

NETHERLANDS

This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research www.steps-ph.eu), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).

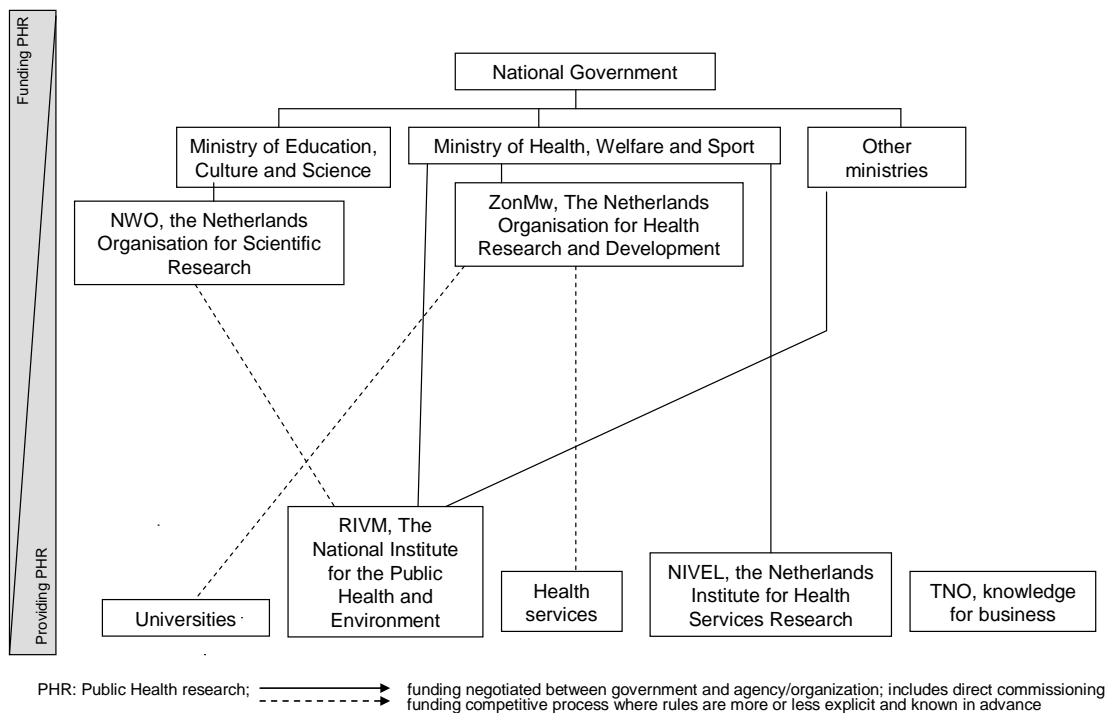


The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows.

The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: 'Public-health research' includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

1. Organogram



2. Research Commissioners

2.1 Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, <http://english.minvws.nl/en/>

2.1.1. ZonMw, the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (<http://www.zonmw.nl/en/>) is a national organisation that promotes quality and innovation in the field of health research and health care, initiating and fostering new developments. ZonMw acts as an intermediary between policy, research and practice.

The majority of ZonMw's commissions come from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (<http://english.minvws.nl/en/>) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The Ministry's main concern is to contribute to public health, including prevention and health care services.

ZonMw programmes give scientific and health care institutions the opportunity to conduct research or to develop, test and implement innovations on a project basis.

Some programmes are designed mainly to boost scientific standards or developments in certain areas of science. In others, the emphasis is on developing and testing innovations within particular focus areas or for certain groups. And in other programmes, ZonMw directs improvement processes, coordinating the large-scale introduction of tried and tested innovations.

ZonMw holds regular grant application rounds for its programmes, when researchers (from fundamental to applied) and care providers can apply for grants for research and innovation projects. Application is open to researchers from Dutch institutes only.

2.2. Ministry of Science

Ministry of Education, culture and science, <http://english.minocw.nl/>

2.2.1. NWO, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/SPPD_5R2QE7_Eng), finances, coordinates and monitors scientific research at Dutch universities and institutes through nearly 120 different research programmes and grants. NWO comprises eight divisions: Earth and Life Sciences (ALW); Chemical Sciences (CW); Physical Sciences (EW); Humanities (GW); Social Sciences (MaGW); Medical Sciences (ZonMw); Physics (N); Technical Sciences (STW). They allocate subsidies and grants, mostly within programmatic limitations, to scientists from their own specific disciplines. The divisions have their own budget, Council Board and Council Executive Committee. Section 4.1. presents the major thematic programmes financed in 2007-2010.

Researchers can apply for subsidies within research programmes as defined by NWO or as a part of a Free Competition (research object is put forward by the researcher). NWO also grants individual researchers and inputs subsidies to facilitate (international) cooperation, finances the use of large-scale facilities and enable investments or publications.

2.3. Other ministries

The ministries of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment; Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality and Transport, Public Works and Water Management fund Public health Research through RIVM (the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment).

2.4. Regions

2.5. Foundations

3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM, <http://www.rivm.nl/en/>) is a knowledge and research Institute dedicated to promoting public health and a healthy and safe living environment.

RIVM is the official research facility for the ministries of Health, Welfare and Sport and Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, and serves the Inspectorate for Public Health and the Inspectorate of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. It also works for the ministries of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality, Transport, Public Works and Water Management, and for the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA).

RIVM cooperates with other research institutions to carry out research in environment, nutrition and public health, processes information for risk assessment and monitors infectious diseases and other threats to public health.

3.2. Mixed organizations

3.3. Universities

There are 14 government-approved research universities in the Netherlands. Thirteen of these institutions focus heavily on research as well as education. This combination ensures that every student is instructed in a research-intensive environment. The universities vary in size, with enrolments ranging from 6,000 to 30,000. Altogether, they have some 205,000 students. The universities are: 1. Erasmus University Rotterdam; 2. Radboud University Nijmegen; 3. Leiden University; 4. University of Groningen; 5. Delft University of Technology; 6. Eindhoven University of Technology; 7. Utrecht University; 8. Maastricht University; 9. University of Twente; 10. University of Amsterdam; 11. Tilburg University; 12. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; 13. Wageningen University (and Research Centre); 14. Open University Netherlands.

All of the universities (except the Open University) perform research. These are all public institutes. The universities get basic funding for research from the government (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science). Another part of their funding is made available through grants (most of which are distributed by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, NWO). Additional research funds come from contract research and EU framework programmes.

(Source: ERAWATCH Research Inventory Report for Netherlands, <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm?fuseaction=ri.content&topicID=4&countryCode=NL>, assessed in June 2010)

3.4. Health Services

3.5. Independent organizations

3.5.1. NIVEL, the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research (<http://www.nivel.nl/>), is the national institute for health services research in the Netherlands. It is an independent organisation. The formal structure of NIVEL is a not-for-profit foundation. NIVEL researches the structure and functioning of health care. The research programme is divided up into the six interrelated domains: health and illness, patient experiences and

evaluations, care processes, health care professionals and organizations, governance, outcomes.

At the end of 2009, 173 people were employed of whom 108 were researchers. Its annual turnover is some 14 million euros of which almost 6 million euros consists of direct funding (based on a 4-year covenant) by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (MoH).

Since 2009, an extra grant of 1.5 million euros per year for a four-year period is provided by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (MoE) for more fundamental scientific research. Other funding is acquired by project grants from a wide variety of national and international funding organisations.

(Source: http://www.nivel.nl/oc2/page.asp?PageID=8496&path=/Startpunt/NIVEL_international/About_NIVEL, last assessed in October 2010)

3.5.2. TNO, knowledge for business (<http://www.tno.nl/>) is an independent research organisation that aims to develop knowledge for practical application. TNO works for a variety of customers: governments, the SME sector, large companies, service providers and non-governmental organisations. TNO considers it self a 'knowledge brokers' that advises customers on finding the optimum solutions that are geared to the questions they have.

Considering that there is a great need for creative solutions in prevention and healthcare, TNO's offers services in helping to formulate solutions in six areas: youth and health; exercise and health; healthcare innovation; healthy foods; healthcare biotechnology and systems biology.

TNO has established, together with universities, some 30 knowledge centres to develop knowledge in carefully selected fields.

(Source: http://www.tno.nl/content.cfm?context=overtno&content=overtno&item_id=32, http://www.tno.nl/content.cfm?context=kennis&content=thema&laag1=425&item_id=425, last assessed in October 2010)

4. Research Strategies

4.1. NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research) Strategy 2007-2010

Science valued! - NWO Strategy 2007-2010

NWO currently follows the strategic plan for 2007-2010. The course of action is aimed at a strong influx of excellent researchers (Line of action 1- opportunities for researchers), smart collaboration (line of action 2 - consolidating strengths), and an efficient employment of resources and strengthening of the bond with society (line 3- science for society). The line 2 includes the following thematic programmes: Conflicts and Security; Creative Industry; Cultural Dynamics; Sustainable Earth; Dynamics of Life Courses; Brain and Cognition; New Methods for Production, Storage, Transport; and Use of Energy; Knowledge Base for ICT Applications; Responsible Innovation; Dynamics of Complex Systems; Use of Nanosciences and Nanotechnology; New Instruments for Health Care; Systems Biology.

(Source: [http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOA_6PXJ9W_Eng/\\$file/wetenschap_gewaarderd_lowres_Eng.pdf](http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOA_6PXJ9W_Eng/$file/wetenschap_gewaarderd_lowres_Eng.pdf), http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP_5SME25_Eng, assessed in June 2010)

4.2, ZonMW Together with experts from the field, ZonMw analyses the current state of play, the problems that exist, the priorities and where to look for solutions. ZonMW then incorporates the findings into a programme – a plan of action that sets out the direction for developments in scientific research and health care. (<http://www.zonmw.nl/en/programmes>)

5. Programmes and calls

5.1. ZonMw has developed many programmes in the fields of prevention, cure and care. A Grant calendar and a database of all the programmes are available at:

<http://www.zonmw.nl/en/programmes/> and <http://www.zonmw.nl/en/grants/>

6. European contacts

6.1. National FP7 Contact point (Health area)¹

6.1.1. Martijn De Jager, SenterNovem/EG-Liaison, <http://www.egl.nl>

6.1.2. Foske Smith, SenterNovem/EG-Liaison, <http://www.egl.nl>

6.1.3. Esther Verhoeven, SenterNovem/EG-Liaison, <http://www.egl.nl>

6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point²

6.2.1. Martijn De Jager, SenterNovem/EG-Liaison, M.de.Jager@egl.nl

6.2.2. Foske Smith, SenterNovem/EG-Liaison, F.Smith@egl.nl

6.2.3. Esther Verhoeven, SenterNovem/EG-Liaison, E.Verhoeven@egl.nl

¹ Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html, assessed in February 2010

² Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm assessed in February 2010