

SyRI — the Dutch welfare-fraud system struck down by the courts

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Netherlands

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

SyRI linked citizens' data to flag welfare-fraud risk in poorer neighbourhoods. In 2020 a Dutch court halted it for violating the right to privacy (ECHR Art. 8) — a landmark cautionary case in public-sector AI.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE evaluation](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[OHCHR — landmark ruling](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[AlgorithmWatch — how SyRI was banned](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

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