



# EUROPA decentraal

**European law and policy knowledge centre for decentralised government bodies in the Netherlands**

*"Europa decentraal is local and regional government's premier knowledge centre for queries concerning European law and legislation"*

*Europa decentraal is an initiative by:*



Vereniging van  
Nederlandse Gemeenten

Unie



van Waterschappen

Interprovinciaal Overleg



Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties



## **Why** EUROPA decentraal

Knowledge concerning the correct application of European law and policy is increasingly important. However, it is often difficult for employees of local authorities, provinces and district water boards to find the right European information. All the more reason for local and regional government umbrella organisations and central government to establish *Europa decentraal*, a knowledge centre specialising in European law and policy for decentralised government bodies.

## **What does** EUROPA decentraal **do**

*Europa decentraal* keeps local and regional government employees abreast of European issues, such as state aid, public procurement, the environment, employment and social policy, culture and education and the 'four freedoms'. *Europa decentraal* provides information and advice, answers queries and works to further expand the knowledge network. The website plays an important role in service provision, providing a daily source of European news. It also has dossiers on a wide range of European subjects, giving the visitor easy access to the information he or she requires. *Europa decentraal* organises meetings, distributes publications and newsletters, and promotes the exchange of best practices. Many local and regional government employees use the free information and advice service every week. *Europa decentraal* is unique among providers of European information because it specialises in decentralised government issues, providing information about European legislation and regulations, jurisprudence, policy and the translation to Dutch legislation.

## **How is** EUROPA decentraal **organised**

*Europa decentraal* is the place of choice for local and regional government employees to address their queries on European issues, where they are answered by experts. *Europa decentraal* can also fall back on an extensive network of partners from the world of science and government. An Advisory Council, comprising representatives from universities, advises the board and management. *Europa decentraal* also has a Practice Council. Made up of local and regional government employees, this Council informs *Europa decentraal* about the consequences of European legislation and regulation in day-to-day practice. In addition, *Europa decentraal* maintains a variety of formal and informal contacts with ministries, representatives of decentralised government in Brussels and other organisations working in the field. In short, *Europa decentraal* is embedded in a network of expertise.

*Europa decentraal*

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