG promotes and discusses the associations' interests with the central government, Parliament, the European institutions and other public organisations. The VNG is active in the preventive youth policy. www.vng.nl Inspectie Jeugdzorg: Dutch Inspectorate for Youth Care monitors the quality of youth care. www.inspectiejeugdzorg.nl.

2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

Youth Care Agencies: is the access point to the youth care system. Each of the Netherlands's provinces and major urban regions has an agency. The Advice and Reporting Centre for Child Abuse (ARCAN) is the central agency for requesting advice about or reporting child abuse and neglect. Each province (and major urban region) has its own ARCAN, they are part of the Youth Care Agency. IPO the Association of Provincial Authorities has a representative in the Committee of Regions.

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field

The Association of Dutch Municipalities has a representative in the Committee of Regions.

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field

None

2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

Raad voor Maatschappelijke Ontwikkeling (RMO): The Council for Social Development advises the Dutch government on social issues. www.adviesorgaan-rmo.nl. Kinderrechtencollectief (KRC): Dutch NGO Coalition for Children's Rights advises the government on children's rights. www.kinderrechten.nl. National Youth Council: advises the Dutch government: www.jeugdraad.nl.

2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

The Dutch National Youth Council (Nationale Jeugdraad), is an independent organization dedicated to representing the interests of young people in the Netherlands. It is an umbrella



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organization encompassing various youth organizations. Its members include political and leisure interest groups, those for young people of ethnic minority backgrounds and students' unions. www.jeugdraad.nl. An increasing number of Dutch local authorities now have a youth council, although the form and working methods vary somewhat. The exact number of local youth councils is not known. There are approximately 80 youth councils of which but 30 are currently active. There are regional networks of youth councils, such as the Province of Limburg's Youth Network, in which various local youth organizations (youth councils and sports federations) are united. Some of the 12 Dutch provinces run a 'youth parliament', while all are involved in preliminary meetings for the National Youth Debate. The provinces are also responsible for youth care services, in which participation is an important theme.

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

There are a some large youth NGOs. Most of them are imbedded on the local level. Examples of Large youth NGOs are: - Youth sections of political parties - FNV / CNV Jongerenbond (Youth Labour Union) - Scouting Nederland - Various national organizations for schoolchildren and students. For those in secondary education there is the National Pupils Action Committee LAKS, while there are two major students' unions, The National Student Union (Landelijke Studenten Vakbond) and the Inter-city Student Consultative Platform (Interstedelijk Studenten Overleg) - Specific groups: e.g. gays / lesbians (Expreszo), religious and unaccompanied minor refugees (SAMAH) organisations. All the abovementioned organisations are members of the National Youth Council. See for more information and an overview: <http://www.jeugdraad.nl/lidorganisaties.php>

2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

Dutch NGO-Coalition for Children's Rights: www.kinderrechten.nl

2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

Operation Young: Steven van Eijck # Commissioner for youth policy. Operation Young is a government initiative, which is in action from 2003 until 2006. Within this project, youth policy at all levels is to be implemented at local and regional level by variety of organizations. A Youth Team has been formed to support Operation Young, comprising representatives of all the Ministries concerned. Operation Young works with a Youth Agenda, which consists of twelve youth matters that needed improvement, e.g. care structures in and around the school, early intervention, youth and public space, a national youth monitor and the fine-tuning of tasks between the local and provincial governments. www.operatiejong.nl. Dutch NGO-Coalition for Children's rights: Majorie Kaandorp # Defence for Children International the Netherlands

2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N/A

3 Legislation



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3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

Almost all articles of the Dutch Constitution have a direct impact on young people (e.g. equal treatment and freedom of opinion). The Dutch Constitution mentions youth explicitly (e.g. by age restrictions) in the following articles: - Article 7 restricts the right of freedom of opinion. The law can restrict e.g. screening and productions that are accessible to young people under the age of sixteen years to protect the moral. - In article, 54 and 56 the right to vote and to be elected is described. The minimum age to vote and be elected is 18 years of age.

3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

Article 94 of the Dutch Constitution states: Within the Dutch Kingdom, applicable legislation is not applicable, if the application is not compatible with binding legislation of Treaties and decisions of the law of nations. The Declaration of Fundamental rights and Freedoms (10 December 1948). This document is only ratified by the UN General Assembly. In first instance, it is not a binding document. However, it can be stated that this document can be seen as communal law. (Meuwese, S., Blaak, M., Kaandorp, M. (2005) Handboek Internationaal Jeugdrecht, Ars Aequi, p. 424). The UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by the Dutch Government in 1995.

3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Children's Rights

The European Convention on Children's Rights has not been signed and ratified by the Dutch government. There is not yet an official Dutch translation of this Treaty. Meuwese, S., Blaak, M., Kaandorp, M. (2005) Handboek Internationaal Jeugdrecht, Ars Aequi, p. 327.

3.4 National legislation on youth

There is no encompassing law for children and young people's issues in the Netherlands. The special services for children and young people and their families at risk are subject of the Youth Care Act that has been introduced in 2005. Child Day Care is organised in a different law. This is also the case for education, the juvenile justice system, working conditions for young people and many other issues. Other examples are: - Civil Code: The civil rights of children are laid down in the Civil Code (Burgelijk Wetboek). At the age of 18 children, become adults by Dutch law. - Procedural Code (Rechtsvordering): Minors have a right to be heard from 12 years onwards in family matters concerning all issues that have a relation to the minor; e.g. divorce, parental access, information, custody and adoption. - Juvenile Judicial provisions: Dutch law sets the age of responsibility at twelve, i.e. children under that age cannot be prosecuted. - Dutch Criminal Code: the provisions of the Dutch Criminal Code are tailored to forms of child abuse, e.g. sexual abuse and serious physical abuse. The Dutch government has announced the introduction of an article in the Civil Code giving children the right to a non-violent upbringing. - Medical Treatment Agreement Act: the legal position of patients who are minors is set out in the Medical Treatment Act. The Act differentiates between three categories of under age patients. - Working hours act: the prohibition



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of child labour.

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

On the regional and local level, there is regional and local youth policy. Youth policy is the responsibility of the municipalities. The provinces are responsible for youth care according to the Youth Care Act. Local and regional legislation is not possible within the Dutch legal system in relation to youth.

3.6 Guidelines

N/A

4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

- The YOUTH Programme - Leonardo Programme - Socrates Programme

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Dutch Youth Institute (www.nizw.nl) Peter Barendse p.barendse@nizw.nl 0031(0)302306552

4.1.2 Eurodesk

Dutch Youth Institute (www.nizw.nl) Pink Hilverdink p.hilverdink@nizw.nl 0031(0)302306552

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

The YOUTH programme is implemented by The Dutch Youth Institute on request of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports.

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

Socrates, Leonardo and other educational programmes.

4.2 National Programmes on youth

Xplore is a new Dutch subsidy programme (running until 2008) for exchanges, voluntary work and internships in developing countries. It is meant for young Dutch people for 12 to 30 years old. info@xplore.nl.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people
There have been a number of initiatives to stimulate voluntary work. E.g.: - The Community, Education & Sport Initiative. This is a temporary subsidy scheme aimed at strengthening the social role that communities and sport organizations have in dealing with young people at risk. It finances multi-annual programmes for local governments, based on co-financing. - Incentive Scheme Young Volunteers. This scheme for (long-term) voluntary activities of young people covers the period of 2004 # 2006. The scheme is aimed at voluntary organizations that work for and with young



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volunteers at local level, such as (national) youth organizations and sport clubs.

5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth
Examples of National Action Plans related to youth: - National Action Plan on Children (2004): This plan reflects the opinions of children and youth with regards to the four UN World Summit on Children topics: better education, healthy living, prevention and care and HIV/Aids and sexual health. - National Action Plan on Social Inclusion (2003, update expected autumn 2006): This action plan is part of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) of the European Union to reduce social inclusion. - National Action Plan on Sports and Exercise (2005). This NAP is meant to stimulate people #especially youth # to participate in sports. - National Action Plan on Equal Treatment (2003): vision and measures for people with disabilities

6 Budget

6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

N/A *Euros*

6.2 Main beneficiaries

N/A

6.3 Tendencies

There is a lot of focus at improving the youth care system, especially at trying to improve the access to youth care (e.g. reduction of waiting lists). At the local level, there is a lot of attention for parenting support.

7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.

The policy advice of Operation Young, April 2006, entails several recommendations such as putting the needs of children central in all policies, making government policies along the life cycle of a child, organising services in community schools and centres for youth and families and introducing electronic child files and discussions on transferring provincial youth care policy to local authorities. (www.operatie-jong.nl)

8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities



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For an overview of recent events / conferences in the youth field see: NIZW Jeugd:
<http://www.nizwjeugd.nl/> > Servicepagina's > Agenda (Dutch only).

9 Useful links

www.youthpolicy.nl

10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)

Children and young people's policies have been high on the Dutch government's agenda for quite some time. Dutch youth policy is distinguished by two characteristics. Firstly, since the late eighties, a large number of tasks that used to be managed by central government have been transferred to lower administrative levels: the provinces and especially the local authorities. This decentralization is meant to help create a broader spectrum of policy for the lower administrative levels so that they have more tools at their disposal to manage and find solutions to local issues, needs and demands. Secondly, a distinction is made between general preventive youth policy for which the local governments are responsible and the youth care system, which falls under the responsibility of the provinces. The local preventive youth policy includes for example education, leisure time, health care, but also specific tasks in relation to the prevention of problems, such as access to help and the coordination of care at the local level (with specific attention towards parenting support). The youth care system covers all forms of care available to parents and children to help with serious development and parenting problems. See for more information: - www.youthpolicy.nl - <http://www.nizw.nl/smartsite.htm?id=72154>, Youth policy in the Netherlands, Vink, C., Forum 21, 2006.



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