Funding

Adult education

Extra money is available for courses in literacy and numeracy

The government wants to enable a large, adult group of functional illiterate people to follow adult education and training. Therefore municipalities especially provide courses that help people to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

Municipalities receive € 58,9 million (yearly) from the national government to pay attention to this target group. This funding goes to the central municipalities of the labor market regions, which can buy education courses from the providers of their choice. The money is distributed based on a distribution formula. The number of low-skilled, immigrants and recipients of social assistance in a region determines the budget received by the central municipality of these labor market regions.

VAVO (Adult general secondary education)

The government makes € 62 million available directly for VAVO provided at the ROCs (Regional Training Centres) in the form of block funding. This budget for VAVO institutions is divided by three criteria:

1. Number of registered students
2. Number of subjects marked with ‘sufficient’
3. Number of diplomas

Fees Paid by Learners

Adult education

Municipalities determine whether the course is free or whether a contribution is expected. For NT2 (Dutch as a second language) exams, students will have to pay a fee.

NT2 state examination fees

The fees for three NT2 state examinations are €45 per test. The examination fees for the four tests (listening, speaking, reading and writing) amount to €180. The fees will normally be paid by the individual candidate but in principle they may also be paid by the school or training institute, the municipal social services or a refugee organisation.

VAVO (Adult general secondary education)

In addition to the national funding from the government, adult participants (18 years and older) in
VAVO do pay fees. The exact amount depends on the type of course and on the participant's personal situation.

**Fees for full-time VAVO courses**
A participant pays tuition fees if the study program has a study load of at least 850 hours per school year that are spent on following classes. For the current and next academic year, the fees are as follows:

- 2016/2017 - €1,137
- 2017/2018 - €1,137

**Fees for part-time VAVO courses**
Students pay course fees if they are 18 or older on 1 August of the year in which the course starts, and attending part-time adult general secondary education (VAVO). Course fees are charged if the student is attending a part-time course (less than 850 classroom hours per year) in adult general second education and is aged 18 or above. The regulation 'setting tuition and course fees' determines the tariffs annually.

**Financial Support for Adult Learners**

**Adult education**

The municipality usually pays (part of) the education or training costs. For example, if the participant cannot get started without a diploma and is long-term unemployed.

Sometimes the fees may be paid by an employer, for example if having a better knowledge of Dutch would enable the participant to perform better in their job.

**VAVO (Adult general secondary education)**

Students in the VAVO may be awarded an allowance for educational expenses. In order to receive this, a student must live in the Netherlands and must follow full-time training in adult general secondary education (one or two years VMBO, HAVO and VWO). Furthermore, the student must be between 18 and 30 years old and the student must have the Dutch nationality.

This funding is designed to offset the cost of, for instance, books, bus or train fares and in some cases school fees. It does not include a student travel pass. The allowance is not a loan (i.e. it is not repayable). It consists of a basic allowance and a supplementary allowance. The basic allowance varies depending on whether the student lives with their parents or not. The supplementary allowance is intended to offset educational expenses and fees. For more information, see Financial support for students in secondary education [1].

**Private education**

Private primary education is not financed by government. In the Netherlands, anyone may establish a school based on their own religious or ideological beliefs or educational principles.

Not being funded by government, private schools are completely dependent on third-party contributions, including from pupils’ families. This means fees are usually higher than the parental contribution at publicly-funded schools. However, fees vary from one institution to another.
**Adult education**

There is no private adult education for low-skilled people.

**VAVO (Adult general secondary education)**

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has established a register of all private schools for adult general secondary education. The register [2] of private (i.e. non-government-funded) (only available in Dutch) educational institutions lists all recognized providers of adult education. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science publishes this register annually at the start of the school year.

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