

Factsheet: Netherlands

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

According to the 2007 report [Youth Policy in the Netherlands](#), the term youth is applied to children and young people from 0 to 24 years of age.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)
Entirely indirectly elected

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Opposite Sex **Same Sex**

WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT WITH PARENTAL CONSENT

Male **18** **16** **18**

Female **18** **16** **18**

Same-sex marriage legal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [Government of the Netherlands – Ministry of Security and Justice](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

12

Minimum Age
Source: [Government of the Netherlands](#) ()

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.8

4 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

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Both sexes (15-24) %

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Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

90.22%

Both sexes %

89.64% **90.82%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

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Both sexes (13-15) %

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Male (13-15) %

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Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

[Youth Policy in the Netherlands](#) (2007) by the [Netherlands Youth Institute](#) describes the multi-sectoral approach of youth policy in areas of family policy & child protection, health, education & leisure and employment. The Ministry for Youth and Families (now the [Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport](#)) is responsible for the coordination of youth-related policies throughout different ministries and at various levels of government. According to a [2012 report](#) by the same institute, Dutch youth policy is shifting from a problem-focused (negative) approach to one that is development-oriented and demand-led (positive). As described in a [2011 international review on Dutch youth policies](#), the aim is to "guide children, youth people and their parents in their opportunities and foster their empowerment".

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

[Youth policy in the Netherlands is undergoing a shift. A 2011 review and 2012 briefing explain.](#)

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 50793.14

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.921

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

4 out of 187 countries.

GINI

28.87

Year: 2010

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

83

8 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

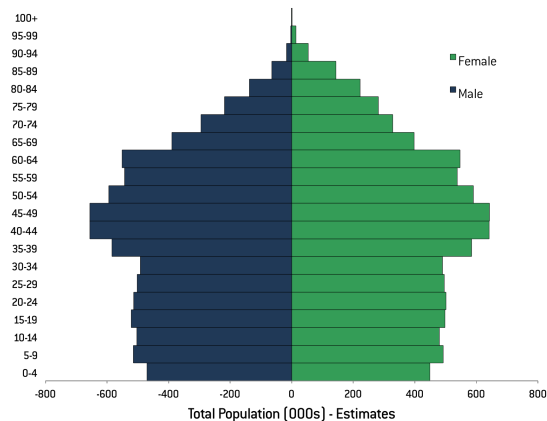
6.46

2 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

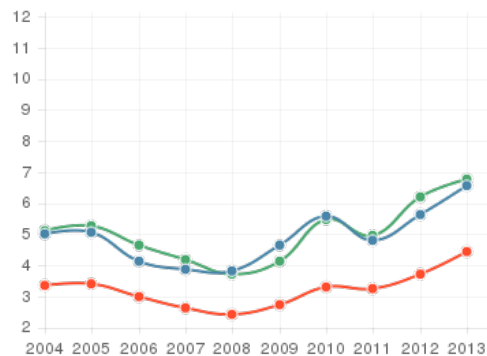
Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

The [Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport](#) (VWS) is the national ministry responsible for coordinating youth-related policies across sectors (ex. health, education and justice). As described in the [country sheet on youth policy](#) (2012), the Netherlands is a decentralised unitary state. Provincial and local authorities operate with a degree of autonomy, however cooperate on some initiatives. For example, an [online portal for youth](#) (Voor de jeugd) is a joint initiative of the VWS, the [Ministry of Security and Justice](#) and an association of Dutch municipalities.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [Dutch National Youth Council](#) (NJR) is a peer-led, umbrella organisation for national youth organisations in the Netherlands. Its target age is youth aged 12-30. According to [country sheet on youth policy](#) (2012), the council is responsible for improving youth participation at local and national levels, as well as advocating for youth and youth organisations. It was formed in 2001 with financial support from the [Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport](#), and currently receives funding from a variety of departments and organisations. The NJR is a member of the [European Youth Forum](#).

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the [2014 State Budget](#), youth (as a policy item within the [Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport](#)) has a budget of EUR 1.4 million (USD 1.9 million). According to the [World Bank](#), the Netherlands spent 11.65% of its government expenditure and 5.96% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**EUR 1.4 MILLION
USD 1.9 MILLION**

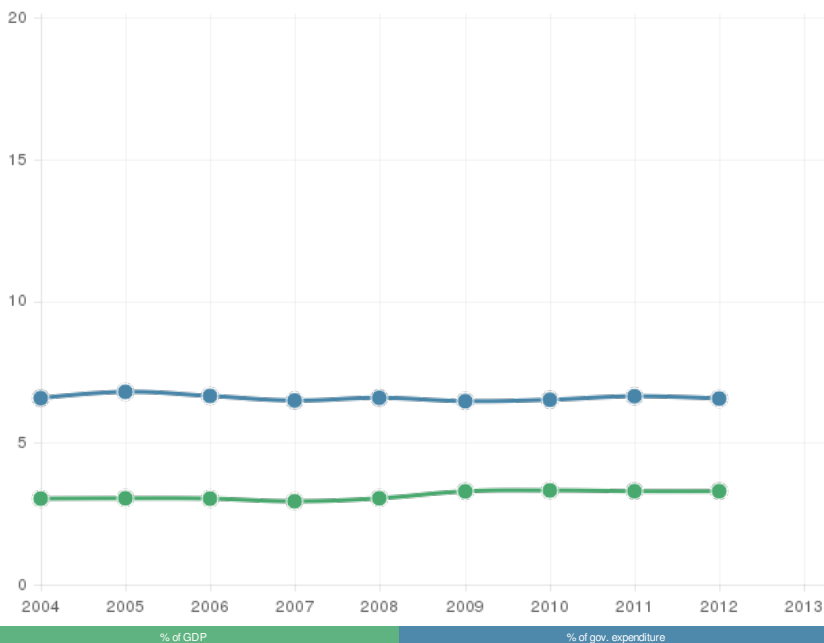
youth programming?

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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