

Pillar I - Justice System

Timeline witness protection programme

The minister of Justice and Security has said the intention is to put the broadening of the crown witness scheme – and therefore the new framework for witness protection – out for consultation in the second part of 2024.

Recommendation on digitalization of Justice

In 2024 serious preparations are being made for legislation for online publication of judgments. The intention is to bring the legislative proposal to consultation before the summer recess. However, that time schedule may prove too ambitious, taking into account recent case law in the field of data protection. In regards to the question on the subject of the expected timeline for proposal to digitise Court judgments, this question has been previously answered by the Council for the Judiciary.

Pillar II - Anti-Corruption Framework

Response of government to Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Government’s fraud policy

Another report, of the State Committee to the Rule of Law, is yet to be published but is expected to pay attention to the same subject as the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Government’s fraud policy. The report of the State Committee on the Rule of Law is expected to be published in June. The government is planning to respond to both reports after publication of this report before summer.

Risk assessments on corruption and undermining

Please find below an overview of the various ongoing assessments, including an estimate of the periods in which we expect results to materialise. While the **NRA** is more focused on determining corruption threats in the Netherlands in a general sense and reviewing the resilience of existing policies in the face of such threats, the **interdepartmental risk-assessment** is more focused and aims to identify how internal governmental procedures and governances concerning integrity/anti-corruption can be strengthened. Both aim to give insights on a national and local level. The **conversations with stakeholders & literature study** are aimed at relatively quickly identifying elements of the current policy that are lacking (in practice) and mapping the recommendations done by researchers. In the end, all results will need to be reviewed in a joint manner to determine which topics will be taken further and/or prioritized.

Name (NL)	Name (ENG)	Goal	Status	Results expected:
National Risk Assessment Corruptie	National Risk Assessment Corruption	Offer insights in the nature of the largest corruption threats on a	Start in April 2024	Early 2025

		<p>local, provincial, and national level.</p> <p>Determine the overall risk level of these threats (potential impact threat vs. resilience existing policies).</p> <p>Focus: Private- and public sector corruption threats.</p>		
Rijksbrede risico-inventarisatie (vanuit het MCAO)	Interdepartmental risk assessment (initiated by the MCAO, the Ministry Commission Approach Subversive Crime)	<p>Gaining insight in how the government is currently dealing with corruption risks for its officials. Raising awareness of the urgency of implementing anti-corruption measures to prevent subversive crime by assessing corruption risks, current internal procedures and anti-corruption measures put in place by ministries, executive organisations, and local governments.</p> <p>Focus: internal governmental procedures.</p>	In progress	Summer 2024 for ministries (executive organisations and local governments will follow later).
Versterking anti-corruptiebeleid: gesprekken met relevante overheidsinstanties en maatschappelijk	Strengthening anti-corruption framework: Conversations with various stakeholders	Explore how anti-corruption policies can be strengthened, based on insights offered by partners,	In progress	Early 2025

middenveld en literatuurstudie	(partners and civil society) and literature study	civil society and literature study. Focus: strengthening repressive anti-corruption legislation, policies and/or their execution.		
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WODC-research concerning corruption risks in the mainports
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2024/03/18/tk-beleidsreacties-onderzoek-corruptierisicos-op-mainports>

Risk-analysis for local government

The Dutch government is working on a legislative proposal that contains a risk-analysis on integrity of certain prospective local administrators. The proposal was published for consultation from December 2023 till March 2024 so that umbrella organizations of municipalities and provinces had the possibility to give their views on the proposal. Currently, the ministry is processing the received reactions before we the proposal can be sent to the council of state. The intention is to do that in or around the summer of 2024. It is possible that the advice of the Council of State will lead to some adjustments on the proposal before it will be sent to Parliament.

Parliamentary letter regarding the confidential advisers for the cabinet:
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2024/03/15/kamerbrief-over-vertrouwensfunctionarissen-voor-leden-van-het-kabinet>

Pillar III - Media Pluralism and Media Freedom

Report of the Ombudsman concerning ‘Ongehoord Nederland’

The report and other related documents are attached.

Doxing of journalists

The Netherlands received two follow-up questions with regard to doxing. The questions involved identifying the offender (often on an anonymous account), and the help of online platforms. These two often go hand in hand. Sometimes the LEA’s have enough information or investigative leads to identify the offender themselves. But oftentimes the help of online platforms is sought. The LEA’s have a good working relationship with a number of big platforms, but even with their help it not always leads to the name of the offender. Other platforms, such as Telegram, often/generally do not co-operate on a voluntary basis, making it much harder to identify an account holder.

Pillar IV - Other Institutional Issues related to Checks and

Communication between the state powers/follow-up to the childcare benefits affair

Communication between the state powers forms an important topic for the State Committee to the Rule of Law which will issue a report in June of this year. As soon as the report is published, the Commission will be informed.