

We would like to take the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the regulations governing homeschooling in the Netherlands. Our family relocated to the Netherlands one year ago as I am a researcher and was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship funded through the European Commission. This is a mobility grant that allows researchers from across the world to develop their skills and share their expertise in order to benefit Europe. We applied for an exemption from compulsory education which was granted and our children are currently being homeschooled.

We would like to raise the following objections:

1. The new law would include the requirement for children to be tested at 6 and 9 years of age and to take a final test at 12 (max 14) years of age. In our view this places unnecessary stress on children. We do not agree with the testing requirement. If a child wishes to pursue tertiary education, it is possible for them to complete a course such as the International GCSEs (the equivalent of A levels).
2. The new law requires that only one parent provides the education and the child should not receive structural education from friends or hired persons. We object to this as if a person is an experienced and qualified music teacher, or can give art or language lessons, we can see no reason why this should not be possible.
3. If it is passed the new law would require the parent who provides the education to demonstrate B2 / 3F level of proficiency in Dutch (approximately a college entry level). This would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for people who relocate to the Netherlands for a period of three years or less. It would certainly deter researchers with families from wishing to relocate to the Netherlands.

Thank you for considering these objections.

Yours Sincerely,

Kylie Thomas and Alastair Douglas