



## NEWS REPORT

**Date:** 15 April 2014  
**Expert:** Rikki Holtmaat  
**Title:** Unemployment gap between migrants and Dutch natives has widened  
**Country:** The Netherlands  
**Context**  
**Issue at stake:** SCP publishes report on unemployment gap between migrants and Dutch natives  
**Ground of discrimination:** Race/ ethnic origin  
**Source:** Political developments / miscellaneous  
**Field:** Employment

### Content

**Political development:** Recently, the Annual Integration Report on 2013 has been published by the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP, “Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau”). This year’s report focuses, rather unusually, solely on the participation of migrants on the Dutch labour market, in the light of the economic recession that hit the Netherlands (and Europe) over the last couple of years. On the basis of large-scale empirical research and using various indicators, the SCP concludes that the labour market position of migrants in the Netherlands has worsened considerably.

Unemployment among non-Western migrants has risen from 9% in 2008 to 16% in 2012; unemployment among people aged 15-24 rose from 15% to 28% in the same period. In the native-Dutch population unemployment has also increased, from approximately 3% in 2008 to 5% in 2012; and from 7% to 10% among people aged 15-24. However, these figures are significantly lower and rise considerably slower. Consequently, the unemployment gap between migrants and Dutch natives has widened.

It is often suggested that the higher unemployment rate among some groups of migrants can be explained by the lower education level within these groups (in particular when they are of non-Western origin), but this is refuted by the SCP’s finding that migrants are more often unemployed than Dutch natives, even when all characteristics except for the person’s ethnicity are the same. One factor that undoubtedly plays a role is discrimination.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is in accordance with earlier SCP-reports. An example would be ‘Liever Mark dan Mohammed’ (2010), in which the SCP investigated into discrimination during the application process. In 2012, ‘Op achterstand’ was published; a similar but more elaborate report, focusing on employment agencies. These reports may be retrieved at [scp.nl](http://scp.nl) (in Dutch). \_



In a reaction to this report, the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Mr Asscher, has stated that the fight against discrimination on the labour market needs to be intensified. In November 2013 already, the cabinet had requested one of the government's most important policy advisers, the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER, "Sociaal-Economische Raad") to propose measures in the area of social and economic policies.

The SER's (confidential) advice that was leaked to Dutch media includes proposals to facilitate the reporting of discrimination. The Council concludes that many people are either not aware of possibilities to file a complaint at the Dutch equality body, the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (NIHR, "College voor de Rechten van de Mens") or that they lack confidence in the effectiveness of such claims. The SER's advice does not include proposals for further-reaching measures.

**Internet link source:** An English language version of the report may be retrieved at [http://www.scp.nl/english/Publications/Summaries\\_by\\_year/Summaries\\_2014/Annual\\_Integration\\_Report\\_2013](http://www.scp.nl/english/Publications/Summaries_by_year/Summaries_2014/Annual_Integration_Report_2013) (last accessed 11 April 2014).