

NL Knowledge House

Partners for global knowledge collaboration

Background

In 2020 the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) presented the International Knowledge and Talent Strategy (IKT)¹. This was the beginning of a transition which includes a new diplomatic network of Education and Science attachés at embassies worldwide, allowing for a more strategic international positioning of the Netherlands in the fields of education, research and science. Hereafter the knowledge field expressed its ambitions to position itself collectively in key geographic areas of the world and be locally represented by means of a platform by and for the knowledge sector. This led to initiate the proposition of a "NL Knowledge House" (NL KH), a networked form of collaboration that will facilitate and enable education institutions and other knowledge institutes (in the Netherlands and abroad), to act together. There is political leverage for a construct such as the NL KH².

Knowledge Houses

The NL Knowledge House (NL KH) is the home of Dutch knowledge abroad: where knowledge builds collaboration, and collaboration builds knowledge. It co-creates knowledge on an institutional level with local counterparts in the field of education and (applied) research with other societal stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector, such as living labs. Hence, a quadruple helix collaboration. A NL KH serves the education, research and social impact field as a whole. It will work in alignment with the Education and Science network of OCW, the Dutch embassy and in support of the goals of the IKT. The added value of the KH exists in a collaborative multidisciplinary approach between partners in global South and North and positioning of the knowledge sector.

Collaborative approach

Each NL KH member brings its own individual contribution. It is the combination of these members that allow for a strong network and position of the sector as a whole. Members of the NL KH have a stake in the shaping and execution of the initiative. They are requested to actively contribute to the agenda setting of the entity and to seek collaboration within the NL KH when relevant. They also participate to the network of the NL KH by sharing knowledge and contacts for the greater good of the sector. As such the NL KH is being shaped on the collaborative contribution of participants. The means and ways to effectively involve international partners in the initiative in terms of governance as well as activities will be fundamental in the design of the NL KH.

What the NL Knowledge House offers

The NL Knowledge House has representation abroad to serve the strategic interests of the knowledge sector. It has a large local, regional and international network and knows how to connect, operate and mobilize resources and people. The NL KH offers services, information and a platform to promote international collaboration.

¹ [internationale-kennis-en-talentstrategie.pdf](https://www.internationale-kennis-en-talentstrategie.pdf) (overheid.nl)

² <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/downloads/document?id=2022D38354>

The NL Knowledge House...



...builds a bridge and platform through interactive linkage between the national political agendas and the needs of the knowledge sector. It offers knowledge of local policy and needs and encourages shared agenda setting.



...identifies opportunities for collaboration, seeks for new contacts and guides (on behalf of) institutions. It promotes knowledge sharing, supports knowledge missions and ensures visibility of the Dutch/respective country knowledge sector.



...identifies opportunities for research and innovation. It supports institutions in mobilising resources, supports the conversation on co-funding, and facilitates the creation of consortia. It also coordinates and develops new programmes.



...connects national and international actors in education, (applied) research, civil society and the private sector, in alignment with the government. It facilitates a network with encounters that contribute to (new models of) knowledge collaboration and innovative internationalisation.



...offers an entry-point for institutions and individuals to 'land' in the region. The physical location is a meeting area, 'home' to researchers, alumni and students from the Netherlands and the respective country/region.

Initiation of the first pilot

In July 2022 the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (OCW) organized a knowledge mission to Indonesia in which several knowledge institutions took part. During this mission the concept of the NL KH was discussed and the first guiding principles and building blocks were explored. The mission marked the start of the first pilot of a NL KH in Indonesia, which will be evaluated at the end of 2023. Other destinations for a knowledge house might follow. OCW and the new education attaché will be closely aligned to this initiative.

What's next?

- At the start of the NL KH, the members will collaboratively decide on the activities and deliverables of the NL KH. Its success is dependent on the input of its members.
- The pilot year will be evaluated at the end of the year.
- The NL KH Indonesia is welcome to new members. During 2023 the NL KH wishes to expand its reach among vocational institutes, (research) universities and universities of applied science.
- Other destinations will be explored, depending on the interest from the sector.

Wish to be in contact?

- Contact Lizanne Schepers (project leader NL KH, Nuffic) for general information or to become a member: lschepers@nuffic.nl
- Contact Lyande Eelderink (chair NL KH Indonesia, University of Twente) for more information on NL Knowledge House Indonesia: l.eelderink@utwente.nl