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Highly Skilled Migration Policy in the Netherlands

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Summary

- Dutch immigration law
- Labour Migrants
- Knowledge Migrants
- Conclusions

Immigration Law

- Strict interpretation and application
- Exception for highly skilled migration (*kenniseconomie*)
- Main highly skilled migrant categories:
 - Labour Migrants (Intra-Company Transfer - ICT)
 - Knowledge Migrant Scheme (2004) → Accredited Sponsorship

Labour Migrants

- Standard / general process
 - Work Permit (4-7 weeks)
 - Entry clearance visa (8-10 weeks)
 - Residence Permit (3 months)

- Criteria
 - Group turnover: EUR 50 million
 - Salary threshold: 52.010 EUR
 - Degree or equivalent
 - Residence in NL > 3 months

➔ Labour Migrants (2011): 2.000

Knowledge Migrants

- Accredited Sponsorship
 - Combined application 2-4 weeks)
 - Salary threshold (<30: EUR 38.141 / >30: EUR 52.010)
 - Declarations
 - Trust-based system
 - No contract
 - No police/medical clearances
 - No payslips
 - Increased inspections and tougher penalties
 - EUR 3.000 per infringement (employer)
 - EUR 1.500 per infringement (client site)
 - Max. EUR 45.000
- ➔ Knowledge Migrants (2011): 5.880

Conclusions

- Specific migration policy for highly skilled migrants
- Cooperation with business: proactive
- Attracting and keeping businesses in NL economy
- Attracting and keeping highly skilled migrants
- Kenniseconomie: economy + (outside) knowledge
- Outward-facing civil service

Questions

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