

Summary of the 2022 survey of the editing community of NL Wikipedia

n=285.

Survey date: January 10 - 26, 2022 (via banner for logged in users & message to talk page of random sample of 300 editors who were active in 2021)

Results:

Motivation of Wikipedia editors

As in 2018, the most important reason for editors to contribute to Wikipedia is wanting to share knowledge and information. Again, 'Topic missing on Wikipedia' is the most cited reason for making the first edit.

Social interaction among editors.

Editors primarily communicate with other Wikipedia contributors through talk pages. Other means of communication used relatively often are "The Village Pump (De Kroeg)" and personal email. More than a quarter of the editors have attended a meeting (physical or online) of/for Wikipedians. The most common reason for attending a meeting for Wikipedians is to meet other editors. Of the editors who have never attended a Wikipedian meeting, half indicate that they are just not interested.

Profile

The vast majority of Wikipedians are male (85%), have the Dutch nationality (78%, 18% Belgian), are over 40 (62%), highly educated (63%), and are employed, retired or students (33%, 25% and 25% respectively).

Compared to 2018, there is slight shift in the age distribution, the group 40 to 59 years of age has become smaller (from 36% to 31%) and the group over 60 has become larger (from 28% to 31%). In addition, the percentage of students has increased (from 19% to 25%) and the percentage of employed decreased (from 37% to 33%).

Approximately one in ten (12%) editors count themselves as belonging to the LGBTQ+ community.

12% say they have an autism spectrum disorder.

Diversity

More than a third of the editors believe the Wikipedia community is not diverse enough to provide unbiased information to all.

Only 10% of the editors are women, 3% of the editors have a non-Western migration background and 3% have a background in the Dutch Caribbean or Surinam.

According to approximately two-thirds of the editors, a low proportion of female editors and a low proportion of editors with a migration background has negative consequences for the diversity of subjects covered by Wikipedia.

The relatively low participation of women, according to the editors, is because women underestimate themselves, are less interested in Wikipedia, and because the work atmosphere does not appeal to them

When we break down this response by gender of the respondents, we see some striking differences:

- Men are significantly more likely than women to indicate that they don't think women are that interested in Wikipedia (32% vs. 4%).
- Women themselves are significantly more likely than men to indicate that

- the Wikipedia working atmosphere does not appeal to women (44% vs. 25%),
- that women have less free time (30% vs. 8%),
- that there is active discrimination/exclusion by the current editing community (19% vs. 8%),
- that women do not know that anyone can edit Wikipedia (15% vs. 4%).

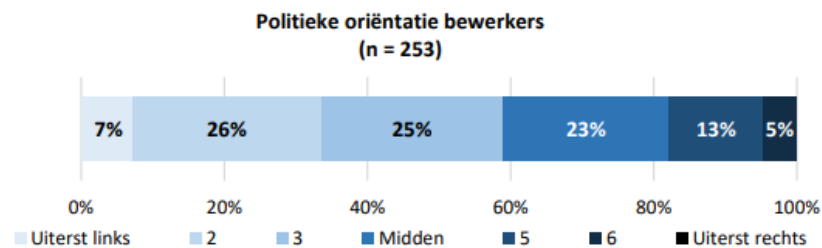
The relatively low proportion of editors with a non-Western migration background is, according to the editors, because they are less interested in Wikipedia, underestimate themselves and more often have limited access to the Internet. (There were too few respondents with non-western background to provide a meaningful breakdown in responses)

Political orientation

A little more than half of Wikipedians are on the left side of the political spectrum (58%).

Far left

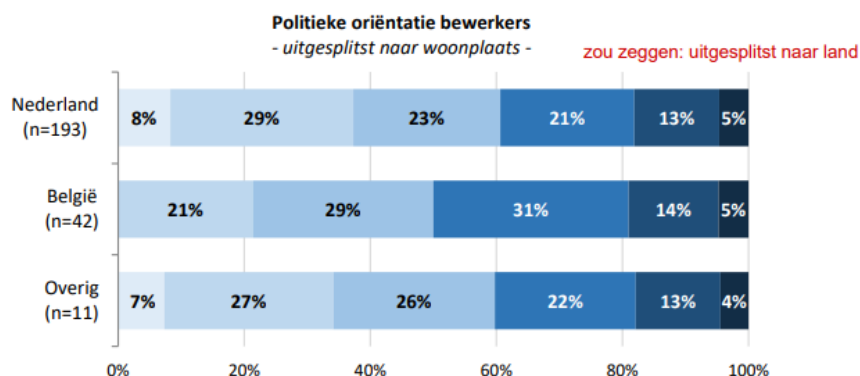
Far right



When we break down political orientation by country of residence, we see that Wikipedians from Belgium are more in the middle of the political spectrum than those from the Netherlands.

Far left

far right



Neutrality

More than half of the editors indicate that a contribution to a Wikipedia article is less likely to be neutral, if the writer has some sort of personal connection to the topic. Especially family connections (for biographical articles) and ideological connections (religion or politics) are considered a risk to neutrality.

The majority of editors agree with the statement that Wikipedia's neutrality requires the active participation of people from different backgrounds. Also, the majority indicates that for most Wikipedians neutrality is a core value.

Wikipedians strongly disagree (83%) with the idea that editors should only write about issues concerning a minority group, if they belong to this group themselves.

About three in five editors mention that the "coloring" of certain articles (i.e. deliberately introducing a bias) occurs 'sporadically' or with 'some regularity' on the Dutch Wikipedia. One in ten editors says that, in their experience, this occurs frequently. A big majority (68%) of Wikipedians believe that the Dutch-language Wikipedia community succeeds in maintaining Wikipedia's neutrality at an acceptable level.

The working atmosphere

The working atmosphere at the Dutch-language Wikipedia is perceived by editors to be 'quarrelsome', but also 'helpful' and 'constructive'. Approximately two in five editors are satisfied with the working atmosphere at Wikipedia, which seems to have improved somewhat compared to 2018. Nevertheless, one in six Wikipedians indicate that they have considered quitting editing in the past year because of the work atmosphere. It is also notable that compared to 2018, more editors indicate that they may be willing to take on a moderator or arbcom member position in the future. (from 12% to 18%)