

# NIEDERLANDE

## Minister of Education, Culture and Science

Ministry for Education, Culture  
and Science

### Marja van BIJSTERVELDT-VLIEGENTHART

Born on 27 June 1961 in Rotterdam  
Married, two children

#### Education

1981 Trained as a nurse

#### Career

After training as a nurse she worked in the health care sector until 1990. In that year she entered local politics as a member of Almere municipal council for the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA).

1990-1993 she was also the member of the executive responsible for social affairs, welfare and housing.

1993 she became the leader of the CDA in the municipal council. She was mayor of Schipluiden from 1994 to May 2002, and then chair of the CDA until 2007

1994 at the age of 33, she became the youngest mayor in the Netherlands (Schipluiden)

Nov. 2002 she was elected chair of the CDA, a post she held until 2007.

22 Feb. 2007 she was appointed State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science in the fourth Balkenende government.

17 June 2010 she was a member of the House of Representatives.

14 Oct. 2010 she was appointed Minister of Education, Culture and Science in the Rutte-Verhagen government.

### **Party political positions and other activities**

1982-1986

she was a member of the board of the Dutch Young Christian Democrats (CDJA)

She was also leader of the CDA group in Almere municipal council and chair of the women's organisation of the CDA.

In her capacity as member of the municipal executive and later mayor, she held many public positions. In addition, she has been a member of the executive board of the Society for Nature and Environmental Education, member of the Financial Relations Council, chair of the Zonnebloem voluntary organisation for the disabled, and member of the board of the culture fund of the Municipal Building Fund.