

1.

In the Netherlands each prisoner has the right to access a certain level of education, but provision varies.

For young offenders, the situation is usually much better, and usually they have access to many more possibilities than adult learners with short sentences, for example, who have very limited access to education.

Adult prisoners with longer sentences have access to basic education, including: Dutch language, simple maths, and vocational education. In particular, there are very popular safety courses which provide prisoners with a VCA certificate, which they need to start work in a factory or at a construction site.

There are some barriers to education and learning, the level of bureaucracy and insufficient funding which can hamper engagement and a prison with 150-200 prisoners does not usually have more than one prison teacher.

2.

Budget cuts have had a serious impact on the field of education within prison and has lowered it on the agenda. However, we see signs that this is beginning to change.