

Middle and Eastern European (MEE) migrants in The Netherlands

Labour, entrepreneurship, and housing.

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The special position of MEE migrants in The Netherlands; I

- **MEE migrants form a relatively new group in The Netherlands.**
- **Official number has increased from 13.000 (2006) to 94.000 (2008).**
- **Dutch demand for (low- skilled) labour: construction, agriculture, services.**
- **Temporary or permanently temporary phenomenon?**

Table 1: MEE Employment in The Netherlands

Source: CBS, 2008

(x 1.000 employed)	Poland	Rumania & Bulgaria	Other	Total
1 Jan 2006	9	1	2	13
1 July 2006	19	3	3	24
1 Jan 2007	18	2	3	23
1 June 2007	59	4	6	68
1 Jan 2008	62	3	7	71
1 June 2008	81	4	9	94

**Table 2: Entrepreneurs/
Country of Birth (C.O.B.)**

Sector/ C.O.B.	Netherlands	Poland	% Polish
Construction	105.340	4.197	4,0%
Agriculture	41.370	659	1,6%
Services (Gen./ Techn.)	82.539	589	0,7%
Industry	52.891	405	0,7%
Wholesale	76.541	315	0,4%
Services (House/ Care)	95.873	313	0,3%
Retail	139.246	221	0,1%
Other	417.015	537	0,1%
Total	1.010.815	7.236	0,7%

The special position of MEE migrants in The Netherlands; II

- **Both in rural and in urban areas.**
- **Forms of employment: Employment agencies & small (one person) entrepreneurship. In Dutch: ZZP.**
- **Females starting a business: differences between Poland (22%) and Rumania (63%)/ Bulgaria (45%). Average NL: 32%.**

The special position of MEE migrants in The Netherlands; III

- **Few and different official numbers and data.**
- **Other figures, including irregulars:
150.000- 200.000 MEE migrants.**
- **New and interesting challenges for Dutch housing market: flexible housing needed.**

Entrepreneurship among MEE-migrants in The Netherlands

- **ZZP can either be registered in NL or in their home country.**
- **ZZP: No work permit necessary; does this explain their popularity?**
- **More entrepreneurship (ZZP) among MEE- migrants than among migrants from e.g. Morocco or Dutch Antilles.**

Foreign entrepreneurship in The Netherlands; I

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Poland	190	1.169	2.851	3.347	2.236
Bulgaria	71	130	126	188	1.590
Rumania	65	96	87	106	533
Czech Rep.	29	161	245	242	164
Hungary	65	175	163	189	144
Other	22	131	153	150	98
Total	442	1.862	3.625	4.222	4.765

Foreign entrepreneurship in The Netherlands; II

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Turkey	1.654	1.712	1.927	2.097	2.275
Morocco	861	932	934	989	1.295
Surinam				1.550	
Dutch Antilles				740	

Vulnerable position on labour market

- Terms and conditions according to Dutch CAO: Minimum wages & Insurance.
- Aimed at keeping risks and labour costs for the employers as low as possible
- Migrants often switch between employment agencies: no fixed contracts, not eligible for pension schemes, no pay for overtime work or pregnancy.

The current housing situation

- **Rural areas:**
 - Outside and away from neighbourhoods.
 - Mostly large- scale accommodation
- **Urban areas:**
 - Neighbourhoods with large share of private housing ownership.

Lessons from the past

- **MEE- migrants: Temporary or permanently temporary phenomenon?**
- **Circular migration → Integration becomes a dynamic permanent process.**
- **Large scale accommodation outside neighbourhoods vs Flexible housing within neighbourhoods**

Questions?

Discussion?

Thank you for your attention!

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