

PHILANTROPIA

Establishing a Nonprofit in the Netherlands

Note: Please be advised that this is an unofficial summary and should not be considered a legal opinion. Philantropia does not vouch for the accuracy of the information provided here.

If your nonprofit organization is looking to set up a presence in Europe, the Netherlands provides an excellent, low-cost opportunity to do so. A Dutch private foundation is quick to set up with few formalities. Compared to other European countries (i.e. Belgium and the UK), the process is relatively easy and inexpensive. A Dutch nonprofit is called a “Stichting” which can be loosely translated as Foundation – very similar to a US based 501(c)(3).

Advantages

- According to a notary (equivalent to an attorney) we consulted, residence in the Netherlands is not required to set up a nonprofit. A notary with power of attorney can handle the legal requirements in a matter of days.
- Setting up a Dutch based nonprofit organization facilitates fundraising from the European Commission and EU based funders.

Disadvantages

- A foundation is allowed to make profits, but there are restrictions on how the profits can be allocated.

Typical Steps

- The notary will have to submit proof that the person registering truly exists (e.g. through a notarized copy of a passport) and that the address is valid (e.g. through a notarized copy of a utility bill)
- The notary will register the nonprofit at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce and can also request a tax identification number (i.e. proof of tax-exempt charitable status).
- Nonprofits, in general, are not required to file a tax return as long as the organization does not make any profit on its activities. The organization does need to prepare an annual statement of accounts.
- No directors or shareholders are required. A Board of Management is, however, required although this only needs to consist of one individual or entity.
- A foundation must have at least one local board member based in the Netherlands

Contact Us

For more information on setting up a Dutch “Stichting” or if you want to be referred to an organization in the Netherlands that can help, please contact Philantropia by email: inquiry@philantropia.org or telephone: 212-336-1556