

## 2018 Country Report for the Netherlands

### Key points for EASPD members

#### I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- The labour market continued its recovery in 2017 and performed well in terms of job creation, although the challenges of labour market segmentation and integration of people with a migrant background remain.
- The employment rate rose steadily but was still slightly below the pre-crisis level due to an increase in the working age population.
- The unemployment rate continued to fall in 2017.
- **Despite the labour market performing well, there is still untapped labour potential.**
- While the overall participation rate is very high, people with a migrant background are lagging behind in employment.
- In order to modernise the labour market and address segmentation, the new government announced several additional measures, but specifics and time frame for adoption remains unclear.

#### II. Education Policy

- School education outcomes are above the EU average, but have worsened since 2012.
- In the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the proportion of low achievers increased in all three core fields.
- Differences between schools have one of the biggest impact on pupils' performance, and are strongly linked to the different educational tracks they offer.
- **Several new measures aim to close performance gaps between students from disadvantaged and more favourable backgrounds.**
- On progress in reaching the national targets under the Europe 2020 Strategy the Netherlands is doing well on early school leaving.
- Although the Netherlands has a large pool of educated and skilled workers, the low number of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates limits its innovation capacity.
- The Netherlands faces an increasing shortage of teachers.



### III. Social Policy

- There is scope to strengthen integration programmes.
- Social dialogue is an essential feature of the so-called Poldermodel in the Netherlands and functions overall rather well.

### IV. Anything else?

- The share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is low (Non-EU-born people face a higher risk of poverty or social exclusion).
- Low but slightly increasing income inequality and good but weakening impact of social transfers in reducing poverty merit attention.
- Historically speaking, part-time employment of women has always been high in the Netherlands and may therefore be slow to adjust.

### Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [the Netherlands](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

### For more information, please contact

**Thomas Bignal**

EASPD Policy Officer

T. +32 2 233 77 23

[thomas.bignal@easpd.eu](mailto:thomas.bignal@easpd.eu)

[www.easpd.eu](http://www.easpd.eu)

