



Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst
Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid



Migratory pathways for start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs in the *Netherlands*

Maren Stegink

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Dutch policies on start-ups

Fostering start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs is a policy priority

- ★ Ambitious Entrepreneurship Action Plan (2014)
 - Introducing start-up scheme
 - StartupDelta
- ★ Active in disseminating information: Netherlands as a startup destination
- ★ For business in general: top sector approach



THE SKYLINE OF THE DUTCH STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

10+ leading innovation hubs





Migratory pathways



Start-up founder(s) and innovative entrepreneurs:

- ★ General self-employment residence permit
- ★ Hybrid entrepreneurship
- ★ Specified start-up scheme (since 2015)



Start-up employees:

- ★ Residence permit for highly-skilled migrants
- ★ Examined: residence permit for key startup personnel





Specified start-up scheme





Numbers and nationalities

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of applications	55	70	79	127
Numer of granted residence permits	14	23	55	92

Top 5 that applied in 2018:

- ★ 1. Iran
- ★ 2. India
- ★ 3. U.S.
- ★ 4. Turkey
- ★ 5. Ukraine

Top 5 granted a residence permit in 2018:

- ★ 1. India
- ★ 2. U.S.
- ★ 3. Iran
- ★ 4. Russia
- ★ 5. Nigeria



Key elements: start-up residence permit



Cooperation with a facilitator (market party)



Application: possible online by facilitator



Decision on residence permit: one application, two assessments

- ★ *Start-up founder*: assessment by Immigration authorities

- ★ *Start-up business*: advice from Netherlands Enterprise Agency



Processing times: estimated on 7 weeks (based on experience)

Valid: 1 year





Conditions for start-up residence permit



1. Conditions concerning the start-up founder:

- ★ Valid passport or other travel document
- ★ Antecedents certificate
- ★ Medical examination for tuberculosis
- ★ Proof of financial means to pay for residence
- ★ Visa: Application at once because of 'Entry and Residence Procedure'





Conditions for start-up residence permit



2. Conditions concerning the start-up:

- ★ Step-by-step plan to go from idea to business (= not a business plan)
- ★ Cooperation with a facilitator (market party)
- ★ Commercial Register of the Chamber of Commerce
- ★ Innovative product or service
 1. The product or service must be new for the Netherlands
 2. New technology used in production, distribution and marketing
 3. There is an innovative organisational structure and working method





Renewal and other incentives



After 1 year: eased scheme for general self-employment permit

- ★ Statement of the facilitator instead of point system



Other policy incentives:

- ★ Tax relief schemes: for both Dutch start-ups and foreign start-ups
- ★ Netherlands Point of Entry








Challenges and good practices





Challenges

-  Legislation for personnel (but new residence permit examined)
-  Provision of information (for admission, but also for retention)
-  Competition with other countries
-  Accessibility of capital
-  Family members: availability of bilingual primary education and work status of family members





Good practices



Cooperation with facilitator



Visibility of the Netherlands
E.g.: Netherlands Point of Entry



Digital application by facilitator



Snowball effect of hubs



Support of government





Thank you for your attention

For more information on the national report :

- www.ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports_en
- www.emnnetherlands.nl

E-mail: m.i.stegink@ind.nl

