



Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en
Koninkrijksrelaties

The Netherland's experience with decentralisation

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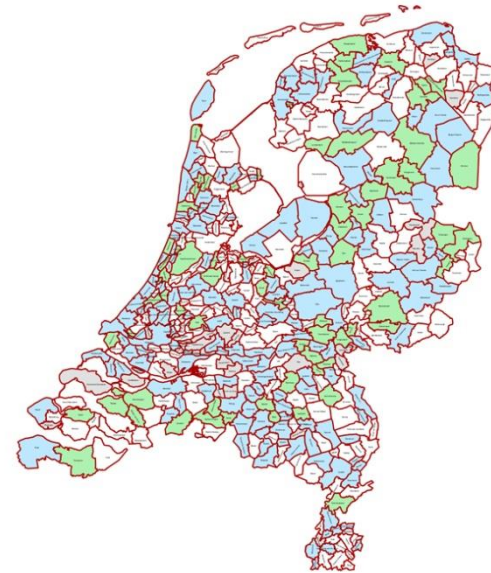


Introduction to the Dutch public sector

Three main layers over government:

- Central Government, located in The Hague
- 12 Provinces

And 388 municipalities



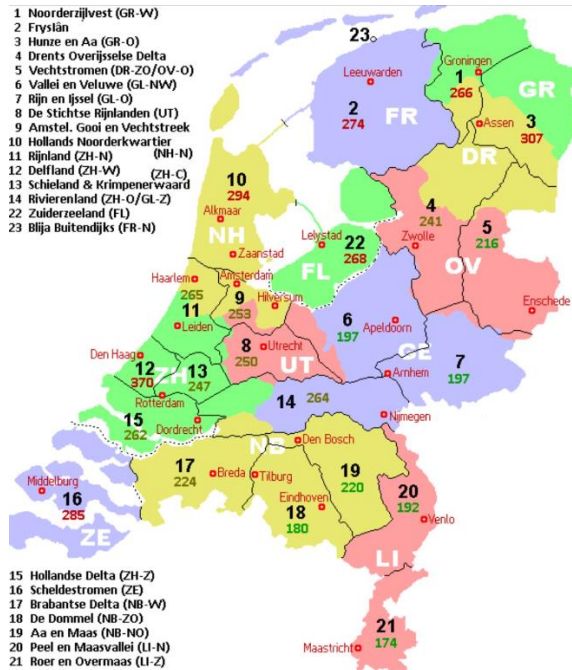


Introduction to the Dutch public sector

Also:

- 23 water boards (functional task)

- The European Union
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands





The principles of a decentralised unitary state

- Since 1848, the Netherlands has been a decentralised unitary state.
- The central government has trust in abilities of local and regional governments. More and more, the three layers of government work together as partners.
- The Minister of Interior affairs encourages decentralisation, especially with regard to local government, and is bound to that by the Municipalities Act (art. 117)
- The central government guarantees the unity of state



The development of social policy in the NL

- First social legislation dates back to the 19th century: a minor law setting down rules for employing young people and women.
- Today, the Netherlands have one of the most extensive bodies of social legislation in the world.
- The main principle of the social system is that all members of society must be able to play an equally active role in society.



Decentralisation in the Netherlands

- 2011: Agreement on decentralisation
- Goal: powerful, strong en service oriented form of government by decentralising policy- and decisionmaking responsibilities
- To reach that goal, substantial tasks and responsibilities were transferred to regional and local government
 - To the regional level:
 - Regional economic policy
 - Nature
 - Spatial planning
 - Traffic and Transport
 - To the local level:
 - Youth care
 - Long-term care
 - Income support



Decentralisation of social policy

Effective on January 1st, 2015

- Participation Act
- Youth Act
- (new) Social support Act



1. Self-reliance of the citizen
2. Organising services closer to the citizen
3. Integrated approach

- New and complex responsibilities for municipalities
- Impact on the current organisation of the municipalities



Participation Act

- Merger and decentralisation of the work for youth with disability act, Work and Social Assistance Act (WWB)

note: municipalities are already responsible for the assistance budget and the joint sheltered employment

- Help citizens to stay employed
- Labour market for young and old people, with or without limitations
- Support their own power
- Active support where required



Youth Act

- Municipalities become responsible for all youth care services
 - More efficient, coherent and cost-effective
 - Focus on prevention
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- Problems regarding the current youth care system:
 1. Imbalance in focus
 2. Fragmentation
 3. The prevailing practice of referring clients
 4. Increased use of care
 5. Unmanageability
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- Revising the system
 - A decentralised and transformed youth care system



(new) Social Support Act

- Municipalities become responsible for supporting the self-reliance of citizens and participation of people with limitations and mental health problems
- Everyday environment
- Domestic help
- Daytime activities



TB ©



Role of the Ministry of Interior Affairs

- Cohesion proposed decentralisations
- Partnerships/good governance
- Transformation of the municipalities
- Support to the municipalities



Regional partnerships

- 35 labour market regions
- 42 youth care regions
- More than 50 social support-regions

Subregions and supra-regional partnerships





Local implementation method

- Social Teams in cities, towns and neighborhoods
- Comprehensive approach: bringing different fields of expertise together, close to the people





Effect on public service delivery

- New methods of implementation and execution lead to a new way of public service delivery
- Transformation of the way we work has short-term and long-term effects





Questions & Remarks

