

THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE CITIES MONITOR

Country fact sheet: THE NETHERLANDS



The **Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor** is a new tool to **benchmark the performance** of European cities compared to their peers using both quantitative and qualitative data. It provides a common evidence base at city level that helps decision-makers learn from each other and inspires fit-for-purpose policies to boost economic growth and job creation, foster social development and citizens' well-being, and strengthen resilience. This year's first edition covers **168 cities in 30 countries**, **selected from about 1000 cities** in Eurostat's Urban Audit on the basis of their **verifiable engagement** in promoting **culture** and **creativity**. Being included in the Monitor is thus in itself an acknowledgement of the importance these cities attach to culture and creativity.





The Monitor's quantitative information is captured in **29 indicators**. These are grouped into **9 dimensions** reflecting **3 major facets** of cities' cultural, social and economic vitality: **'Cultural Vibrancy'**, **'Creative Economy'** and **'Enabling Environment'**. In addition, qualitative evidence helps illustrate what cities are good at.


Selected cities

- **Five European Capitals of Culture** Winners: Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Leeuwarden - shortlisted: Eindhoven and Maastricht
- **Five cities** hosting at least two **international cultural festivals**: Groningen, Leiden, 's-Hertogenbosch, The Hague and Utrecht

Key findings

 **Amsterdam** does best on **'Creative Economy'** (3rd in the XL group of 34 ranked cities), mostly thanks to its notable performance on New Jobs in Creative Sectors (3rd). Amsterdam also holds 4th position on **'Cultural Vibrancy'** thanks to a notable result on Cultural Venues & Facilities (4th). The city's cultural and creative dynamism keeps flourishing thanks to both new and renowned cultural centres (such as the Rijksmuseum and the Eye Film Institute) and warehouses turned into offices for creative start-ups. Amsterdam was the third European Capital of Culture in 1987.


 **Utrecht** ranks particularly well on '**Creative Economy**' (4th in the L group of 36 ranked cities), mainly thanks to its remarkable performance on Creative & Knowledge-based Jobs (2nd). The city's economy is driven by the cultural and creative sectors (games in particular) and tourism. Utrecht's Cultural Strategy for 2012-2022 aims at promoting Utrecht as a diverse and creative city.

 **Eindhoven** records its best result on '**Creative Economy**' where it ranks 2nd in the S-M group of 64 ranked cities mostly thanks to its excellent result on Intellectual Property & Innovation (1st). Eindhoven, which is the heart of the Dutch top technology region of Brainport, has developed into a successful collaborative ecosystem in the area of high tech and design, with the two disciplines reinforcing each other. Eindhoven was shortlisted to become a European Capital of Culture in 2018.

Population group		Sub-indices		
		1. Cultural Vibrancy	2. Creative Economy	3. Enabling Environment
 XL	Amsterdam			
	The Hague			
 L	Utrecht			
 S-M	Eindhoven			
	's-Hertogenbosch			
	Leiden			
Scores		Top 33%	Middle 33%	Bottom 33%

Note: Cities are ordered by Cultural and Creative Cities (C3) Index score within each population group. The Index is obtained by aggregating weighted scores of sub-indices as designed by experts in the field. The [C3 online platform](#) allows customising the weights, inserting your own data and comparing cities.

Did you know that...?

 **The Hague** has recently initiated a new programme to support and promote its cultural and creative sectors - Creative City The Hague - run by the City Council. It includes an innovators contest and a makerlab put at the disposal of creators to enable them to develop their ideas.

 **'s-Hertogenbosch** used the 500th anniversary of the death of the Dutch painter Bosch in 2015 to develop a fully-fledged cultural programme. It included a major exhibition attracting a record number of visitors for the city (420,000).

 **Leiden** hosts the Leiden International Film Festival since 2006. This event has become one of the leading film festivals in the Netherlands showcasing feature films that examine the boundaries between art-house and mainstream movies from all over the world.



Leiden International Film Festival. Credit: Beeldbank Leiden Marketing under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 licence