NOURISHING policy index

This country snapshot presents detailed results of the **NOURISHING policy index** [1] for Netherlands. It highlights strengths and weaknesses in the design of national government nutrition policies. This snapshot supplements the policy index results with an in-depth look at the quality of policy design in each country. Full policy index results are outlined in the NOURISHING policy brief, which compares Netherlands to 29 other European countries.

Main messages

- 1 The Netherlands implements nutrition and diet-related policy actions in nine out of the ten policy areas in the NOURISHING framework. Policy areas that receive a good assessment refer to limits or removal of specific nutrients in food products (I1), increasing public awareness of healthy eating through communication campaigns (I2) and nutrition advice and counselling in healthcare settings (N2).
- 2 Implementation is lacking on nutrition label standards and regulations (N1) beyond EU level policies. There is an absence of sugar-sweetened beverage provisions in schools and of regulations on food availability within the school vicinity which impact well-designed standards on school food and food in other out-of-education locations (O). Weaknesses are identified in training for healthcare professionals and caterers in nutrition education and skills (G).
- **3** No action was taken with regards to financial incentives to increase affordability and accessibility of healthier food (U). Greater action should be taken where a poor or fair assessment was received, such as reducing exposure to young people in food advertising and marketing, particularly in/around schools (R), increasing the healthiness of the retail environment (S), along with strengthening public food procurement policies by implementing additional policy actions within this area (H).

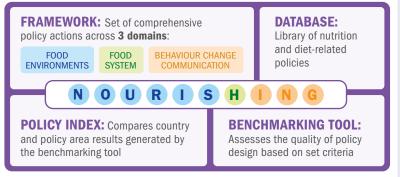
Overview of policy status	NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	POOR	FAIR	MODERATE	GOOD	EXCELLENT		
Nutrition label standards a	N Nutrition label standards and regulations on the use of claims and implied claims on food							
Offer healthy food and set	Offer healthy food and set standards in public institutions and other specific settings							
U Use economic tools to add	Use economic tools to address food affordability and purchase incentives							
R Restrict food advertising a	ct food advertising and other forms of commercial promotion FAIR							
Improve nutritional quality	prove nutritional quality of the whole food supply GOOD GOOD				OD			
S Set incentives and rules to	Set incentives and rules to create a healthy retail and food service environment POOR							
H Harness supply chain and	Harness supply chain and actions across sectors to ensure coherence with health POOR					OR		
Inform people about food	and nutrition through p	oublic awarene	ss GOOD					
Nutrition advice and couns	Autrition advice and counselling in healthcare settings GOOD					OD		
G Give nutrition education a	nd skills				MOD	ERATE		

This snapshot is based on national level policies only. Policies issued by provincial, regional or local governments are outside the scope of this project.

Methods

The NOURISHING policy index methods are fully explained in the associated **policy brief**. In short, the policy index combines values for a) policy presence, and b) policy design for 41 benchmarks.

The benchmarks are applied to policies in the **NOURISHING database** [2], collected through a comprehensive scan in 30 European countries, including Netherlands.



Policy tools used to produce the policy index results

Nutrition policy status in Netherlands

eak	down of policy index results	(For full	l details d	on the policy design criteria, consult the policy brie			
X No policy identified		Meets up to 75% of policy design					
Meets up to 25% of policy design		Meets up to 99% of policy design					
	Meets up to 50% of policy design			Meets all aspirational standards			
	Nutrients on back of pack			Planning restrictions regarding food			
	Front of pack labels	X		service outlets around schoolsPlanning restrictions on food service			
Warning labels Rules on nutrient claims Rules on health claims Food and drink available in schools, including restrictions on unhealthy foods Measures relating to sugar-sweetened beverage provision in schools		X	S	outlets			
				Initiatives to increase the availability of healthier food in stores and food			
				service outlets Measures to support food producers			
		\bigcirc		to increase healthy food and decrease unhealthy food in the supply chain			
		×		Measures to support food manufacturers to increase healthy food and decrease			
)	Fruit and vegetables initiatives in schools			unhealthy food in the supply chain Measures to support food retailers			
Food and drink available in immediate vicinity of schools Unhealthy food in out-of-education locations		X	H	to increase healthy food and decrease			
		\bigcirc		Governance structures for multi- sectoral/stakeholder engagement			
	Health-related food taxes or tariffs	X		Nutrition standards for public			
Income related subsidies or initiatives to increase affordability and accessibility of healthy food		×		procurement Supporting urban agriculture in health and planning policies			
	Targeted subsidies or initiatives to			Community food production			
	increase affordability and accessibility of healthy food			Development and communication of			
	Marketing to young people through advertising			food-based dietary guidelines Public awareness, mass media and			
	Direct marketing to young people	X		informational campaigns and social marketing on healthy eating			
	Marketing through sponsorship to young people	×		Nutrition advice and counselling in primary care			
	Marketing to young people through point of sale measures			Nutrition advice and counselling in school healthcare setting			
	Marketing to young people through product placement and branding			Nutrition education in curricula			
Marketing to young people through product design and packaging		X		Training for educators			
		• •	G	Training for health professionals			
	Marketing in/or around schools	×		Cooking skills			
Limit or removal of specific nutrients in food products				Training in schools in growing food			
	in roou products			Training for caterers			

Note: The policy landscape in any country evolves over time. These findings reflect our knowledge as of May 2023. To see latest results and for further technical information on the policy indexes, please consult our website: wcrf.org/our-policy-work. For feedback or suggested updates, please email policy@wcrf.org. More info in the CO-CREATE project can be found at co-create.eu

[1] Policy index: wcrf.org/nutrition-policy-index [2] Policy database: policydatabase.wcrf.org





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