

# Civic Agenda 2017-21

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **NETHERLANDS**

## Timeline

|                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2017 Implementation | 2018 Implementation | 2019 Implementation |
| 2020 Implementation | 2021 Implementation | 2022 Completed      |

**ID number 28453**

## Background

VET qualifications leading to the labour market should include three parts: further education, training and, third, they should enable learners to participate in society. Through the Civic Agenda, the Ministry of Education and the MBO Council want to further improve citizenship education in upper secondary VET. In a fast-changing and increasingly complex world, where the danger of polarisation and intolerance is on the horizon, the importance of good citizenship education is increasing.

## Objectives

The aim of the Civic Agenda 2017-21 is to encourage all VET colleges to offer high-quality citizenship education meeting the different education needs of VET learners.

## Description

In 2017, the education ministry and the Association of VET colleges (*MBO Raad*), representing all VET schools, launched an agenda to strengthen civic competences of VET learners by updating VET curricula. In cooperation with the Knowledge point citizenship in VET, schools are being supported in implementing the Civic Agenda 2017-21.

A self-evaluation tool will be made available to schools by mid-2020. This instrument will enable schools to assess their starting situation and current approach to citizenship: vision, education, professionalisation and impact. Subsequently, they are given practical suggestions on how to improve on all of these themes.

**2017 Implementation****2018 Implementation****2019 Implementation**

VET colleges and the education ministry are cooperating on the implementation of the Civic Agenda 2017-21. In 2019, special attention was given to the elaboration of its principles:

- (a) research to identify common principles, which was conducted via citizenship labs at several VET colleges;
- (b) the development of a continual programme starting in secondary education up to upper secondary VET;
- (c) responding to social issues;
- (d) improving the quality of civic education;
- (e) professionalisation of teachers;
- (f) cooperation with organisations in the social domain.

The Minister for Education reflected that in two years a lot had been done to increase the quality of citizenship education at VET colleges, but that still many schools needed to develop their vision on citizenship education. The self-evaluation tool for schools, to be delivered in 2020, will be an important instrument for reaching this goal.

### **2020 Implementation**

The self-evaluation tool, which should help schools and teachers to develop their vision on citizenship education, has been made available via the Civic Agenda website.

### **2021 Implementation**

Explanatory meetings were held to inform users about the use of the self-evaluation tool for the Civic-agenda.

### **2022 Completed**

The civic agenda has been evaluated and concluded. New measures are proposed, but no longer as part of the Civic Agenda.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Council for upper secondary VET schools (MBO Raad)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

## **Thematic categories**

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Acquiring key competences

### **Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences**

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

## **Subsystem**

IVET

## **Further reading**

[Letter to Parliament about strengthening citizenship education](#)

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[MBO Council launches citizenship agenda](#)

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[Civic Agenda](#)

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[Letter to parliament on progress on the citizenship agenda 2017-21](#)

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[Self-evaluation tool for schools and teachers on citizenship education](#)

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[Letter to parliament with response to letter of MBO Council to the commission of Education, Culture and Science](#)

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[Policy letter on civic education in VET](#)

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## Related policy developments

### 2025 Implementation

#### Combating discrimination in the workplace

In 2015, within the City deals programme, the labour ministry concluded agreements with the Netherlands' five main cities: Amsterdam, The Hague, Eindhoven, Leeuwarden, Zaanstad (including: their municipalities, schools, the Employee Insurance Agency (UWV), employers and intermediate organisations

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##### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

##### Subsystem

IVET CVET

#### “ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28453>