



ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands

Social Return Policy

Key facts

The Municipality of Rotterdam uses social clauses in public procurement, which requires that city contractors employ people furthest away from the labour market. In the Netherlands, this arrangement is known as “the Social Return” which is a reference to the percentage of total contract value that contractors spend on achieving an agreed social outcome.

Timeframe and funding

The programme was first implemented to address the impacts of the 2008 financial crisis, which led to increasing unemployment, poverty and social exclusion in cities.

City population

623,652

Governing body

Municipal Council of Rotterdam

Link

[Purchasing power – Eurocities](#)

Main objectives

The key objective of the programme was:

- To address challenges that come with increasing unemployed, poverty and social exclusion. Including social clauses in contracts which helped the city lower the costs of social benefits and increase social inclusion in the city.

Content and mode of delivery



Under Rotterdam's social return policy, a social return expert reviews every public sector contract worth more than €50.000, for social return opportunities. These contracts must allocate between 0% and 50% of the contract value to providing employment opportunities for Rotterdam's residents. The allocation on average is about 5% per contract. In the first years following the policy, Rotterdam used about €800m in this way, leading to annual savings of €10m to €25m, depending on the number of employed people through this arrangement.

Stakeholders



The programme was built on strong relationships with companies in the city.

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