

dependent on their employer, often an employment agency, for work, registration, health insurance and sometimes even housing. This dependence creates vulnerability for them in the labor market and for their general position in the Dutch society.

Registration

- 57 percent of low-income EU citizens are registered either in the BRP register or in the non-residents register. However, many respondents find the registration system too complex, with 26 percent unsure of their registration status. Simplifying the system could help EU citizens gain better clarity and control over their registration.

Housing

- EU citizens rent their accommodation mostly through the employer or employment agency (62 percent). It is mostly shared rental housing (40 percent) with a shared bedroom and bathroom. Sharing of housing decreases the longer one stays in the Netherlands.
- More than 60 percent of the respondents are satisfied with their housing. Over time, their living arrangements show signs of improvement, with increased movement into private rentals or more permanent housing. However, even after five years, around one-third continue to rent from employers under temporary conditions.

Health and Well-being

- 70 percent of EU citizens rate their health as good or very good. This compares to 78 percent among people without a migration background in the Netherlands. However, three-quarters of respondents reports experiencing anxiety or depressive feelings in the past four weeks, which is highly concerning.
- Trust in Dutch healthcare is mixed: about one-third have strong trust, another third express little trust, and the rest are neutral.

Social and Cultural Integration

- Only about a quarter of EU citizens feel valued in the Netherlands, and one-third feel at home. There is no clear connection between the length of stay and feeling appreciated. Overall, EU-workers with a low income feel less integrated compared to the other migrant groups.
- EU citizens have closer relationships with people from their own background. Many rarely interact with Dutch friends, highlighting limited integration. The results show that EU labor migrants often feel disconnected from Dutch society. Their limited sense of belonging and fewer interactions with locals make integration harder.

Future Expectations and Language Proficiency

- About 23 percent of the respondents plan to stay in the Netherlands permanently, while 15 percent intend to leave within a year. The remaining respondents are unsure of their plans.
- Language barriers remain significant, with nearly 70 percent wanting to improve their Dutch but facing obstacles.

Third-Country Nationals and Displaced Ukrainians

The third-country nationals and displaced Ukrainians generally share similar labor market positions with EU citizens with a comparable income, often working in the same sectors under temporary contracts. However, their position is influenced by the *Richtlijn Tijdelijke Bescherming Oekraïne*, which grants them different labor market rules, and this distinguishes them from third-country nationals.

Conclusion

The goal of ensuring that EU citizens and third-country nationals in low-income jobs are not treated as second-class citizens has not been achieved yet. Significant discrepancies are still evident in some aspects of life and work, and the sense of belonging and appreciation is insufficient. Continuous efforts to improve the position of these groups, who are part of society and often perform essential work for the Dutch economy, therefore seems very important and still accurate.

