

The Fietzersbond - in a nutshell



Fietzersbond



Welcome to the Fietzersbond – the Dutch Cyclists' Union!

We're delighted that you have become a volunteer. Your commitment and involvement mean a lot to us. Together, we help create more cycling happiness for everyone (fietsgeluk voor iedereen).

Did you know that the Fietzersbond has 1,500 volunteers spread across the Netherlands? That we decide our policy positions together with you, our members and volunteers? And that you receive a volunteer newsletter in Dutch twice a month?

Maybe you didn't know that yet — but soon you will.

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This Is the Fietzersbond

Where cyclists run into problems, the Fietzersbond takes action. For more than fifty years, we have been committed to safe and comfortable cycling routes.

We do this together with more than 33,000 members, 168 local branches and communities, and 1,500 volunteers spread throughout the Netherlands.

In this chapter, you will read about how the organisation was founded, what we have achieved since then, and what our positions and policies are.

Our history

In the early 1970s, concerned cyclists took action. Cars were being given more and more public space, with the needs of cyclists overlooked. These concerned cyclists refused to accept this. They founded the E.N.W.B. — *de Eerste Enige Echte Nederlandse Wielrijdersbond*, translated as the First and Only Real Dutch Fietzersbond. The name was later changed to ENFB and eventually became the Fietzersbond.

In its early years, the Fietzersbond drew attention to cycling as an environmentally friendly mode of transport, and to the negative effects of car use, through creative and playful — but sometimes also forceful — campaigns and actions. Want to read more – in Dutch – about our history? Click [here](#).





Our successes

37,000 kilometers of cycle paths

Cycle paths seem as much a part of the Netherlands as windmills and tulips. But it was not always that way. In the 1970s, there was far less space for cyclists. Thanks in part to the Fietzersbond, the network of cycle paths has expanded enormously.

Bicycle parking at train stations

Almost half of all train passengers travel to the station by bicycle. For a long time, it was not considered necessary by the Dutch Railways (NS) or municipalities to consider good bicycle parking facilities for these people. The Fietzersbond campaigned for many years for more and better bicycle parking at train stations.

First 24 hours free

At most stations, you can park your bicycle free of charge for the first 24 hours. The bicycle parking facilities are open from half an hour before the first train departs until half an hour after the last train arrives. This, too, is the result of many years of lobbying by the Fietzersbond.

OV-fiets

In the 1970s, a proposal for yellow rental bicycles at train stations was mocked by the Dutch Railways. The Fietzersbond did not give up. Today, the iconic blue-yellow public transport bike (*OV-fiets*) has become an inseparable part of the Dutch streetscape.

Everyone mobile

The Fietzersbond believes everyone should be able to cycle safely and comfortably. Fortunately, there is growing awareness of cyclists with disabilities, such as people who are hard of hearing, visually impaired cyclists, handcyclists, and riders of tricycles. This is partly thanks to the Fietzersbond community 'Everyone Mobile' (*Iedereen Mobiel*).

Read more – in Dutch – about [what we have achieved](#) for cycling in the Netherlands.

Campaign themes

Each year, the Fietzersbond runs campaigns focused on one or two themes. Policy staff, the Communications team, and volunteers in the local branches work closely together on these campaigns.



30 km/h as norm

A cyclist has a much greater chance of surviving a collision with a car traveling at 30 km/h than at higher speeds. Yet 50 km/h is still the national standard speed limit within built-up areas. The Fietzersbond wants 30 km/h to become the new standard in Dutch towns and cities.

A lower maximum speed reduces both the number of accidents and their severity. Streets also become safer, healthier, and more pleasant for everyone when the speed limit is 30 km/h.

Read more – in Dutch – about the [30 km/h as norm](#) campaign.

Fietsgemeente

Every two years, we organise the national Cycling Municipality (*Fietsgemeente*) election. Tens of thousands of cyclists complete our online survey and rate their municipality on how safe and pleasant it is to cycle there. The goal: to make cycling as safe and comfortable as possible throughout the Netherlands. For volunteers, cyclists' feedback is extremely valuable for local lobbying efforts.

[View the scores](#) – in Dutch - for your municipality.

Positions and policies

Our policy positions make clear what we as the Fietzersbond consider important. They also guide our discussions with local municipalities. Many of these positions are formulated together with members and volunteers. For example, we want 30 km/h to become the standard speed limit within built-up areas. We also believe that modified fatbikes and e-bikes should be regulated more strictly. These modified bicycles can create dangerous situations and accidents for often young riders, passengers riding on the back, and other road users.

In addition, the Fietzersbond believes that good cycling infrastructure is essential to prevent accidents and make cycling attractive. This means, among other things:

- no unnecessary obstacles on cycle paths,
- wide enough cycle paths,
- and more space for bicycles in general.

Read more – in Dutch - about our [positions and policies](#).

Volunteers

Local branches and sub-branches

Our campaigns, actions, and other successes do not happen automatically. Throughout the country, volunteers make them possible, usually through our local branches.

A branch is a group of Fietzersbond volunteers in a municipality (*gemeente*) or region (*provincie*). The branch mainly operates at the municipal level. Volunteers engage in discussions with the municipality and other relevant governmental and administrative organisations about issues such as better cycling facilities and more space for bicycles — both literally (on the streets) and figuratively (in terms of raising awareness and demonstrating value). The goals of the Fietzersbond are the guiding principle in this work.

Local branches include members who live in the municipalities or regions where the branch is active. The branch can inform members about local advocacy efforts and involve them in these activities. Their contact details are listed in a membership database that can be requested from the national office.

In addition to branches, there are also sub-branches. For example, the Hague Region (*Haagse Regio*) has a sub-branch *Rijswijk an Wassenaar*. Usually, several sub-branches belong to one local branch. A sub-branch covers part of the branch's area and often consists of a smaller group of volunteers. Members of a sub-branch automatically belong to the main branch as well. Representation in the Members' Council and the allocation of budgets are based on local branches, not sub-branches.

You can read more about this later in this guide.

There are also local branches that cooperate regionally, for example in the province of Utrecht. There, branches come together in the *Utrecht Cycling Consultation* (UFO). The UFO acts as a discussion partner for matters that go beyond individual municipalities, such as provincial and regional cycling policy. In most other provinces, groups of volunteers also work specifically to represent the *Fietzersbond* at the regional level.

See which branches are near you.

Read more – in Dutch - about [how local branches and sub-branches work](#).



What can you do in a local branch?

As a volunteer in a local branch, there are many ways you can contribute to more bicycle-friendly municipal policies. Here are a few examples:

- **Lobbying with the municipality or province:** engage in discussions with politicians and civil servants. Read more – in Dutch – [here](#).
- **Organising actions and [events](#) for cyclists:** organise a cycling café (*fietscafé*), consultation, [protest](#), or [bicycle light](#) campaign.
- **Starting a petition:** a [petition](#) is a good way to draw policymakers' and politicians' attention to a specific cycling-related issue.
- **Communications:** keep the website up to date or write for your local [newsletter](#) or magazine.
- **Conducting research:** if you want to understand an issue in more detail, you can carry out research on behalf of the Fietzersbond. The Delft branch conducted a study commissioned by the municipality on [social safety](#) in the area. The Hilversum branch researched [cycle path widths](#).
- **Keeping in touch with [neighbouring branches](#):** some cycling issues cross municipal boundaries. In those cases, it is helpful to work together — for example on regional cycling routes (*doorfietsroutes*).

Roles within a local branch

Volunteers in a local branch work closely together. Not everyone has the same amount of time available, so they often divide tasks among themselves.

Some branches formally organise these tasks into a board with a chair, secretary, etc. In other local branches, things are arranged more informally. Only the role of treasurer is mandatory; this is stated in the Fietzersbond statutes.

Tip: if the branch does have a chair, secretary, and other roles, make clear agreements about the length of these roles and the division of responsibilities. It is also good to know that the [internal rules](#) describe which tasks volunteers can have and after what period someone should be replaced. They also state that having a board is not required.

Examples of roles:

- **Chair** ([Voorzitter](#))

The chair is often the public face of the local branch and ensures connection between active volunteers. The chair also often leads meetings.

- **Secretary** ([Secretaris](#))

The secretary maintains contact with members, takes minutes during meetings, manages the email inbox, and communicates with the national office.

- **Treasurer** ([Penningmeester](#))

The treasurer manages the local branch's finances, including preparing a budget and processing expense claims.

- **Webmaster**

The webmaster ensures the branch or community is visible online, for example through a website or newsletter.

Budgets

Organising activities costs money. That is why each local branch receives an annual budget. The amount a branch receives (the branch allocation) depends on the number of members.



If a branch has a sub-branch, that sub-branch receives part of the budget. The Members' Council has determined how the budgets are distributed. You can read the detailed agreements in our internal regulations.

Read more – in Dutch - about [branch budgets](#).

Communities

Within the Fietzersbond, there are also communities that work at a national level on a specific goal. These communities consist only of volunteers and do not have members, because they are not tied to a local branch.

The Everyone Mobile (*Iedereen Mobiel*) community works to promote accessible cycling. These volunteers have extensive experience with cycling with disabilities or adapted bicycles, and they share their knowledge to make cycling possible for more people.

In addition, there is a national speed pedelec community. It [lobbies](#) for broader and safer use of speed pedelecs.



Route Planner volunteers

Across the country, volunteers work to keep the Fietzersbond *Routeplanner* up to date. They map important characteristics of cycle paths and cycling routes.

They do this by collecting data about cycle paths during their bike rides and then processing this information online.

Learn more – in Dutch – about the work of our [Routeplanner volunteers](#).

Cycling instructors

Many cycling instructors (*fietsdocenten*) are active within the Fietzersbond. They give cycling lessons to children, older adults, and newcomers to the Netherlands. To do this, they complete a three-day training course.

Read more – in Dutch – about what you do as a [cycling instructor](#).

Onboarding volunteers

We think it is important that new volunteers quickly feel at home within our organisation. That is why we have created a guide for branches called *"Welcoming and onboarding new volunteers."*

View the guide – in Dutch - [Welcoming and onboarding new volunteers](#)

Volunteer registration

When you start as a volunteer, it is very important that you register. This allows us to make clear agreements about your involvement and to record your details correctly.

If you stop volunteering, don't forget to deregister.

[Register](#) as a Fietzersbond volunteer here – in Dutch.



Fietzersbond as an organisation

The Fietzersbond is an association. This means that we have members, we work toward a shared goal—cycling happiness for everyone—and we make decisions together.

An association is not founded to make a profit, although it is allowed to do so. Any profit must be used for the purpose for which the association was created.

How Is the organisation structured?

The Fietzersbond does not have a general members' meeting, but a Members' Council (*Ledenraad*). The association also has a Board (*Algemeen Bestuur*). The Board leads the organisation and selects a daily board from among its members. How board members are elected and what their responsibilities are is defined in the statutes.

Members' Council

The Members' Council (*Ledenraad*) consists of delegates who, on behalf of the wider membership base (members and volunteers), supervise the policy of the Fietzersbond, make decisions, and provide strategic advice.



Volunteers in a local branch decide together who will serve as delegates to the Members' Council. The number of delegates a branch may send depends on the number of members in that branch.

The tasks, powers, and working methods of the Members' Council are formally set out in the statutes and internal regulations of the Fietzersbond.

Read more – in Dutch – about the [Members' Council](#).



General Board

The General Board (*Algemeen Bestuur*) is ultimately responsible for policy and the organisation. It meets a few times a year to make decisions. The Board determines the strategic direction of the association.

Implementation is carried out by the director, the management team, and the staff of the national office.

Volunteers and members of the Fietzersbond can participate in discussions about main lines and frameworks, including through the Members' Council and member surveys.

Read more – in Dutch - [about the Board](#).

National Office

The national office of the Fietzersbond (*Landelijk bureau*) is located in Utrecht. Here, our staff work on advocacy, consumer information, finance, and administration. They also support volunteers in their work.

The national office consists of several teams:

- **Policy Team** works on national and local advocacy, campaigns, and policy themes. Policy officers also provide substantive support to local branches. You can contact them with questions about traffic-related issues and policy positions, and also to invite a staff member as an expert speaker at a Cycling Café. Email - beleid@fietstersbond.nl
- **Communications Team** ensures that more and more people know what the Fietstersbond stands for and what we do. This happens through campaigns, newsletters, social media, corporate partners and the media. Email - webteam@fietstersbond.nl or pers@fietstersbond.nl.
- **Operations Team** ensures that the organisation runs smoothly. This includes financial administration and membership administration. Questions about branch budgets can be sent to finadm@fietstersbond.nl. Want to order campaign materials? Email secretariaat@fietstersbond.nl. On [VrijwilligersNet](#), you can request your local membership list.
- **Volunteer Team** supports and strengthens branches and volunteers across the country. We provide advice, share knowledge, and offer useful tools, such as a handbook for onboarding volunteers (in Dutch), as well as ideas and support for organising Cycling Cafés. Email teamvrijwilligers@fietstersbond.nl
- The **Management Team** and the director lead the national office.

Do you want to know who works in the national office? Read that [here](#)!





Annual reports and Cycling Plans

The Fietzersbond records its activities in its Annual Reports (*jaarverslag*). This explains what we achieved in the past year.

In addition, we create a Cycling Plan (*fietsplan*) every year. It sets out what we aim to do in the coming year to achieve our mission.

Our [Annual Reports](#) and Cycling Plans are available on the website.

Statutes and articles of association

Like every association, the Fietzersbond has statutes. These contain the basic rules and agreements of the organisation, for example how board members are appointed and how decisions are made.

Our articles of association complement the statutes with practical agreements.

Member of Merit

Active members who have made, or are making, a special contribution to the work of the Fietzersbond can be awarded the title Member of Merit (*Lid van Verdienste*). Local branches and communities can nominate someone for this. You can read – in Dutch – how to nominate a [Member of Merit](#) on [VrijwilligersNet](#).

Communicatie

VrijwilligersNet

On this website (translated as 'VolunteersNet') you will find information for Fietzersbond volunteers: from news and hot topics to handbooks for organising actions and information about budgets.

Read more – in Dutch - on [VrijwilligersNet](#).

Het Schakeltje

Het Schakeltje (translated as 'the chainlink') is the Dutch-language e-newsletter for active volunteers of the Fietzersbond. It is published twice a month. It keeps you informed about the activities of local branches, volunteers, and the national office.

[Sign up](#) for *Het Schakeltje*.

Fietsflits

The *Fietsflits* (translated as 'the bikeflash') is the Dutch-language e-newsletter for Fietzersbond members. It is published every two weeks. This newsletter contains more general cycling news, for example about new developments, cycling routes, and tests of cycling products.

[Sign up](#) for the *Fietsflits*.

Vogelvrije Fietser

The *Vogelvrije Fietser*, or VVF (translated as 'the independent cyclist') is the Fietzersbond's Dutch-language paper magazine. It is full of interviews and background stories, independent tests, trends, routes, and gadgets. Members receive the magazine four times a year.





Corporate identity and images

To communicate recognisably as one organisation, we use the Fietzersbond corporate identity, including our own logo, colour palette, and typeface. Local branches and communities use the logo supplemented with the name of the branch or community. We also provide templates for letters, flyers, and presentations, as well as an image bank with photos and illustrations that you can use.

[Download our logos](#), templates, and images here.

Campaign materials and clothing

To ensure good visibility during actions and events, you can order campaign materials such as beach flags, brochures, yellow vests, jackets, and caps. Clothing can be ordered twice a year. Brochures and banners can be ordered throughout the year.

Order your [campaign materials](#) here.

Good luck!

Are you organising an action, do you want more information, or would you like to discuss a topic informally? Please contact the national office at teamvrijwilligers@fietzersbond.nl



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