

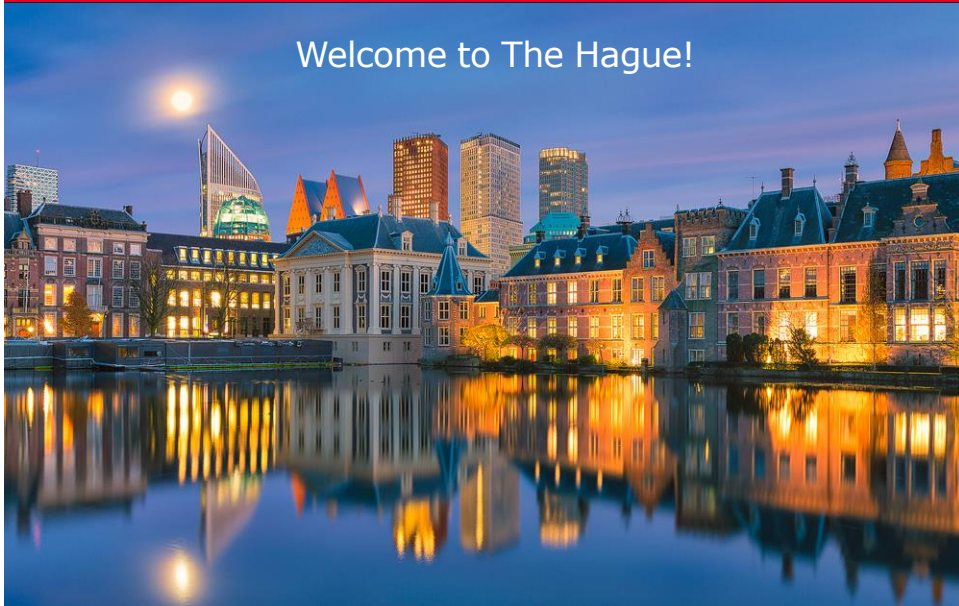


Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

Focus on Basic Skills in The Netherlands

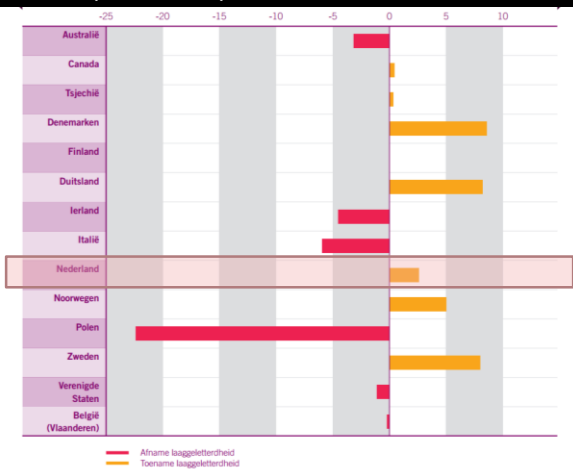


Welcome to The Hague!





Development of percentage of adults who are functionally illiterate (1994 – 2012)



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Developments

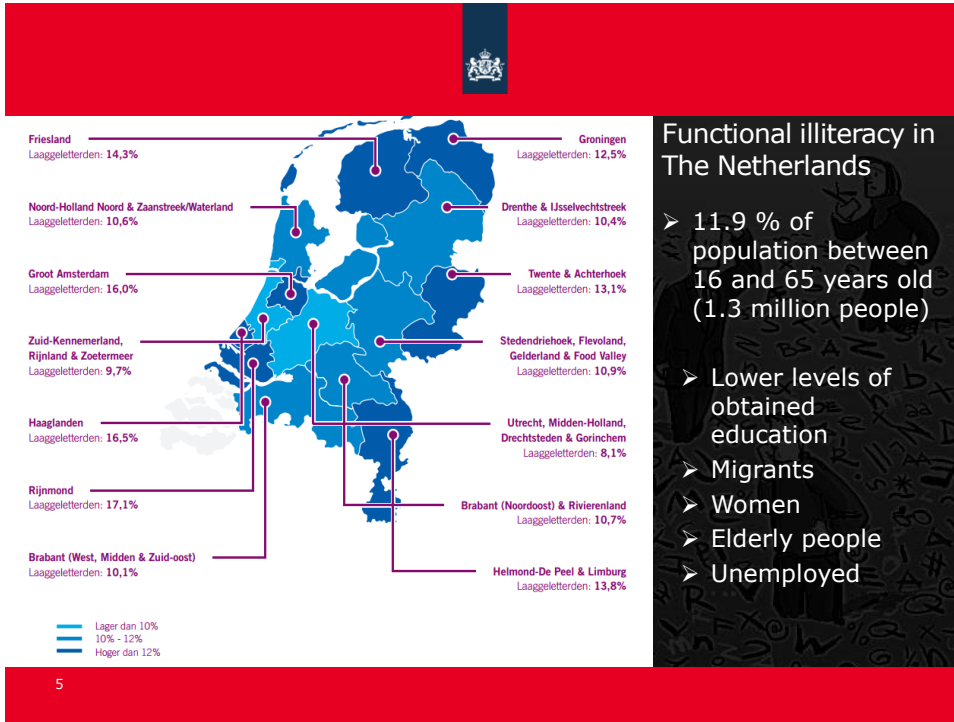
- Increase from 9.4 to 11.9 % of adults between 1994 and 2012
- Ageing population
- Low participation in Life Long Learning among adults with low levels of education
- Low level of recognition of problem



Things that have changed since 2012

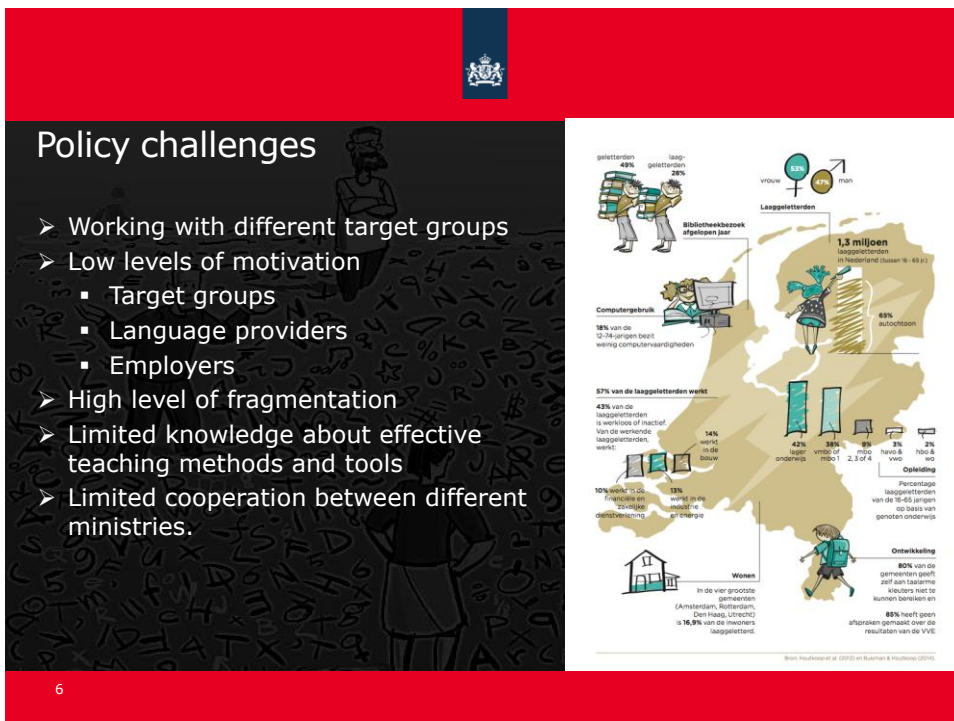
- Focus on numeracy and literacy
- New legal framework (since 2015)
 - More freedom for municipalities
 - Formal and non-formal education
 - Regional cooperation
- Government support programme "Action Plan for Literacy" and pilot programme "Skills for Life" (2012 – 2015)

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Functional illiteracy in The Netherlands

- 11.9 % of population between 16 and 65 years old (1.3 million people)
- Lower levels of obtained education
- Migrants
- Women
- Elderly people
- Unemployed





Critical conditions for success

- Networks
- Tools
- People
- Focus
- Monitor for results
- Adjust for effectiveness

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New Action Programme – “Count on Skills”

- From pilot to nationwide support programme
- From testing interventions to training low skilled people
- Need-based rather than demand-driven
- Identify low skilled people
- Prevent and fight low literacy together

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Targets

- At least 45.000 improve their level of functional literacy by participating in a language course
- 1.000.000 children under the age of 12 are reached with reading activities
- The Netherlands maintain their position in the top 3 of countries with the lowest percentage of functionally illiterate adults.

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“Count on Skills” – headlines

- Integrated support for local and regional literacy infrastructure
 - Assessing needs
 - Offering tools and methods to identify, teach and test target group
 - Supporting staff to work with these tools and methods
 - Monitoring effect and sharing knowledge
- Literacy at Work – support programme for employers
- Reading programme
- Experiments
 - Elderly people
 - Unemployed women
 - Family approach
 - Guidance and orientation in Adult Learning
- National coordinator
 - Research
 - Communication
 - Basic Skills Network

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More information?

- We participate in the ET2020 Working Group on Adult Learning
- Caroline Liberton is the National Coordinator for The Netherlands
- We participate in the Erasmus+ KA3 funded project Guidance and Orientation in Adult Learning (2015 – 2018)
- Under our new programme, the most important research will be made available in English