OSH Authorities — Netherlands
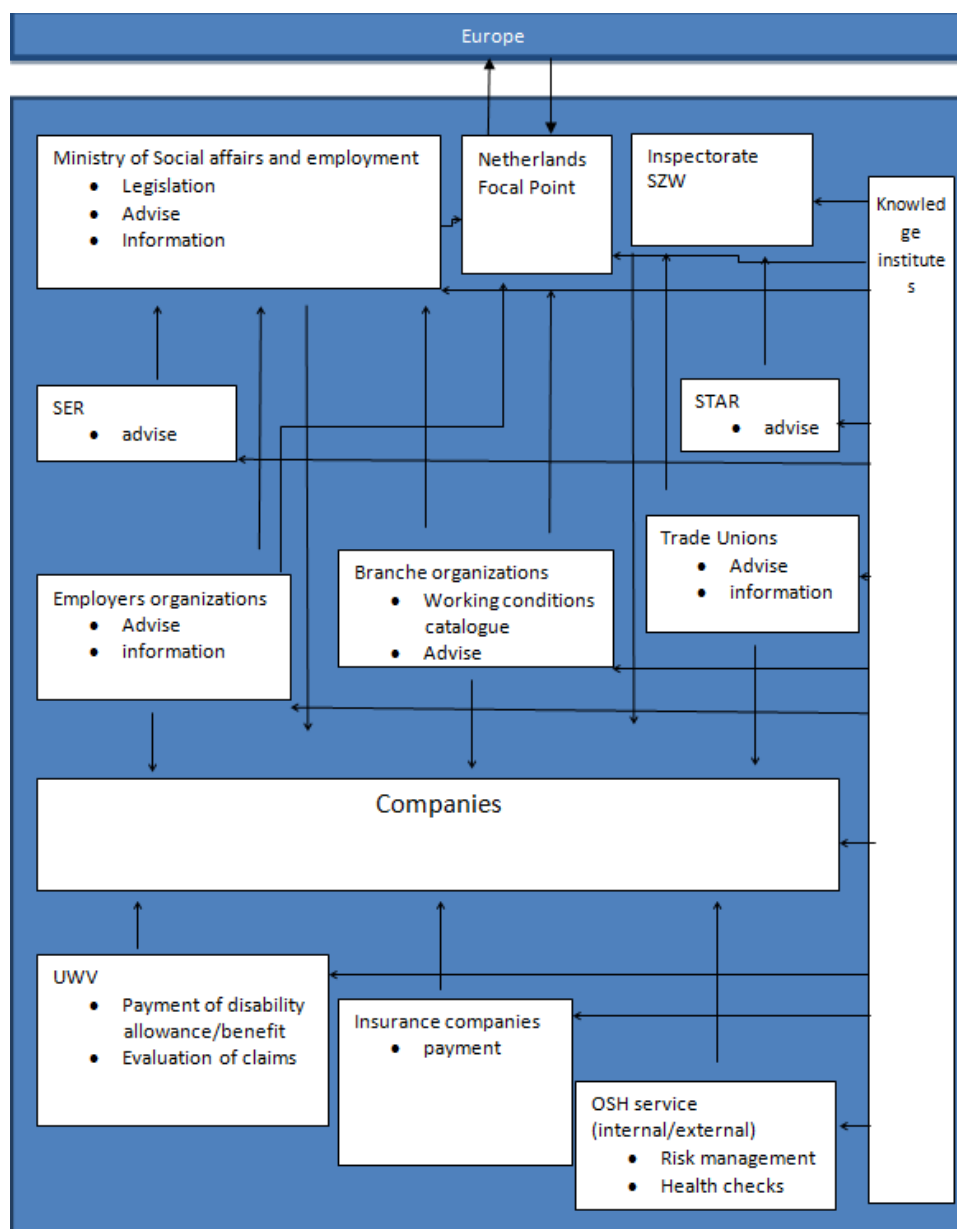
Description scheme for country overviews

NETHERLANDS

Source: https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_system_at_national_level_-_Netherlands

- **OSH infrastructure**

Scheme:

- **OSH authorities**

Name of authority	**Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment** (*Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid*)
Link	http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/szw
Short abstract	On a national level, occupational safety and health (OSH) is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (*Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid*). The ministry sets target regulations that state the degree to which the safety and health of employees at work should be protected.
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Name of authority	**Inspectorate SZW** (*Inspectie SZW*)
Link	http://www.inspectieszw.nl/
Short abstract	Compliance with OSH rules and regulations is monitored by the Inspectorate SZW. Since January 2012, the Inspectorate SZW has combined the work organisation and activities of the former Labour Inspectorate, the Work and Income Inspectorate and the Social and Intelligence Investigation Service of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. The Inspectorate SZW aims to achieve safe and healthy working conditions for all. The Inspectorate SZW is working according to a vision of an integrated and risk-oriented supervision. The inspection not only focuses on enforcement but also has preventive tasks.
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- **Compensation and insurance bodies**

Name of body	**Employee Insurance Agency** (UWV — *Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen*)
Link	https://www.uwv.nl/particulieren/index.aspx
Short abstract	The UWV provides an expert and efficient implementation of employee insurance, such as the Unemployment Insurance Act, and Sickness Benefits Act. In addition, the UWV offers labour market and data services. The UWV performs these services as an independent administrative body (ZBO) on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.
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▪ **Research institutes**

Name of institute	**Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research** (TNO — *Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek*)
Link	https://www.tno.nl/en/focus-areas/defence-safety-security/
Short abstract	The TNO connects people and knowledge to create innovations that boost the competitive strength of industry and the well-being of society in a sustainable way. The TNO is an independent research organisation that focuses on transitions or changes in nine social themes: • buildings, infrastructure and maritime and offshore — 'Robust constructions, sustainable use'; • the circular economy and the environment — 'Directing and accelerating sustainability'; • defence, safety and security — 'We're putting our knowledge and technology to work for safety and security'; • energy: 'Faster towards a sustainable energy supply' • healthy living — 'Focusing on participation, not on the disease'; • industry — 'Innovating for employment, welfare and well-being'; • information and communication technology (ICT) — 'Interpreting and accelerating digital transformation'; • strategic analysis and policy — 'Turning complex issues into concrete innovations'; • traffic and transport — 'Helping to create liveable, sustainable cities'.
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Name of institute	**Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment** (RIVM)
Link	https://rivm.nl/en
Short abstract	The RIVM conducts research and provides advice to assist with this task. The RIVM works to prevent and control outbreaks of infectious diseases. It promotes public health and consumer safety and helps to protect the quality of the environment. The RIVM collects and collates knowledge and information from various sources, at national and international levels. The RIVM applies this knowledge, and places it at the disposal of policy-makers, researchers, regulatory authorities and the general public. Each year, the RIVM produces numerous reports on all aspects of public health, nutrition and diet, health care, disaster management, nature and the environment.
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Name of institute	**Netherlands Centre for Occupational Diseases** (NCvB)
Link	https://www.occupationaldiseases.nl/
Short abstract	The NCvB registers and reports occupational diseases via the national notification and registration system and a number of specific surveillance projects.
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Name of institute	**Research Centre for Insurance Medicine** (KCVG — *Kenniscentrum Verzekeringsgeneeskunde*)
Link	https://kcvg.nl/en/
Short abstract	The KCVG is a joint initiative of the Coronel Institute of Occupational Health, the Division of Clinical Methods and Public Health, the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam (*Coronel Instituut voor Arbeid en Gezondheid, Divisie Klinische Methoden en Public Health, Academisch Medisch Centrum*), the Department of Social Medicine, University Medical Centre Groningen (*afdeling Sociale Geneeskunde, Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen*), the Department of Social Medicine, EMGO Institute, VU University Medical Centre (*afdeling Sociale Geneeskunde, EMGO Instituut, VU Medisch Centrum*), and the Social Medical Affairs Division (*Divisie Sociaal Medische Zaken)* of the implementing body — Institute for Employee Benefits Schemes — of the Dutch Employee Insurance Agency (UWV —*Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen*).The purpose of the KCVG is to promote the quality and scientific support of insurance medicine by developing and evaluating methods, guidelines, tools and interventions.
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- ▪ **Prevention services**

Name of service	*Arbodiensten*
Link	http://sbca.nl/over-sbca/
Short abstract	There are many different *Arbodiensten* in the Netherlands, ranging from large national companies to small regional or branch-specific services. *Arbodiensten* are usually multidisciplinary and provide a wide range of services, from preventive work checks to check-ups during sickness absenteeism and health checks. A list of all certified *Arbodiensten* can be found on the website of the Dutch Foundation for Administration of Certification in Health and Safety Services (SBCA — *Stichting Beheer Certificatieregeling Arbodiensten*), which is the owner of the certification scheme of the *Arbodiensten. Arbodiensten* can employ workers of various backgrounds but are required to have experts in at least four core disciplines: an occupational physician, an industrial hygienist, a safety expert and a work organisation expert.
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- ▪ **Other OSH services**

Name of society	**Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine** (NVAB)
Link	https://www.nvab-online.nl/english/english
Short abstract	The NVAB began in 1946 as a separate section of the Association of Public Health and was officially founded in 1953. At present, about 90% of occupational physicians in the Netherlands — that is, more than 2,000 — are NVAB members. One of the NVAB's goals is to enhance the scientific basis of occupational health practice and improve the professional quality of occupational physicians. One of the tools outlined in a quality-improving strategy is the development, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. As a result of this, in 1998, the NVAB started a programme for the development and implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines. To professionalise these activities, the NVAB set up a centre of excellence in 2003.
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Name of society	Industry for sustainable employability (OVAL)

Link	http://oval.nl/
Short abstract	OVAL is the sector organisation of occupational health services, intervention businesses, outplacement and career counselling, reintegration companies, organisations and job coaches. OVAL combines the strengths of service providers active in the field of work, careers and vitality. They contribute to sustainable employability. The organisations are large or small, with a general or specialist orientation, working for both people and other organisations. They work for employers, insurers, employees, UWV, municipalities and individual job seekers.
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Name of society	**Dutch Society for Occupational Hygiene** (NVvA)
Link	http://www.arbeidsdeskundigen.nl/
Short abstract	The NVvA was founded in 1983 and currently has 500 members. The goals of the NVvA are: • to stimulate the execution of the profession and promote its quality; • to promote the scientific development of occupational hygiene; • to promote the awareness of the field of occupational hygiene.
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Name of association	**Professional Association for Occupation and Organisation Experts** (BA&O — *Beroepsvereniging Arbeids- en Organisatiedeskundigen*)
Link	http://www.baeno.nl/
Short abstract	The origins of the BA&O lie in legislation concerning working conditions from 1993. The association was established that same year, and the occupational health services started using a new core expert. Although most BA&O members worked for an occupational health service at first, nowadays many of them work as an internal consultant, an independent contractor or a consultant. The focus of the BA&O is on the individual, the group and the organisation. It supports the changes needed to achieve a better match between organisation and employees.
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Name of society	**Netherlands Society of Safety Experts** (NVVK)
Link	http://www.veiligheidskunde.nl/cms/showpage.aspx
Short abstract	The NVVK was founded in 1947. It is the knowledge platform for safety engineers in the Netherlands and currently has 2,200 members. The NVVK is actively involved in changes in laws and regulations. The NVVK wants to make a contribution to the development of safety expertise and to the level of knowledge of its members. In addition, it wants to contribute to the public debate on OSH. It also endeavours to look after the common professional interests of members as much as possible.
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- **Standardisation bodies**

Name of body	**Standards Organisation of the Netherlands** (NEN — *Nederlands Normalisatie Instituut*)
Link	https://www.nen.nl
Short abstract	NEN supports the making of agreements on products, processes and services, and publishes standards. Employers and employees are mutually responsible for setting their own standards, so NEN supplies them with the knowledge and experience they need for their consultations. NEN works in close collaboration with European partners (CEN — the European Committee for Standardisation, Cenelec — the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation, and ETSI — the European Telecommunications Standards Institute) and global partners (ISO — the International Organisation for Standardisation, IEC — the International Electrotechnical Commission, and ITU — the International Telecommunication Union).
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Name of body	**Foundation for Monitoring Certification in Health and Safety Services** (SBCA — *Stichting Beheer Certificatie Arbodiensten*)
Link	http://www.sbca.nl/
Short abstract	Within the SBCA, the government, trade unions and employers' organisations work together to set the standards that health and safety services must satisfy to be admitted to the profession.
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Name of body	**Accreditation Council** (RvA — *Raad voor Accreditatie*)
Link	http://www.rva.nl/home/
Short abstract	In many countries, accreditation is a government task; however, in the Netherlands, the accreditation institute RvA is an organisation governed by private law, through which the government acts as client, regulator and discussion partner. If the government considers it necessary to implement accreditation in particular sectors, the government is the client. However, the government is not only the client, but also a discussion partner for the accreditation institute. The RvA holds regular discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. The agreement between the state and the RvA allows room for formulating tailor-made agreements for specific areas of special attention with various ministries.
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