

The Netherlands—Home to Europe’s Most Creative Start-ups



“We’re moving a lot of data around, powering a lot of games, backing up a lot of servers. The Dutch people are historically innovators, Amsterdam in particular. Part of innovation is creativity; in Amsterdam there’s a vibrant creative network, a vibrant financial network and a vibrant technology community.”

Jonathan Wisler
Managing Director at SoftLayer®

The Netherlands is at Europe’s leading edge for digital start-ups— if it’s “what’s next,” it’s happening in the Netherlands. Here are some of our most highly regarded tech start-up cities to locate your company in.

Major Technology Clusters in the Netherlands

Amsterdam, Utrecht ①

Amsterdam and Utrecht are the creative and entrepreneurial centers of the Netherlands. Both are young student cities that attract a lot of international talent. There are various universities and incubators stimulating a vibrant start-up community.

Rotterdam, Delft, The Hague ②

Cleantech, aerospace and cybersecurity are top industries in Rotterdam and The Hague. “The Hague Security Delta” is attracting an increasing number of international players. The incubator of the Delft University of Technology has created a multitude of high-tech spinoffs.

Eindhoven ③

Declared the “world’s smartest region” of 2011 by the Intelligent Community Forum, Eindhoven is home to High Tech Campus, an R&D hot spot for companies such as Philips and ASML. The campus is hosting a growing number of tech start-ups and plays a leading role in the development of Internet-based technologies.

Twente ④

Twente is renowned for medtech, nano and pharma. Start-ups can take advantage of low rents for cleanrooms and an extensive community of researchers. MESA+, one of the largest nano labs in the world, is located at the University of Twente.

Key Advantages of the Netherlands

- High-speed mobile and fixed Internet until the last mile
- Attractive test market, adaptive consumers, open culture
- Vibrant and collaborative start-up community
- An international and multilingual workforce
- A “Highly Skilled Migrant Visa” for international talent
- Attractive tax environment

Quality of Life

- The Netherlands is the fourth-happiest nation on earth*
- There are as many bicycles as people in the Netherlands
- Universal healthcare system and free education
- 90% of all Dutch people speak fluent English
- Costs of living are lower than in many other European cities
- The majority of the world’s best 100 DJs are Dutch

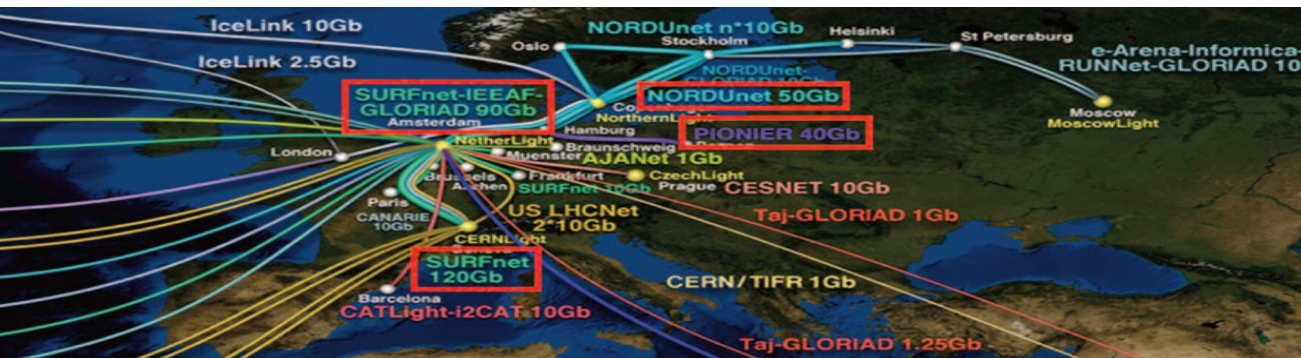
*2013 World Happiness Report from UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network



Pioneers in international business

Digital Gateway and Collaboration-Driven Start-up Community

With Europe's highest Internet speed and its second-highest broadband penetration, the Netherlands is considered the Digital Gateway to Europe. Data hosts and start-ups alike have taken advantage of this network to leverage their business growth. Adding to the attractive infrastructure are a highly multinational and multilingual workforce and a strong creative and graphic industry. An extremely well-connected community of founders, hackers and VCs, combined with an accessible government and an open corporate business culture, have morphed Amsterdam into one of Europe's hottest start-up cities.



Source: Amsterdam Marketing

“Amsterdam is a true port city—international, tolerant and adaptable. These qualities, plus liberal tax laws, make it attractive for foreign companies.... The cloud is connecting Amsterdam start-ups in the way the ocean did in the 15th century.”

WIRED.co.uk

Highly Skilled Migrant Visa

Are you an entrepreneur or investor running a business and looking for the best global talent? Then the Netherlands is the place for you. Unique in Europe, the Netherlands offers a fast-track immigration procedure for highly skilled immigrants from outside the EU. Within four to six weeks, the Dutch government can supply work permits if certain salary requirements are met. Currently, these are:

- A gross salary of €38.141 per year if you are younger than 30
- A gross salary of €52.010 per year if you are older than 30



Source: Amsterdam Marketing



About the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency

The NFIA is part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. We help North American firms establish or expand their European operations by having a business base in the Netherlands. Our services are confidential and free of charge, and include:

- Personalized insight and data for your project
- Expert guidance on tax, labor, visa and immigration
- Introductions to a variety of Dutch networks
- Customized fact-finding trips to the Netherlands

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