



ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands

Retraining Jobseekers for the Changing World of Work

Key facts

The municipality of Rotterdam started giving out training vouchers to residents. These vouchers are to pay for courses and training in professional areas with high demand, given the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Timeframe and funding

The project was launched in September 2020 through the Rotterdam Schooling Fund project.

City population

623,652

Governing body

Municipal Council of Rotterdam

Link

[Rotterdam retrains jobseekers to make them fit for the new economic reality | TheMayor.EU](#)

Main objectives

The key objective of the programme is:

- To increase residents' chances of gaining employment and to help the city of Rotterdam become more economically resilient.

Content and mode of delivery



As many businesses shut down during the pandemic, leading to job cuts, jobseekers and young people, who have limited qualifications, were most affected. In addition, certain industries such as tourism and hospitality recorded high job losses due to social distancing measures. Conversely, industries such as healthcare, IT and technology firms are in urgent need of qualified people. Thus, the Rotterdam Schooling Fund seeks to connect those in need of jobs to sectors in need of personnel, by enabling jobseekers to gain relevant training and education.

Rotterdam is targeting residents who are facing economic challenges, such as those who are jobless but are willing to work and learn, people who are on social security benefits and people whose unemployment benefits expire within three months. The measure also targets young people who have obtained MBO diplomas in 2020 (vocational training which is equivalent to junior college education) in sectors which have no jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These groups of residents are given a 2,500-euro voucher for training, retraining and further training up to the MBO middle management level.

The city of Rotterdam expects that about 300 jobseekers will receive training by the end of 2020.

Stakeholders



The main stakeholders in the project are:

- The City of Rotterdam
- The Rotterdam Schooling Fund project

In addition, Rotterdam aims to expand the programme to reach about 20,000 people over the next 4 years. This expansion would require funding support from the government, social partners and educators.

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