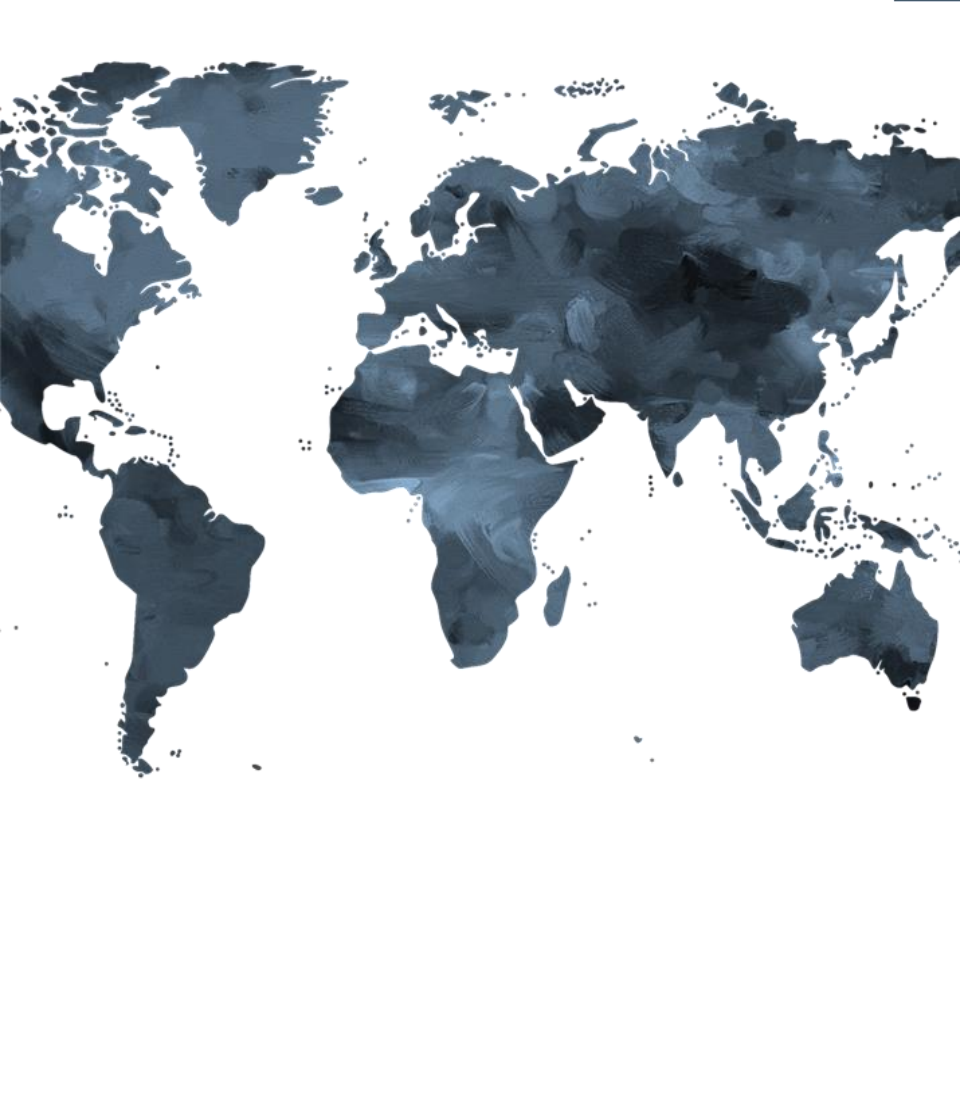




Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap



## What is the EEA?

European Dimension of  
Education Cooperation

**Arthur Belle**

13 mei 2024



# Historical Context

1987: Erasmus+ programme

1991: Treaty of Maastricht-> limited competence EU for Education

1997: Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)

1999: Bologna Process

2002: Copenhagen Process

2007: Lisbon Treaty-> supporting competence EU for Education

2010: European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

2017: European Education Area (EEA)

2018: European Universities Initiative (EUI)

2018: European Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

2021: Erasmus+ 2021-2027 Flagships (EUI's & CoVE's)



# European Union & Education

- **Supporting Competence since 2007 Lisbon Treaty**

“The Union shall contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their action, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity. *TFEU, art. 165*”

- No legislative proposals, but instead communications, recommendations, strategies, frameworks, and financial support through Erasmus+



# Erasmus+ (EUR 28,4 mld 2021-2027)

## Erasmus+ Structure - 2021-2027





# European Education Area (EEA)

## An umbrella and an ongoing process

- All education sectors
  - Early childhood
  - Schools
  - VET
  - HE
  - LLL
- All sorts of themes
  - Learning and Teaching
  - Transnational Cooperation
  - Quality assurance
  - Recognition
  - Mobility
  - Microcredentials
  - Careers in Education
  - European Degree
- Multi-level governance
  - The Commission has the initiative and comes with proposals
  - The Council of the EU discusses the proposals and amends
    - Member states consult their national knowledge institutions
    - Member states guard their national competencies and the proportionality and subsidiarity of the proposals

## Minister Dijkgraaf:

“Use the diversity of Europe to strengthen the quality of European education systems and to improve our competitiveness with the rest of the world” – *29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024*



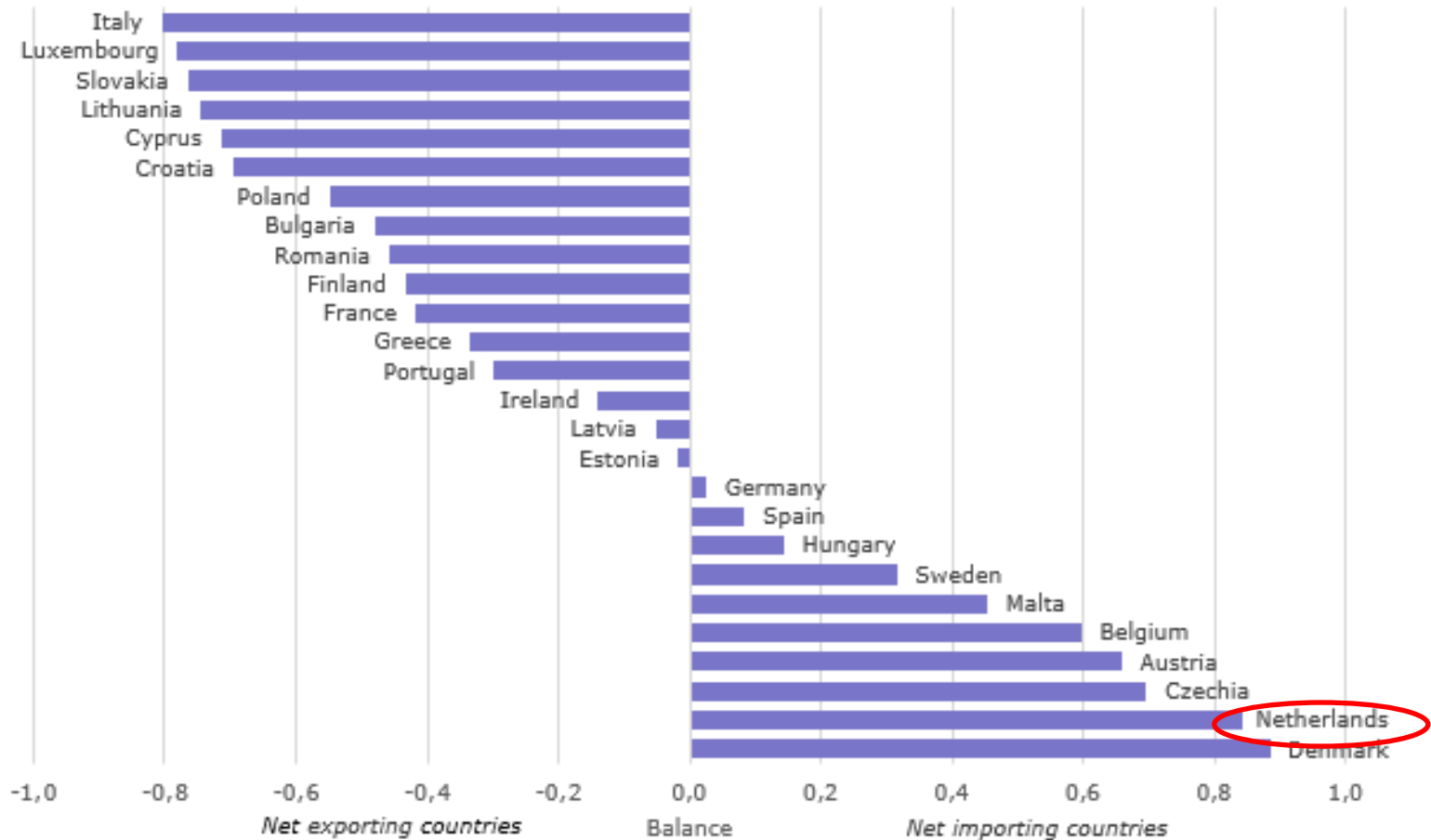
# Netherlands Position Paper European Education Area (EEA) – September 2023

## Substantive Recommendations

- 1. Introduce new measures to address the asymmetry in student mobility streams**
- 2. More efforts should be undertaken to promote equity and equality across all education sectors**
- 3. Vocational education, adult learning and lifelong learning should be more prominently represented in the EEA actions**
- 4. Provide more transparency regarding the financial instruments supporting the realization of the EEA**



## Student Mobility in the European Economic Area (EEA)





# Netherlands Position Paper European Education Area (EEA) – September 2023

## Governance Recommendations

- 5. More strategic debates within the EYCS-Council and the HLG**
- 6. Solidify the role of the HLG and avoid fragmentation through the creation of new high-level governing bodies**
- 7. Enhance the effectiveness of the DG-meetings and the EEA Strategic Working Groups by clearly defining their role and working method**
- 8. Actively identify and foster synergies between the EEA and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Research Area (ERA)**





## Bologna Process & European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

- Now 49 member countries (Russia and Belarus suspended since 2022)



### 3 key commitments:

1. A Three-Cycle System compatible with the EQF and first and second cycle degrees scaled by ECTS
2. Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)
3. Quality Assurance in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG)



## How do we shape our lobby?

- We determine our position in The Hague, in close cooperation and coordination with the knowledge sector in the Netherlands
- Proactively convey our position and vision in Brussels, in European consultations and in the various capitals
- Through position papers
- Actively contribute to discussions about Council conclusions
- Strengthen synergy between EEA, EHEA and ERA (both in Brussels and The Hague)

