

Social Benefits (de uitkering) and WerkBedrijf Region of Nijmegen



Welcome to WerkBedrijf Region of Nijmegen. You have been registered by the municipality (*de gemeente*) at WerkBedrijf because you receive social benefits (*de uitkering*). These social benefits are temporary and not only for status holders, but also for all other people who have no or not enough work.

The money for the social benefits is paid from the income tax paid by all working people in The Netherlands. The Netherlands is a country with good social services and everyone contributes to it. Therefore, anyone who can work, must do that as quickly as possible. In The Netherlands, this may be different from what you are used to in your country of origin. The work contracts you receive are different, and this also your rights and duties as an employee. You will also be faced with another work culture.

WerkBedrijf can help you find work. Sometimes you can also study, for which you receive DUO student grants. This depends on your personal situation. If you work or study, you no longer need social benefits from the municipality.

What does WerkBedrijf do?

WerkBedrijf guides people to work or school, commissioned by the municipality. Sometimes it is not possible to find a job right away. Because you do not yet have the right work experience or the correct language level. To increase your chance of work, if you have A2 level in

the Dutch language, you can follow a training at WerkBedrijf. For example, a 'Job Application' or 'Orientation for Work in the Netherlands'.

What can you Expect from WerkBedrijf?

Intake

WerkBedrijf would like to know what work you want and can do and what education you have had. Therefore, you will first receive an invitation to digitally fill in a questionnaire at WerkBedrijf. A week later, you will have an interview with a consultant at WerkBedrijf. In that conversation, you will look at what you have filled in in the questionnaire. You discuss:

- what your work experience is;
- what your qualities are;
- what you want and can do and;
- how we can support you.

Note: the information you give about your background will not be shared with IND. The information helps WerkBedrijf to find you a job that fits you.

Support

a. Contact person (consulent)

If we have a clear idea of what you want and can do, you will get a contact person. This contact person (consulent) will guide you until you find a job.

If you can work, your consultant will look for suitable job opportunities for you. Sometimes you also receive an invitation for group meetings at WerkBedrijf. Here you meet other jobseekers and discuss vacancies together.

b. Find a job yourself

Of course, you can also find work yourself. There are many employment agencies (uitzendbureaus) in The Netherlands that may have work for you. An employment agency seeks employees for companies. You can also find vacancies via the internet. You can get a list from your contact person with names of employment agencies and internet addresses of job vacancy websites.

c. Not yet ready for regular work?

Are you not able to find a paid job, because you do not have the right work experience or the right language level yet? Then there is a chance to get active through WerkBedrijf while keeping the social benefits. In this way you will improve your language skills and build a network. The goal is, of course, that you eventually will find regular work. Perhaps it takes longer to find work than you would like. It's important not to let your courage slip and stay motivated. Your first job in The Netherlands may not be your dream job, but every job is the start of a career.

Can you Keep Social Benefits while Working?

If you work and earn money, you will **no longer need social benefits**. This must be communicated to the municipality. You are obliged to be honest about the money you earn. The amount you receive from the municipality will then be adjusted. If you will earn more than you receive as benefits, you will stop receiving social benefits.

What happens when you Lose your Job?

If you become unemployed and it is not your own decision, you will receive the social benefits again. If the work ends because your contract expires, you can apply again to have the social benefits and you receive them again. If you **resign from the job yourself**, you will not receive

benefits for a while. **Therefore, we advise you to first find a new job before you cancel your old job.**

If you **are fired because of your own fault**, you will find it difficult to receive the social benefits again. For example, due to not showing up at work or because of aggressive behaviour or theft.

What are your Responsibilities when you receive Social Benefits?

If you are receiving benefits and are registered at WerkBedrijf, you must take into account:

- If WerkBedrijf or the municipality invites you, you must come.
- If you are not able to come, please let us know by sending an e-mail or call.
- If something changes in your situation, you must immediately report this at WerkBedrijf and the municipality. For example, if you are moving or if you start living together with someone.

Please note: there can be serious consequences if you receive social benefits and you do not report all other income you receive.

Finally

We wish you good luck in finding a job and hope that you will build a beautiful future in The Netherlands.

For more information about WerkBedrijf you can find at www.werkbedrijfvrn.nl. Here you can also find job vacancies.

