

ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY IN SPAIN AND THE EU AND THE WAY FORWARD FORUM



THE NETHERLANDS

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		REFERENCE PERIOD					TARGET
	2008	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
EU-28	70.2	70.1	71.1	72.2	73.2	73.9	75
NE	76.9	76.4	77.1	78.0	79.2	80.1	80

EU2020 HEADLINE INDICATORS
FOR THE NETHERLANDS:
EMPLOYMENT (75% of the
population aged 20-64 should be
employed)

TARGET ACHIEVED Yes the target is achieved.

The situation is as follows: women are still behind of it concerns payment for the same job. The minimum wage age is brought down from 23 to 21 years in recent years. So now starting from 21 you are entitled to the statutory minimum wage. This is the same for all.

Years ago the Netherlands started a special program to support early school leavers. Nowadays if someone leaves school

		REFERENCE PERIOD					TARGET
	2008	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
EU-28	14.7	11.0	10.7	10.5	10.5	10.3	10
NL	11.4	8.2	8.0	7.1	7.3	7.5	8

EU2020 HEADLINE INDICATORS
FOR THE NETHERLANDS: **EARLY
SCHOOL LEAVERS** (The share of
early school leavers should be
under 10%)

TARGET ACHIEVED!

Years ago the Netherlands started a special program to support early school leavers. Nowadays if someone leaves school, the school, parents, regional jobagency and others work with the youngster, to see whether she/he can/will go back to school or will look for a job and vocational training. This system has brought the numbers down.

		REFERENCE PERIOD					TARGET
	2008	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
EU-28	31.1	38.7	39.2	39.9	40.7	41.6	40
NL	38.0	46.3	45.7	47.9	49.4	51.4	40

EU2020 HEADLINE INDICATORS FOR THE
NETHERLANDS: **TERTIARY EDUCATION
ATTAINMENT** (At least 40% of 30-34 years
old should have completed a tertiary or
equivalent education)

TARGET ACHIEVED (11.4 PP MORE)! The
tertiary education system is open for all. No
exceptions.

		REFERENCE PERIOD					TARGET
	2008	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
EU-28	(:)	1,952	992	-4,224	-7,208	:	-20000
NL	(:)	312	364	432	400	364	-28,2%

EU2020 HEADLINE INDICATORS FOR THE NETHERLANDS: **AT RISK OF POVERTY**
(Poverty should be reduced by lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU-27)

TARGET NOT ACHIEVED.

AROPE figures 2019 were the same as 2016, 364.000. So after a slight increase they are back at the 2016 level. No the target is not achieved, but it is not left behind, they are working on it. Although we see how the number of working poor are going up.

HOW DID THE ECONOMIC SEMESTER WORK IN THE NETHERLANDS DURING EU2020?

POSITIVE

Economic Semester: positiv. positive. There are remarks to make, since we see how there is a shift in poor in a benefit (unemployment) to poor in a paid job. We, as we all, have to wait and see how employment will develop once the crisis is over, especially for those in flex work and as self-employed.

NEGATIVE

ANTI-POVERTY PARTICIPATION

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE NETHERLANDS?

It is not seen as an achievement or something we all have to work with.

DID CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIES?

Talking about the European Pillar of Social Rights, the only organization that is dealing with it and talking about it, is EAPN NL. EAPN NL is working on a new approach to bring people together learning about the EPSR and its importance.

WHICH LESSONS CAN BE LEARNT FROM THE DUTCH EXAMPLE?

3 lessons can be learned.

1. Let us start with one of the most important issues, the minimum income. The fact that the European Commission as well as The European Parliament support the introduction of the decent minimum income helps to restore the MI in our country. Be it slow. The Central Planning Bureau stated two weeks ago that our Statutory Minimum Wage can be risen by 10% without damaging the economy. The same Bureau that was against an extra rise next to the 6 monthly rise through the labor market wage rises. Reason? Because Germany introduced the Statutory Minimum Wage, they changed their view. This shows how important the pressure for the EU is.

Which lessons can be learnt from the Dutch example?

2. Housing. For nearly a decade now we see a CSR on housing, always telling the Dutch government that they have to change the housing market: less deduction for house owners on their taxes and a change in the social housing market. For the Commission the both markets were too much subsidized. Now we can see the effects: over 300.000 social houses short, sky high rents and housing prices. The government is under great pressure to reform the housing market for the better. First steps are taken now by introducing soon a maximum rent for private owners. Here becomes clear that if the Commission pushes too hard and for too long time, the outcome is negative. They did not reflect on the way we look at housing, nor what the effects of the ongoing CSR was.

Which lessons can be learnt from the Dutch example?

3. The focus is shifting towards improving the quality of life of its inhabitants than in recent decades, where economic progress after the banking crisis has been paramount and countries' debt reduction was considered more important than the quality of life of citizens. The Dutch minister of Finance stated last week: "In the previous crisis, people with a relatively small purse, an average income or less than an average income, paid a large part of the bill. This was also partly through an increase in charges. I think it is an unwise move." We feel that the fact that the Commission is constantly talking about poverty and a decent minimum income, does help the governments, next to the civic society pressure, to realize where they have to change their policy. Two of the four parties that are in the coalition, feel that it was and is wrong how the government reacted on the solidarity with countries hit hard by corona and want a change in this aspect as well. We hope that our approach and criticism, which was followed, did help to change their minds.

To end with we should say that we need a change in the system of NRP. What the Dutch government, and others will do the same, does is bringing on to paper what they already achieved. We ask them time and again to also say what their -new- targets and approach will be. Look ahead and not only backwards.