

**National Report of the Netherlands**  
**WHO EMF Project, International Advisory Committee meeting, 21-22 June 2018**

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1. New policies and legislations regarding EMF exposure

There have been no new activities in this area. Upon advice of the Health Council, the government decided to continue the precautionary policy concerning overhead power lines (see below).

2. Research activities related to EMF health

The national research program on Electromagnetic Fields and Health that was started in 2006 has now been finished. There will be no follow-up program. A few long-term projects (e.g. participation in COSMOS and MOBIKIDS) will continue. The Netherlands will also participate in the TRANSEXPO study.

3. Public concern and national responses

Public concern concerning power lines was briefly increased upon publication of the report of the Health Council that called for extension of the precautionary policy to underground high-voltage power cables and other structures from the electricity grid, such as transformer houses. Occasional protests against planned mobile phone base stations still occur, but are rare and not very strong.

4. New public information activities

The mandate of the Knowledge Platform Electromagnetic Fields has been extended with a new financial structure. A dedicated foundation has been created that receives the grants from the government and the industry partners. The Platform is financed by the foundation. The activities have been scaled down. Currently reports on 5G, MRI, HVDC and induction cooking are in preparation. The focus has also shifted from informing professionals to informing the public. To this end, the website, with information available in Dutch only ([www.kennisplatform.nl](http://www.kennisplatform.nl)) will shortly be renewed.

5. Other topics of related interest

The Health Council of the Netherlands (HCN) has published a report on power lines and childhood cancer. The conclusion is, that there still is an association between living near power lines and the concurrent exposure to ELF magnetic fields and childhood leukaemia. The risk estimate has increased slightly to 2.7. There are also some indication for an association with childhood brain cancer, but these are much weaker; the risk estimate is 1.4. Since the indications for the association with magnetic field exposure have become stronger (although there is still no causal relation demonstrated), the HCN recommended to the government to continue the precautionary policy concerning overhead power lines and to extend it to underground high-voltage power cables and other structures from the electricity grid, such as transformer houses. The current policy calls for prevention of the creation of new

situations near overhead power lines where children will be long-term exposed to ELF magnetic fields exceeding an annual average of 0.4  $\mu$ T.

The HCN report is currently available in Dutch only

([https://www.gezondheidsraad.nl/sites/default/files/grpublication/kernadvies\\_hoogspanningslijnen\\_en\\_gezondheid\\_deel\\_i\\_kanker\\_bij\\_kinderen.pdf](https://www.gezondheidsraad.nl/sites/default/files/grpublication/kernadvies_hoogspanningslijnen_en_gezondheid_deel_i_kanker_bij_kinderen.pdf)), with an Executive

Summary in English (<https://www.gezondheidsraad.nl/en/task-and-procedure/areas-of-activity/gezonde-leefomgeving/power-lines-and-health-part-i-childhood-cancer>),

but a full translation is under way.