



Statement on the Funding Cuts to Higher Education and Research in the Netherlands

As the German Association of Doctoral Researchers (*Bundesverband Promovierende e.V.*), we express our profound concern and solidarity with all researchers, academics, and students in the Netherlands facing severe cuts to higher education and research funding.

The recent massive budgetary reductions to the tune of 1.2 billion euros imposed by the Dutch government represent an alarming departure from the Netherlands' longstanding commitment to academic excellence and innovation. These cuts threaten the very foundations of a system that has been a model for open, collaborative, and world-leading research. Such measures risk dismantling decades of progress in knowledge production and intellectual freedom, necessitating immediate attention and action.

Early-career researchers, particularly doctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars, will bear the brunt of these cuts, with their livelihoods and career prospects in jeopardy. Institutions, already grappling with rising costs and growing demands, may now be compelled to abandon critical research projects, curtail international collaborations, and compromise their role as centres of independent enquiry. According to the German Federal Foreign Office (2025), Germans form the largest group of international students in Dutch higher education institutions. The Netherlands has long been a beacon of scientific collaboration.

This development is particularly distressing when global challenges from climate change to public health demand robust, well-funded research ecosystems. We stand with the *Promovendi Netwerk Nederland (PNN)* and all advocates for academic integrity in opposing these short-sighted policies.

We call upon:

- **The Dutch government** to prioritise investment in knowledge as a public good.
- **Universities** to resist pressures that undermine their mission and advocate unambiguously for sustainable funding.
- **European partners** to challenge this trend through coordinated action and structural funding safeguards.

We extend our active solidarity to our Dutch colleagues and will amplify their concerns in all relevant German and European fora.

Executive Council of the *Bundesverband Promovierende e.V.* on July 21, 2025

