

Summary 1st survey

Share my voice - migrant worker panel

Colophon

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Introduction

Het Kenniscentrum Arbeidsmigranten develops and shares the latest knowledge about migrant workers. We therefore decided to set up 'Share my voice', a panel that consists solely of knowledge migrants and migrant workers in the Netherlands. This panel is used to conduct research, so the voice of migrant workers can be heard in relation to the many issues they encounter. The first survey among over 1,600 migrant workers was carried out in January and February 2021. The analysis makes a distinction between different types of migrant worker.

Table 1: Respondents per typology

Type of migrant worker	Number	Percentage
High skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	115	7%
Low skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	570	35%
High skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	174	11%
Low skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	144	9%
High skilled US (incl. Canada/Oceania)	82	5%
High skilled India	83	5%
High skilled Rest of the world	251	15%
Low skilled Rest of the world	215	13%
Total	1,634	100%

General satisfaction with life in the Netherlands

Three quarters of the surveyed migrant workers were generally (very) satisfied with their lives in the Netherlands, but the percentage that was (very) satisfied varies greatly between the various types of migrant workers.

Table 2: In general, how satisfied are you with your life in the Netherlands?*

Type of migrant worker	(very) satisfied	(very) dissatisfied
Total	74%	8%
High skilled Rest of the world	82%	7%
High skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	80%	6%
Low skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	79%	8%
High skilled India	78%	5%
High skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	74%	9%
High skilled US (incl. Canada/Oceania)	73%	13%
Low skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	69%	6%
Low skilled Rest of the world	66%	13%

The residential climate is perceived to be particularly positive, although salary, employee benefits and working conditions also played an important role. Housing and living conditions were most likely to be perceived negatively.

* Use of colours in tables

The tables have been coloured to highlight the results in an eye-catching way. The use of colours is based on a deviation of 5 percent from the average.

- 5 percent or more above average: blue
- 5 percent or more below average: pink

Living situation

Respondents gave an average score of 7.1 for their current living situation. High skilled migrant workers were more appreciative of their living situation than Low skilled migrant workers. Low skilled migrant workers from Eastern Europe, a group which primarily consists of Poles, are generally least satisfied with their living situation. The sense of security at home and the extent to which they *can relax at home after a day's work* was generally fairly low among this group. For a quarter of respondents, their living situation does *not* contribute to a happy life. Respondents see a detached owner-occupied home as the ideal solution, but this is (still) beyond the reach of most of them.

Table 3: In general, how satisfied are you with your current living situation? (evaluation based on score from 1-10)

Type of migrant worker	Average	1-5	6-7	8-10
Total	7.1	22%	29%	49%
High skilled US (incl. Canada/Oceania)	8.2	9%	16%	76%
High skilled Rest of the world	7.8	10%	26%	64%
High skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	7.7	9%	29%	61%
High skilled India	7.7	8%	37%	54%
High skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	7.6	16%	25%	60%
Low skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	7.0	20%	36%	44%
Low skilled Rest of the world	7.0	20%	36%	44%
Low skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	6.3	37%	27%	36%

Working conditions

Approximately one in five respondents are *not* satisfied with their current job and working conditions. Once again, there are major differences between types of migrant workers, with High skilled migrant workers consistently giving a higher score than Low skilled migrant workers. The very lowest scores are given by Low skilled migrant workers from outside Europe: one in three of them are *not* satisfied.

Migrant workers with an *employment agency contract* are comparatively less satisfied with their working conditions. Approximately a quarter of them are *not satisfied* with their current job, working conditions and employer.

The same applies to safety at work and how they are treated. Over one in three migrant workers are unable to share their dissatisfaction with their employer. Low skilled migrant workers from Eastern Europe, primarily Poland, are considerably more likely than other groups to work with an employment agency contract.

Integration and participation

In general, respondents were positive about their contact with other people in the Netherlands. However, there is also a major need for more contact with native Dutch people, particularly among High skilled migrant workers from India and those from the Rest of the world. Within these groups, contact with Dutch people is perceived as very positive and many people see the Netherlands as a country where they would like to continue living. However, Low skilled migrant workers from Eastern Europe gave a contrasting response. Among this group, considerably lower percentages for appreciation and need for contact with others can be observed. Nonetheless, the majority also perceives contact with other Dutch residents as positive.

Table 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Total	High skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	Low skilled Eastern Europe (EU/EEA)	High skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	Low skilled Other Europe (EU/EEA)	High skilled US (incl. Canada/Oceania)	High skilled India	High skilled Rest of the world	Low skilled Rest of the world
I would like to have more contact with native Dutch people	(completely) agree	74%	68%	65%	72%	68%	78%	95%	88%	80%
	(completely) disagree	6%	9%	5%	7%	8%	11%	1%	3%	5%
I feel that having contact with other Dutch residents has a positive effect	(completely) agree	65%	68%	58%	68%	67%	68%	78%	73%	67%
	(completely) disagree	10%	10%	10%	11%	10%	12%	7%	7%	11%
The Netherlands is a country where I would like to continue living	(completely) agree	65%	64%	54%	64%	72%	76%	83%	73%	67%
	(completely) disagree	13%	15%	18%	15%	8%	13%	4%	8%	10%
I feel at home in the Netherlands	(completely) agree	47%	48%	43%	51%	64%	51%	41%	49%	40%
	(completely) disagree	23%	22%	25%	24%	14%	21%	22%	22%	28%
I feel appreciated in the Netherlands	(completely) agree	34%	35%	29%	32%	42%	38%	45%	38%	30%
	(completely) disagree	30%	23%	34%	27%	24%	33%	24%	24%	38%
Dutch people have a sufficiently open attitude towards migrant workers	(completely) agree	30%	35%	29%	28%	27%	26%	39%	39%	21%
	(completely) disagree	36%	35%	34%	47%	35%	44%	25%	31%	41%
I feel part of the neighbourhood, village or city in which I live	(completely) agree	27%	24%	38%	20%	25%	24%	17%	19%	19%
	(completely) disagree	44%	42%	32%	52%	44%	49%	51%	53%	54%

Integration and participation (continued)

There is room for improvement - among all types of migrant workers - when it comes to how much they feel part of their neighbourhood, village or city. At present, approximately a quarter of all respondents feel part of their local community. Around a quarter of all respondents have joined a local club or organisation, with sports clubs being a popular choice. In general, migrant workers who have joined a local club are considerably more positive about their stay in the Netherlands. Migrant workers who regularly/often have contact with people from their local surroundings are generally more satisfied with their stay in the Netherlands than people who have less social contact in their local area. At present, approximately a quarter of respondents regularly/often have such contact.

Over half of the respondents say they speak Dutch a little/well. Low skilled migrant workers from Other Europe (say that they) have the best command of the Dutch language: 69 percent say that they speak Dutch a little/well. Less than half of the migrant workers in the High skilled India and Low skilled Eastern Europe groups say they speak Dutch a little/well. This is fairly low compared to other migrant workers. In contrast, their willingness to learn the language is quite high.

Future prospects

The majority of migrant workers expect to stay in the Netherlands in the future. When considering whether to stay, the extent to which they feel at home in the Netherlands is equally important as job opportunities and salary. Friends and/or family play the most important role when people consider whether or not to return to their country of origin. Job opportunities and salary occupy a distant second and third place respectively.