Each year, DutchCulture tracks the international events that Dutch artists and cultural organisations produce and take part in abroad. This helps to give a sense of the cultural impact that the Netherlands has in other countries.

Dutch cultural activities continue to be strongly international; in 2018, we tracked 15,181 cultural activities across 108 different countries. This mapping provides an overview of the top countries, artists, disciplines and more, as well as looks at some of the changes and influences that affect international cultural activity.
Strong and stable ties

The top destination countries remain relatively stable, with Germany and the U.S. remaining as top destinations, accounting for 21% and 15% of all international events respectively. While cultural capitals, such as New York (470 events), Berlin (355 events), and London (334 events) are important hot spots, Dutch cultural events are widely dispersed. Events took place in 2584 different cities, with 88% of all events taking place outside capital cities.

The EU continues to play a crucial role in the Netherlands' international cultural activities. In 2018, 54% of all Dutch international cultural events took place in the EU, and five of the top ten visited countries for Dutch artists were in the EU. While strongest in nearby countries (Germany, Belgium, UK, France, Italy), events were spread across Europe with Dutch artists working in 1330 cities across every single EU country.

Key disciplines and venues

Music remains the dominant international cultural activity, accounting for 48% of all events, followed by audiovisual media (18%) and performing arts (14%). This is reflected in both the frequent flyers (74% of the top 50 are musicians) and the top venues (34% are music-specific venues).

Stage and festivals are the most important venues for artists looking to go abroad, making up 33% and 28% of all venue respectively. These venues often have multi-disciplinary events which bring together artists from around the world for short but powerful bursts of culture.

Influencing factors

Based on a multiple linear regression, a significant relationship (F(3,98) = 15.932, p < 0.00) was found between the number of activities in a country and that country's geographic distance from the Netherlands, its population, its GDP per capita. Together these three variables predict 33 percent of the variation in the number of events per country. In addition to these elements, other more contextual factors also play an important role in influencing Dutch cultural events in a country. For example, whether the Netherlands has a specific programme with a country or whether the country has key cultural events for the year (e.g. a country with a 2018 cultural capital city).