

SME-related policy measures adopted, implemented or announced in 2021

THE NETHERLANDS

Important note: In 2021, the number of new SME-related policy measures in the Netherlands is rather limited due to the focus on the continuation of support measures for SMEs to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the outgoing status of the Dutch government, since the 15th of January 2021. New policy intentions have been postponed until a new government has taken office. After 271 days following elections in March 2021, on the 13th of December, an agreement was reached to form a new government. The new government has started its functions at the 10th of January 2022.

Title of the measure (national language)	Title of the measure (English translation)	Implementing body	Adopted / implemented / announced as part of the 'National Recovery and Resilience Plan' (Yes / No)	Status (Adopted or implemented or announced)	Date of adoption/ implementation or announcement (DD/MM/YYYY)	General description (objectives / key features / budget - if applicable, and weblink to online source)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY						
Subsidieregeling Verduurzaming MKB (SVM)	Subsidy Scheme for Increasing Sustainability of SMEs (SVM)	Netherlands Enterprise Agency	No	Implemented	01/10/2021	This scheme provides a subsidy for advice on and support for making SME business premises or operations more sustainable. The subsidy is for drawing up a tailor-made energy recommendation by a specialised advisor and for the support in implementing the recommendation.

						<p>The maximum subsidy is EUR 2.500 per business premises. A total of EUR 28.2 million is available.</p> <p>https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2021/08/02/mkb-ondernemers-krijgen-steun-bij-verduurzaming</p>
Subsidieregeling Emmissieloze Bedrijfsauto's (SEBA)	Subsidy Schema for buying or financial leasing a new completely emission-free company car for the transport of goods	Netherlands Enterprise Agency	No	Implemented	15/03/21	<p>The subsidy is open to cover the additional costs of the purchase price of emission-free vans, which are administrated in the vehicle categories N1 and N2. For category N1 the subsidy is 10% of the catalogue price and for vehicle category it is 10% of the sales price. Small enterprises receive 12%. The maximum subsidy is EUR 5000 per van.</p> <p>https://www.rvo.nl/subsidie-en-financieringswijzer/seba#</p>
SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY						
No new developments in 2021						
DIGITALISATION (e.g. Digital Innovation Hubs, training, vouchers, grants or loans for digitalisation and to invest in new digital equipment, etc.)						
Update Nederlandse Digitaliseringsstrategie 2021	Update Dutch Digitalisation Strategy 2021	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate	Yes	Implemented	26/04/2021	<p>In 2018, the Dutch Government Cabinet launched the Dutch Digitisation Strategy. This strategy is the basis for and the start of a government-wide integrated approach to digitisation. In order to keep this strategy up to date, the strategy is updated annually. New is the Dutch-German innovation cooperation in the German-Dutch Fieldlab Artificial</p>

						<p>Intelligence for Digital Twins (AI4DT), which brings AI within reach of SMEs. The cooperation partners are NLse Smart Industry Programme, Fraunhofer Institute for Product technology and Automatization, Steinbeis Transfer center for Industry 4.0 and Digitalisation, Brainport Industries, the Fieldlabs, educational institutes at the Brainport Industry Campus, the German Ministry of Economic Affairs, Employment and Housing and the Dutch Province of Noord-Brabant.</p> <p>https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2021/04/26/nederlandse-digitaliseringsstrategie-2021</p>
INNOVATION (e.g. vouchers, grants or loans for R&D and innovation, support to encourage SMEs to commercialise RTD results and to acquire patents, etc.)						
ROM in West B.V.	Regional Development Agency in North Holland	ROM in West B.V.	Yes	Implemented	12/07/2021	<p>The evaluation of the Regional Development Agencies (ROMs), carried out in 2016, recommended the creation of a country-wide system of Regional Development Agencies in order to give substance to the national top sectors and innovation policy on a regional level. With the expansion of the ROM instrument to North Holland, the geographical coverage in the Netherlands is complete.</p> <p>https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2021/07/12/bijlage-mede-oprichting-rom-in-west-bv</p>

SKILLS (e.g. vocational education and training, forecasting skill needs, measures to adapt the vocational training systems to the requirements of the labour market, etc.).						
Omscholing naar kansrijke beroepen in de ict en techniek	Retraining for promising ICT and technical professions	Netherlands Enterprise Agency	Yes	Implemented	01/09/2021	<p>This scheme encourages employers to employ people from other professions and retraining them in technology or in ICT.</p> <p>With this scheme, employers can receive EUR 3.750 when they offer employees a retraining trajectory to a job that the UWV¹ considers to be a promising profession in technology or ICT.</p> <p>This triggers the necessary intersectoral mobility towards technological professions and ICT professions in which there are structural shortages in available employees.</p> <p>https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/beleidsnotas/2021/06/25/beslisnota-bij-kamerbrief-over-publicatie-subsidieregeling-omscholing-naar-kansrijke-beroepen-in-de-ict-en-techniek</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN						
Jaarstatistiek Referentie GrootboekSchema	Annual Reference Scheme	statistics Ledger Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek - Netherlands (CBS)	No	Implemented	April 2021	<p>A questionnaire that is responsible for a significant part of the administrative burden of the CBS on businesses has been connected to the Reference General Ledger Scheme (RGS). The RGS is a general ledger</p>

¹ UWV (Employee Insurance Agency) is an autonomous administrative authority (ZBO) and is commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) to implement employee insurances and provide labour market and data services.

						<p>accounting scheme based on a standardised coding of financial data. The first sectors benefitting from this reduction in administrative burden are accountancy, tax advisory, administration, retail and hospitality.</p> <p>https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/deelnemers-enquetes/deelnemers-enquetes/bedrijven/meer-over-cbs-enquetes/tijd-besparen-met-enquetes</p>
REGULATORY OBSTACLES						
Franchisewet	Franchise Act	N/A	No	Implemented	01/01/2021	<p>The Franchise Law is new and replaces a voluntary code adopted in 2016. The law regulates the relationship between the franchisor and franchisee. Main improvements are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandatory information provision by the franchisor before a contract has been concluded, 2. Duty of care imposed on the franchisor and franchisee in their respective roles, 3. Obligation to establish contractual limits on the franchisors rights to unilaterally alter terms and conditions or impose fees or other financial burdens on the franchisee 4. Mandatory contractual provisions regarding termination of the franchise

						and determination of goodwill. https://www.kvk.nl/advies-en-informatie/wetten-en-regels/franchisewet-vervangt-franchisecode/
Wet homologatie onderhands akkoord (WHOA)	Act Homologation on Private Agreement (WHOA), imbedded in the Dutch Bankruptcy Act	N/A	No	Implemented	01/01/2021	Under the WHOA a company can ask the court to confirm (= homologate) a debt restructuring agreement, even if not all the creditors and shareholders agree. The content and design of the agreement has to meet certain standards. If the court homologates the debt restructuring agreement, the involved creditors and shareholders have to act upon the agreement. https://www.kvk.nl/advies-en-informatie/wetten-en-regels/stappenplan-whoa-aanvragen/#:~:text=Op%201%20januari%202021%20is,we,g%20van%20voorbereiding%20naar%20akkoord.
ACCESS TO FINANCE (including guarantee schemes, public funding programmes, support for alternative financing and equity financing, favourable legal, tax and regulatory frameworks for investments, fiscal incentives)						
Baangerelateerde Investeringskorting (BIK)	Job-related Investment Discount (BIK)	N/A	Yes	Implemented and withdrawn	Implemented 01/01/2021, and withdrawn by 28/05/2021	The law was intended to stimulate investments during the COVID-19 crisis. A deduction from the wage tax was foreseen. The law was withdrawn as it was not in line with European state aid directives. The budget reserved for the BIK was used to lower the employer's

						contribution to the unemployment fund. https://ondernemersplein.kvk.nl/baangerelateerde-investeringskorting-bik-verrekenen/
Time-out-arrangement-credit (TOA)	TOA credit	Qredits	Yes	Implemented	01/06/21	The TOA credit consists of two components: a maximum of EUR 100.000, working capital of which a maximum of 30 percent subordinated capital. The total available budget is EUR 200 million. The TOA credit enables SMEs to make a new start after a WHOA trajectory (see above under Regulatory obstacles). Target group are SMEs that have sufficiently viable business activities. The TOA credit enables these companies to incur expenses and make investments to (re)start or adjust their business activities. https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-financiele-regelingen/overzicht-financiele-regelingen/time-out-arrangement-toa
DACI (Dutch Alternative Credit Instrument)	DACI (Dutch Alternative Credit Instrument)	EIF	Yes	Implemented	15/07/21	The Dutch Alternative Credit Instrument (DACI) is largely funded by Dutch public money (Ministry EZK and Invest-NL, EUR 50 million each) and aims to support the Dutch economy by stimulating the non-banking sector and to increase liquidity available to Dutch SMEs. Therefore, the main part of the

Reshoring	Reshoring	Social Economic Council (SER)	Yes	Announced	01/02/2021	<p>The SER published an advice on Reshoring, following the disruption of supply chain as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reshoring of production activities to the Netherlands currently takes place on a modest scale. It mainly comes about when companies find that the quality of their outsourced activities is problematic, when their costs turn out to be higher than expected, or when they wish to adopt new production technologies.</p> <p>The conclusion of the study is that reshoring is not a golden bullet. The SER intends to present an advice on the improving resilience of the Dutch industry and supply chains - to be published in 2022.</p> <p>https://www.ser.nl/en/Publications/reshoring</p>
OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS (e.g. second chance for honest bankrupt entrepreneurs, bankruptcy prevention, entrepreneurship education, public procurement)						