



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

# The Netherlands and the OECD

Hanze UAS & Energy Academy  
Europe (EAE)

Noé van Hulst

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# Agenda

1. The OECD and the developments
2. The new thinking of the OECD
3. SWOT-analysis of the Netherlands through an OECD lens
4. How could the Netherlands do more with the OECD?
5. G20
6. Working at the OECD?



# OECD Development 1

- Founded in 1960 by 20 countries (18 EU-countries, NL incl., plus US and Canada)
- New plan after identity crisis (2003/2004):
  - i. Supplier G7/G20
  - ii. Think tank: exchange of good practices and evidence-based policy
  - iii. (soft law) Guidelines for companies (CSR, anti-corruption)
- In response to the economic crisis (2007): New Approaches to Economic Challenges (NAEC)



## OECD Development 2

Where to go with the OECD?

- Closer co-operation with non-OECD countries (especially emerging economies)
- Key partners: India, South-Africa, Brazil, China and Indonesia
- Expansion, 2 schools:
  1. Go global
  2. Only like-minded

3rd option: specific instruments (watch 'cherry-picking')



# The “new” OECD-thinking → “Better Policies for Better Lives”

1. Well-being (beyond BNP)
2. Inclusive growth
3. Sustainable growth → transition to decarbonized economy
4. More focus on Micro-/Big Data, regions/cities



# How's Life in the Netherlands? (OECD, 2017)





# NL through an OECD lens I

## STRENGTHS

- High trade integration
- High GDP per capita
- Robust fiscal framework
- Pension sustainability
- Stable institutions
- Consensus policy and decision-making ('polder model')
- High education and skills level
- World-class universities
- High entrepreneurship
- Large number of multinational firms
- High employment rates (16-65)
- Good physical and digital infrastructure
- International reputation major cities
- Innovative clusters
- High and good healthy life expectancy
- Low income inequality, good safety nets
- High life satisfaction/work-life balance
- Personal security
- World-class product market regulation
- World-class agricultural sector
- World-class water management
- World-class gas sector

## WEAKNESSES

- Stagnant labour productivity (growth)
- High household debt
- Low elasticity of housing supply
- Underdeveloped private rental market
- Large tax incentives for home ownership
- Lack of innovation and growth of small, young firms
- Low SME collaboration on innovation
- Low labour market participation (65-69)
- High long term unemployment
- Gender gap
- Low amount of working hours (women)
- High protection of permanent contracts
- Poor labour market integration of immigrants
- Costs mental health at work
- Low renewable energy sources
- Energy-intensive industrial structure
- Weak economic incentives for environmental improvement

\* PV OESO op basis van OESO-rapporten NL (2017)



# NL through an OECD lens II

## OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES

- Healing household and bank balance sheets
- Developing non-bank sources of finance
- Supporting growth of small/young firms (e.g. through financing), involving them in top sector approach
- Improving connection top sector approach & EU regional cluster policies
- Identifying possible new strength areas top sector approach
- Stronger focus innovation policy on joint R&D projects private sector with knowledge institutes
- Increasing service-sector liberalization
- Further reducing barriers to entrepreneurship
- Further improving product market regulation (e.g. licensing and permits)
- Increasing incentives to work longer
- Supporting active labour market policies
- Reducing labour market dualism
- Designing a national urban policy
- Improving connectivity of metropolitan areas
- Adjusting growth to new demand patterns
- Consolidating world-class flood defences
- Better using of human capital potentials

## THREATS/RISKS

- Population ageing
- Weak growth impulse from abroad
- Exposure of the large financial sector to shocks
- Exposure of banks to high household debt
- Major credit constraints for SMEs
- Hit of the crisis on tangible investment
- Low business investment in intangible capital
- Falling gas extraction and risks to energy security
- Governance complexity
- Slow reactivity of 'polder model' to crisis (which may hinder more innovative policy approaches as well)
- Changes funding regime fundamental research
- Low share of science and engineering graduates
- Rising regional disparities
- High exposure to floods and climate change impacts
- High air pollution + CO2 emissions
- High road congestion
- Potential adverse effects on the financial sustainability of water management in the long run
- High health spending (also per capita)

\* PV OESO op basis van OESO-rapporten NL (2017)



## How could NL do more with the OECD?

- Learn of and exchange experiences with other countries (learning economy) → OECD = “house of good practices” → “becoming an improved version of ourselves”
- Influence the agenda and strategic direction more
- Push NL priorities : open trade/investment climate, CSR, sustainability, level playing field, innovation
- Steering the agenda setting of the G7/G20 via the OECD
- Apply at the OECD!



## G20: growing role in 'Economic Governance'

- Phase 1 (1999 – 2008): Ministers of Finance and Central Bankers of the G20
- Phase 2 (2009 – now): G20-leaders in Summits, leaders appoint G20 as primary forum for international economic co-operation
- Phase 3 (2010 – now): Focus of the G20 is expanding (not strictly financial and economical anymore)

→ The Netherlands in the G20: 2008/2009 + again in 2017/2018...?

Fundamental question: Will non-G20 countries become 'policy-takers'?



# Working at the OECD: apply

## Interested in applying for a position?



- › Are you a national of an OECD member country?
- › Browse current vacancies and apply
- › Sign up for job alerts

› [FAQs](#)

## Looking for an internship?



- › **The Summer programme**  
Internships starting between July and December
- › **The Winter programme**  
Internships starting between January and June
- › **Internships FAQs**

› [Read more](#)

## Interested in applying as a Young Professional?



- › Were you born on or after 1 January 1981 and do you have an advanced university degree?  
Then this is the programme for you!
- › The application period for next round will open in autumn 2018

› [Read more](#)

## Interested in applying as a Young Associate?



- › If you're a current or recent undergraduate and want to gain work experience before pursuing graduate study, this is the Programme for you!
- › Applications for the 2018-2020 Young Associates Programme closed on Friday December 8 2017.

› [Read more](#)

<http://www.oecd.org/careers>



# Working at the OECD?: recruitment

## Your profile

You are a talented individual who is :

- > national of an [OECD member country](#)
- > under 65 years of age

with

- > high academic achievements
- > an excellent command of English/French
- > strong interpersonal and communication skills



> [Read more](#)

## Diversity of backgrounds

The Diversity of our people is one of our core strengths, which:

- > combines different visions of the world
- > creates a stimulating work environment
- > brings together distinct knowledge and skills
- > guarantees the relevance of OECD's contributions



> [Read more](#)

## Specific vacancies and Programmes

- > [Current vacancies](#)
- > [Young Professionals Programme](#)
- > [Young Associate Programme](#)
- > [Internship Programme](#)

## Recruitment process

- > [Browse our staff categories](#)
- > [Prepare as a shortlisted candidate](#)
- > [Consult our data protection policy](#)

> [Read more](#)

<http://www.oecd.org/careers/howwereco>



# Working at the OECD?: career

## Why the OECD

If you join the OECD, you will have the opportunity to:

- › be involved in high-profile research
- › participate in an international network of policy-makers
- › engage with talented people with different points of view and from diverse backgrounds
- › provide best practices, advice and recommendations

› [Read more](#)

## What we offer

- › **a competitive salary**
- › an attractive benefits package
- › comprehensive medical and social coverage
- › a pension plan
- › a fair and inclusive workplace
- › flexible working conditions



› [Read more](#)

## Make your way

We work in a co-operative, collaborative and respectful environment where continuous growth is strongly encouraged.

We support and nurture your development and growth via:

- › informal mentoring and guidance
- › training programmes
- › annual performance reviews
- › competency development discussions

› [Read more](#)

## Where it can take you

- › We are growing in membership and scope
- › Our expansion creates a path for your progress
- › You will build your skills by working alongside experts
- › You will have the opportunity to develop a network which will remain a source of knowledge exchange throughout your career
- › Working at the OECD is a strong calling card for your career!

› [Read more](#)

<http://www.oecd.org/careers/yourcareerattheoecd>



# Thank you for your attention

Twitter: @noevanhulst

Twitter PV: @NLmissionOECD

Facebook PV: Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OECD