

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

THE NETHERLANDS

SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?	Yes
2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English	The Youth Care Act 2005 (Wet op de Jeugdzorg) is the legal framework for youth care services. Another law which refers to youth issues is the Social Support Law 2007 (Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning), which aims to support active citizenship and participation at the local level (municipalities), including for children and young people. The responsibility for Youth Care will be transferred from the provincial to the local level (to be completed in 2016 at the latest), the ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (which is responsible for Youth Policy at the national level) will draft a new Youth Law to that effect, which will be put before parliament to replace the Youth Care Act.
3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.	Youth Care Act: http://english.minvws.nl/en/folders/djb/2005/youth-care-in-the-netherlands.asp Social Support Act: http://english.minvws.nl/en/themes/social-support-act General information on youth policy is available on: http://www.youthpolicy.nl
4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	Yes
If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan	The ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport published a policy document on Youth in November 2011
5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	No
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.	

The Netherlands

<p>6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>National Youth Policy in the Netherlands covers the priorities set out in the EU Youth Strategy, with a specific focus on youth care, participation and social support</p>
<p>7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>General Youth Policy in the Netherlands is to a large extent decentralized to the local level (municipalities). This covers policy fields such as voluntary activities, youth participation, social inclusion, education and health services.</p>
<p>8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people?</p>	<p>YES, the Government has supported and promoted such cross-disciplinary research since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>At the national level, The Netherlands Youth Institute (NJI, Nederlands Jeugdinstituut) is responsible for compiling, verifying, validating and disseminating of knowledge (data, best practices, evidence-based methodologies) on Youth and Youth Policy, covering a number of specific themes such as youth care, parenting support and the upbringing of children. As the national expert centre on Youth and Youth Policy, the Netherlands Youth Institute provides information and advice to the youth sector in the Netherlands (including local authorities). The ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has commissioned Statistics Netherlands to set up a National Youth Monitor. This online monitor has the most actual facts and figures on youth and is also available in English. http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/en-GB/</p>
<p>9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?</p>	<p>YES, such cooperation has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

The Netherlands

Additional comments.	There is institutionalised and regular cooperation between the ministry of Health, Welfare and Youth and the youth research community. The national research programme ZonMw funds youth research and stimulates use of the knowledge developed to help improve care and youth services in the Netherlands. The Netherlands Youth Institute organizes so-called knowledge circles to exchange information between practice, policy and research. http://www.zonmw.nl/en/ http://www.youthpolicy.nl
10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?	YES, such an institutional mechanism has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Additional comments.	State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport, ms. Marlies VELDHUIJZEN VAN ZANTEN, is responsible for coordinating Youth Policy in the national government since October 2010. There are regular so-called 'youth staff meetings' of directors from the ministry of Health and from other ministries involved with youth policies (i.e. ministry of education, ministry of justice, ministry of social affairs) aimed at working toward a coordinated national youth policy. Before October 2010 the overall coordinating responsibility for youth policy was in the hands of the minister for Youth and Families, who was responsible for creating a cross-sectoral and integrated policy for youth and families. Since October 2010 this responsibility falls within the remit of the State Secretary of Health.
11. Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]? [1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.	NO, we do not plan to utilise the EU funding opportunities mentioned above to finance youth activities or projects.
Additional comments.	

The Netherlands

<p>12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?</p>	<p>YES, we already had such a strategy in place since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	
<p>13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?</p>	<p>General youth policy and youth work is a decentralized responsibility of local municipalities. The 2007 Social Support Act specifies that municipalities have to develop a four-year plan aimed at supporting provisions for young people in the local community.</p>
<p>14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?</p>	<p>Youth policy in the Netherlands is mostly problem-oriented and has a specific focus on youth care. The main challenge at the moment is the transition of the responsibility for provisions for youth care to the local level, together with the development of a non-problem oriented youth policy (development of 'positive youth policy') aimed at all children and young people and not only at young people with problems or young people at risk.</p>
<p>15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?</p>	<p>The National Working Group on the Structured Dialogue with young people agrees on a yearly workplan for the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy, which is communicated to relevant stakeholders. There is a website which provides information in Dutch to relevant stakeholders (www.jeugdbeleidineuropa.nl), as well as the regular channels of information such as the National Agency for the EU Youth in Action programme and Eurodesk.</p>
<p>16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?</p>	<p>Not yet. There will be a pilot project aimed at local authorities (see Section 6)</p>
<p>17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.</p>	<p>The Dutch National Youth Council NJR has been involved in responding to this National Report. They have specifically reacted and contributed to answering sections 5 and 6 of this Report.</p>

SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship

18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

20. To develop career guidance and counselling services? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

21. To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

<p>22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship</p>	

SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth participation

<p>24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

30. to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples). <http://www.njr.nl/>

SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers

31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

<p>33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	

37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).

SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy

38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

40. To promote learning mobility of all young people?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

The Netherlands

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).

C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

52. To promote specific support for young families?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).

E. YOUTH & THE WORLD

58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here. Dutch youth representatives have been actively participating at international meetings since many years.

60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>http://www.consumptieverplicht.nl/node/1</p>

SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

<p>63. Has your government carried out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?</p>	<p>YES, the government has implemented specific measures responding to recommendations from the European Youth Week in May 2011.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>The National Youth Council is the leading partner in the National Working Group and the implementation of the Structured Dialogue in the Netherlands and it is therefore not so much the government which has carried out measures to improve the Structured Dialogue, but the National Working Group (chaired by the National Youth Council) in which the government participates</p>	
<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

The Netherlands

<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here</p>	<p>The ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport played an active role in the establishment of the National Working Group and organized participation of relevant stakeholders. The ministry communicates the results of the national working group within the ministry and to other relevant ministries</p>
<p>65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The National Youth Council NJR chairs and sets the agenda of the meetings of the National Working Group</p>
<p>66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (Directorate for Youth) is a member of the National Working Group and participates actively in its regular meetings</p>
<p>67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>If necessary other ministries are involved in the work of the National Working Group. For instance, the ministry of Social Affairs and Employment was actively involved during the first cycle of the Structured Dialogue, which dealt with youth employability and youth (un)employment.</p>
<p>68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

The Netherlands

<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Although the government does not provide specific financial support for the National Working Group, both the National Youth Council NJR and the Netherlands Youth Institute receive regular yearly subsidies, which enable them to participate in these sort of activities</p>
<p>69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport is actively involved in the activities of the National Working Group and is therefore fully aware of the process of consultations and subsequent results</p>
<p>70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Most of the points which were raised as priority areas in the conclusion of the structured dialogue on youth employment were already part of the Dutch Governments Action Plan to reduce youth unemployment</p>
<p>71. Would your Government support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer</p>	<p>If a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations would be considered to have added value in other fields, the Dutch government would support this</p>

The Netherlands

<p>72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate</p>	
<p>73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>National consultations with youth organisations via the National Youth Council NJR, lessons and debates in schools by representatives of the Youth Council, online questionnaires and polls are some of the methods of consultation that have been applied. The National Youth Council makes a particular effort to involve unorganised young people as much as possible</p>
<p>If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Youth researchers and those engaged in youth work are being involved in the structured dialogue, but do not play a role in the actual carrying out the structured dialogue itself</p>
<p>75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>The Dutch government would welcome efforts to enhance visibility and transparency of the structured dialogue at a national and European level. These efforts should be coordinated with the competent ministries, local authorities and organisations involved in the Netherlands. Please note that this does not involve any financial commitment on the part of the government.</p>

76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue? Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer. Overall the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences have contributed to a successful conduct of the structured dialogue. However, the format and working methods need to be updated regularly to prevent the Youth Conferences from becoming a standard operating procedure. We would welcome any efforts by the Commission and the Presidency to evaluate and update the format and working methods on a regular basis, in close cooperation with member states and the European Youth Forum and other stakeholders.

77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue? Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer. The first two cycles of the structured dialogue can be considered successful. For the further development of the structured dialogue we would welcome a regular evaluation of formats and methods involved (see also our answer to question 76) and more flexibility for the national working groups to implement and tailor the structural dialogue to the requirements at national and local level, within a flexible framework provided by the team-presidency in close cooperation with member states, the European Youth Forum and other relevant stakeholders. This should involve more 'bottom-up' consultations and more flexibility in answering 'guiding questions'. The Dutch National Youth Council would welcome more attention for follow-up and would prefer one topic per trio-presidency rather than one theme with three different focuses.

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Presentation of good practice # 1

In the Netherlands the National Working Group chaired by the National Youth Council NJR has started a pilot project with Dutch local authorities/municipalities ('gemeenten') organise the structured dialogue at the local level. This involves one kick-off meeting and five intensive local dialogue sessions between local policy makers, professionals and young people to discuss how the structured dialogue can be implemented on a structural basis on the local level and to promote the European Youth Strategy with local administrators. For more information please contact the Dutch National Youth Council NJR at: jacqueline.baljeu@njr.nl

Presentation of good practice # 2

Presentation of good practice # 3