



**DEAR PARTNERS  
OF THE EU-LDV PROJECT ON AMAT**

The Dutch foundation promoting science-based equitherapy (equine assisted therapy) and therapeutic riding, SHP-E(NL) is happy to have you here



**Welcome**

in

**The Netherlands**



**WELCOME IN THE DEPARTMENT BRABANT**



South of Eindhoven



**CITY'S IN BRABANT**

Den Bosch



The two biggest city's in Brabant

Eindhoven

**THE VARIETY IN THE LANDSCAPE**



**THE HISTORICAL MOTTO OF THE NL IS:**



*Je maintiendrai  
(I will maintain)*



## THE HISTORY OF NL

- ✦ Early History
- ✦ The middle ages
- ✦ Habsburg Netherlands 1519–1581
- ✦ Dutch Republic 1581–1795
- ✦ French domination 1795–1814
- ✦ Kingdom of the Netherlands 1815–1940
- ✦ Second World War 1940–1945
- ✦ Recent history 1945–present



## EARLY HISTORY



The Low Countries have been inhabited by Germanic tribes since 600 BC when the Romans conquered it around 10 BC.

## THE MIDDLE AGES



The Low Countries passed in and out of foreign hands during the Middle Ages, going through a Burgundian period and a spell under the Austrian Habsburgs, before Phillip II of Spain took control in the middle of the 16th century.



## HABSBURG NETHERLAND



Under Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain, the Netherlands region was part of the Seventeen Provinces, which also included most of present-day Belgium, Luxembourg, and some land in France and Germany.



## DUTCH REPUBLIC 1581–1795



After independence, the provinces of Holland, Zeeland, Groningen, Friesland, Utrecht, Overijssel, and Gelre formed a confederation known as the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands.

All these provinces were autonomous and had their own government, the "States of the Province". The States-General, the confederal government, were seated in The Hague and consisted of representatives from each of the seven provinces.



## FRENCH DOMINATION 1795–1814



Peace of Münster. Parts of the southern provinces became *de facto* colonies of the new republican-mercantile empire.



## KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS 1815–1940

**William I of the Netherlands**, son of the last stadtholder **William V van Oranje**, returned to the Netherlands in 1813 and became Sovereign Prince of the Netherlands. On 16 March 1815, the Sovereign Prince became King of the Netherlands.



## SECOND WORLD WAR 1940–1945



Liberation of Eindhoven, September 1944.



## RECENT HISTORY 1945–PRESENT



The Netherlands became a founding member of the **EEC** in 1957 and the **European Union** in 1993.



## BELOW SEELEVEL



A large part of the Netherlands lies below the seelevel



## MAKING LAND OUT OF WATER

Over the centuries, the Dutch coastline has changed considerably as a result of human intervention and natural disasters. Most notable in terms of land loss is the 1134 storm, which created the **archipelago** of **Zeeland** in the southwest.



## WATER PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN NL

After the **1953 disaster**, the **Delta Works** were constructed, a comprehensive set of civil works throughout the Dutch coast. The project started in 1958 and was largely completed in 1997 with the completion of the **Maeslantkering**. A main goal of the Delta project was to reduce the risk of flooding in South Holland and Zeeland to once per 10,000 years



## POLITICS

A parliamentary democracy organized as a unitary state



It is also a constitutional monarchy since 1815



Every year on the 30th of April, **Koninginnedag (Queensday)** is celebrated in the Netherlands



## PROVINCIES (DEPARTMENTS)



Flag	Province	Capital
	Groningen	Assen
	Friesland	Lelystad
	Drenthe	Leeuwarden
	Gelderland	Arnhem
	Groningen	Groningen
	Limburg	Maastricht
	North Brabant	's-Hertogenbosch
	North Holland	Haarlem
	Overijssel	Zwolle
	Utrecht	Utrecht
	Zeeland	Middelburg
	South Holland	The Hague



## CONSTITUTION AND DIVISIONS



The Netherlands is divided into twelve administrative regions, called provinces,

each under a Governor, who is called Commissaris van de Koningin (Commissioner of the Queen), except for the province Limburg where the commissioner is called Gouverneur (Governor).

All provinces are divided into municipalities (gemeenten), 430 in total (13 March 2010).



## CARRIBEAN ISLANDS



The administrative structure on the 3 BES islands is different. These Caribbean islands have the status of openbare lichamen (public bodies) and are generally referred to as special municipalities. They are not part of a province.



## ECONOMY

Amsterdam is the financial and business capital of the Netherlands. The Amsterdam Stock Exchange (AEX), part of Euronext, is the world's oldest stock exchange and is one of Europe's largest bourses. It is situated near Dam Square in the city's centre. As a founding member of the euro, the Netherlands replaced (for accounting purposes) its former currency, the "Gulden" (guilder), on 1 January 1999, along with 15 other adopters of the Euro. Actual euro coins and banknotes followed on 1 January 2002. One euro was equivalent to 2.20371 Dutch guilders.



## AGRICULTURE

A significant portion of Dutch agricultural exports are derived from fresh-cut plants, flowers, and bulbs, with the Netherlands exporting two-thirds of the world's total. The Netherlands also exports a quarter of all world tomatoes, and trade of one-third of the world's exports of chilis, tomatoes and cucumbers goes through the country. The Netherlands also exports one-fifteenth of the world's apples.



## POPULATION

- ✦ Ethnic groups (2008) 80.7% Dutch,
- ✦ 5% EU varieties,
- ✦ 2.4% Indonesians,
- ✦ 2.2% Turks,
- ✦ 2% Surinamese,
- ✦ 2% Moroccans,
- ✦ 0.8% Caribbean
- ✦ 4.8% others



## RELIGION

The Netherlands is one of the most secular countries in Western Europe, with only 39% being religiously affiliated (31% for those aged under 35), and fewer than 20% visiting church regularly. According to the most recent Eurobarometer poll 2005, 34% of the Dutch citizens responded that "they believe there is a God", whereas 37% answered that "they believe there is some sort of spirit or life force", and 27% that "they do not believe there is any sort of spirit, god, or life force".



Equitherapie

## EDUCATION



Education in the Netherlands is compulsory between the ages of 4 and 16, and partially compulsory between the ages of 16 and 18.

The Dutch higher education system distinguishes between hogescholen (lit. 'high schools') and universities. The former only award Bachelor's degrees, usually in applied sciences, and have lesser entry requirements. Traditionally, they are considered a lesser form of education than universities, even though their programmes generally are of high quality.

Equitherapie

## CULTURE



The Netherlands has had many well-known painters. The 17th century, when the Dutch republic was prosperous, was the age of the "Dutch Masters", such as Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Jan Steen, Jacob van Ruysdael and many others. Famous Dutch painters of the 19th and 20th century were Vincent van Gogh and Piet Mondriaan. M. C. Escher is a well-known graphics artist.



## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The predominant wind direction in the Netherlands is southwest, which causes a moderate **maritime climate**.



cool summers and mild winters.

This is especially the case with places within direct proximity of the Dutch coastline, which sometimes are over 10 °C (18 °F) warmer (in winter) or cooler (in summer) than places in the (south)east of the country.



## DUTCH – DOUBLE DUTCH



Dutch is the national language of the Netherlands. The standard variety originates from a dialect formerly spoken around the city of Leiden; this variety, officially known as Standard Dutch, is also one of the official languages of Belgium and Luxembourg. The second official language of the Netherlands is Frisian,

Equitherapie

### DUTCH THINGS EVERYBODY KNOWS

A collage of four images representing Dutch culture: windmills, tulips, cheese, and bicycles.

### DO YOU KNOW HIM TOO? SINTERKLAAS

He arrives in the Netherlands in November each year on a steamboat from Spain and is then paraded through the streets, much to the excitement of Dutch children.

Two images of Sinterklaas: one on a white horse and one as a cartoon illustration.

Equithérapie

### DUTCH HORSES

Four images of Dutch horse breeds: Frisian, Groninger, and KWPN.

The Frisian horse

The Groninger

The Dutch Warmblood: KWPN: riding horse/driving horse

### DUTCH HORSES

Two images of Dutch draft horses.

Draft horse from Brabant

NRPS: Horses and pony's with a minimum of 12,5% Arabian or Anglo-Arabian blood

### THE DUTCH THERAPY HORSE

Three images of horses used in therapy.

### CITIES IN BRABANT

Three images of cities in Brabant: Den Bosch and Eindhoven.

Den Bosch

Eindhoven

