

COUNTRY PROFILES

The Netherlands

The research into literature on Dutch approaches to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude towards cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world, in fact, the Netherlands argues for multilateral cultural cooperation within national cultural policies.

In foreign policy, culture represents a third pillar alongside politics and economy. In an essay on Dutch international cultural policy, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Atzo Nicolaï discusses the effects of globalisation: "In a world that is becoming smaller and smaller and where the level of interdependence is growing, the significance of culture increases. Globalisation is engulfing us as a tidal wave. If we don't pay attention, we might be swept away by it. Culture is the life buoy that helps us to hold out despite these forces."

With regard to the implementation of article 151 of the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Dutch position is that culture deserves more attention, especially in view of the enlargement of the Union. The Netherlands is committed to the view that European cultural cooperation should be based on the principle of subsidiarity. It argues that multilateral cultural cooperation within Europe has a chance of success only when the Member States of the EU include multilateral cultural cooperation within their national cultural policies.

M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n A f f a i r s a n d
M i n i s t r y o f E d u c a t i o n , C u l t u r e
a n d S c i e n c e

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Culture and Science share the responsibility for international cultural policy. Together they formulate strategic goals and administer financial means through the Netherlands Culture Fund (known as the HGIS-C Fund in Dutch). The underlying principles of cooperation between the two ministries are:

- that culture and cultural cooperation are only worthwhile as a tool of foreign policy if they are also recognised as aims in themselves;
- that international cultural policy is only effective in combination with foreign policy and if the special aspects of the international context are taken into account.

The Council for Culture is a legal body of the state that advises the government and parliament on cultural policy in general. Every four years the Council advises the government on the allocation of funds for cultural institutes (Cultuurnota).

Other actors responsible for the administration of international cultural policy are the sectorial cultural institutes and the Service Centre for International Cultural Activities.

The Service Centre for International Cultural Activities (SICA) was established in 1999 to promote the exchange of information between different actors and sectors and to strengthen the co-ordination between the sectors in international cultural cooperation. It is financed by the Ministry of Culture, Education and Science.

P o l i c y f o c u s

The goals of Dutch international cultural policy are to:

- strengthen the cultural infrastructure and promote Dutch cultural activities abroad;
- promote the Netherlands as a meeting place of cultures and the art sector under the banner of the Netherlands as a cultural free port;
- conserve and maintain mutual cultural heritage;
- strengthen the cultural profile of the Netherlands abroad.

Within the context of the Foreign Ministry's development cooperation culture also plays a role. The goals of its programme Culture and Development are to strengthen cultural identity and

to support cultural self-awareness of communities in developing countries, and to promote understanding between different cultures.

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Geographically, Dutch international cultural policy could be said to focus on the following priority countries:

- Member States of the EU; the Netherlands houses an Institut Néerlandais in Paris. In addition, seven Dutch embassies (housed²⁸ within the EU) responsible for implementing international cultural policy include: France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary, Czech Republic and Spain. Dutch policy statements highlight relations with France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Flanders/Belgium as well as Hungary and the Czech Republic;
- neighbouring non-EU countries; One Dutch embassy is housed in Russia and is responsible for implementing international cultural policy. □ Dutch policy statements also highlight relations with Russia, Turkey, Morocco and Egypt because of the large immigrant populations stemming from these countries;
- further afield; One Dutch embassy in the USA (New York), one in Canada (Ottawa), one in Japan (Tokyo), one in South Africa (Pretoria) and one in Indonesia (Jakarta) are responsible for implementing international cultural policy, and Dutch policy statements highlight relations with these same countries. Countries with which the Netherlands has a special historical (colonial) bond: Surinam, South Africa and Indonesia.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

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E-Doc Link: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2002/5770_barbier/58-02-summary_en.pdf

The study presents external cooperation in the culture and audiovisual sectors of a number of states (including the Netherlands) and the European institutions with third countries.

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E-Doc Link: www.cultuurnota.nl
Letter from the Secretaries of State for Education, Culture, and Science and Foreign Affairs on policy priorities in Dutch international cultural policy.

De Neef, Taco, Femke van Woerden-Tausk (2005) All that Dutch: over internationaal cultuurbeleid,
De Uitgevers, ISBN: 90-5662-462-8, Netherlands
Discussion essays on Dutch international cultural policy. It contains essays on four themes: cultural profile, culture and politics, culture and economy, and international reflection, by thirty-two Dutch and foreign authors. It seeks to give a strong impulse to the discussion on Dutch international cultural policy.

Ministry of OCW, (2003) Cultural policy in the Netherlands,
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This offers complete and thorough insight into cultural policy in the Netherlands. It contains a brief description of the Dutch administrative and political system, followed by a historical outline of Dutch cultural policy. Chapter 6: outlines the Ministries International Cultural Policy

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Letter of the secretaries of state of Culture and European Affairs to the Council for Culture.

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E-Doc Link: <http://www.minocw.nl/brief2k/2004/doc/44308.pdf>
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Nicolaï, A., (2005) Thorbecke revisited: cultuur en identiteit,
E-Doc Link: http://www.minbuza.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=59A9243A4F93489AB4F08A34E9484E52X3X60517X92 Netherlands
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Raad van Cultuur, (2003) Advies van de raad van Cultuur over het internationaal cultuurbeleid,
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Royal Netherlands Embassy, (2002) Factsheet on international cultural policy,
E-Doc Link: http://www.nlembassy.org.yu/contents/download/cultural_factsheet.pdf
"International cultural policy has two principal objectives: to raise the Netherlands' cultural profile and to deepen cultural exchange between the Netherlands and other countries. International cultural policy is financed from the Netherlands Culture Fund, which initially amounted to NLG 16 million and in 2003 will be EUR 11,344,505 (NLG 25 million). A priority of international cultural policy is to strengthen the Dutch government's cultural infrastructure abroad, especially the cultural capacity of thirteen missions: New York, Paris, Berlin, London, Rome, Budapest, Prague, Moscow, Pretoria, Tokyo, Madrid, Jakarta, and Ottawa."(Abstract)

Tweede Kamer (Netherlands' Parliament), (2004) Vaststelling van de begrotingsstaten van het Ministerie van Buitenlandse zaken voor het jaar 2005. Memorie van toelichting,
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This document provides an explanation to the budget of the ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under policy article 8, the strengthening of the cultural profile and the positive imago of the Netherlands in and outside the Netherlands is discussed, p. 89-96.

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E-Doc Link: http://www.ifa.de/europa-akp/konferenz/download/eu_voskamp.pdf
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Smithuijsen, Cas, Vladimir Bina (2005) 2.4 International cultural cooperation. The Netherlands report. Compendium: Cultural Policies in Europe,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.culturalpolicies.net/netherlands.htm>

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science support international cultural policy, both financially and as regards substance. The international cultural policy frameworks for the current four-year period were put in place in 2004. On that occasion, the principle of geographical and thematic concentration was confirmed. Priority was assigned to EU Member States, Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, Turkey, Morocco, Egypt, Surinam, South Africa and Indonesia. In the border regions (Germany, Belgium), several forms of international cooperation exist. In 1995, a Treaty was concluded with Flanders for educational, scientific and cultural purposes (Treaty of Antwerp, 1995).”
...(Abstract)

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports - The Netherlands,
E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1_national_reports2.pdf
Background to structures, competencies and institutes involved in cultural cooperation.

Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap, Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (1997) Intensivering buitenlands cultuurbeleid, Tweede Kamer, 25270, nr. 1,
E-Doc Link:
<http://parlando.sdu.nl/cgi/showdoc/session=anonymous@3A5118719280/action=doc/pskey=KST20137/KST20137.pdf>

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E-Doc Link: <http://www.minocw.nl/icb/cultuurnota/index.htm>
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