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## THE PROS AND CONS OF QUID PRO QUO

*Client impact of obligatory participation in voluntary work  
as variety of conditional welfare*

Paul van der Aa & Chris de Vries

# Main argument

- ▶ **Programme design and implementation matter** for client impact of conditional welfare, especially:
  - ▶ The nature of behavioural obligations
  - ▶ Clients choice in determining the nature of the obligation
  - ▶ Nature and use of sanctioning policies
- ▶ Relevance for justification of conditional welfare
- ▶ **Dutch case of the ‘Tegenprestatie’** shows an overall **positive client impact**

# AGENDA

1. Client impact of conditional welfare: the case for a contextualised perspective
2. Case: client impact of the ‘Tegenprestatie’ programme in a Dutch city
3. Research design
4. Main findings on client impact
5. Concluding remarks

# Why a contextualised perspective on conditionality?

- ▶ **Diversity of welfare to work programmes**
- ▶ **Diverse programmes -> diverse client impact?**
- ▶ **What matters:**
  - ▶ The nature of behavioural obligations
  - ▶ Clients choice in determining the nature of the obligation
  - ▶ Nature and use of **sanctioning** policies

Content

Implementation

# The Dutch 'Tegenprestatie' or Quid pro quo

- Long term **social assistance** recipients
- Obligation: engage in **socially useful activities**
- Characteristics:
  - **Broadly defined** condition
  - **Individual choice**
  - **Little sanctioning** in practice

**A most different case**

# How we studied client impact

- ▶ Questionnaire
- ▶ Programme participants
- ▶ Self perceived impact on various dimensions
- ▶ Representative sample of 359

## Perceived development on 6 indicators after participating in the 'Tegenprestatie'

Type of 'Tegenprestatie' - > indicator	Voluntary work (n = 296)		Informal care (n = 93)	
	Improved	Deteriorated	Improved	Deteriorated
social contacts	65%	2%	12%	9%
self esteem	56%	2%	55%	4%
quality of life	50%	5%	26%	14%
self confidence	45%	4%	30%	3%
chances to find work	21%	0%	15%	0%
health	20%	9%	0%	16%
None of the above	18%	84%	35%	76%

## Perceived advantages of participating in the 'Tegenprestatie'

Type of 'Tegenprestatie' ->	Voluntary work (n=296)		Informal care (n=93)	
	agree	disagree	agree	disagree
<b>contribution to society</b>	92%	3%	85%	7%
<b>useful activities</b>	90%	6%	86%	4%
<b>appreciation by others</b>	78%	12%	77%	14%
<b>learning new things</b>	71%	29%	31%	69%



# Discussion

- ▶ Nature of conditionality affects client impact
- ▶ **Conditionality, a necessary condition?**
- ▶ Long term impact?
- ▶ Further comparative research



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**exceed** expectations