



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 16.44 million at the end of August 2008.¹
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 100.
- Links to Probation Services:
 - www.reclassering.nl (Reclassering Nederland: Dutch Probation Foundation);
 - www.legerdesheils.nl (Salvation Army);
 - www.svg.nl (Salvation Rehabilitation of Addicted Offenders).
- Links to websites:
 - www.justitie.nl (Ministry of Justice);
 - www.jeugdzorg-en-reclassering.nl.
- Member of the CEP in: the biggest private probation organisation (Reclassering Nederland) became CEP member since its foundation in 1981. The predecessor of Reclassering Nederland was one of its founders.

Characteristics of the Probation Services

- The Minister of Justice is politically responsible for the (non state) probation organizations.
- The three private probation organizations are for 100% funded by the State:
 - Reclassering Nederland (the Dutch Probation Foundation): no specific target group; 63% of the budget, 1,500 full time jobs.
 - Social Rehabilitation of Addicted Offenders (SvG): target group: a direct relationship between the offender's dependency on/addiction to alcohol, drugs and the offence; 11 branch offices, 28% of the budget, 450 full time jobs.
 - Salvation Army: probation clients that are homeless and juveniles in multi-problem situations; 8% of the overall budget, 220 full time jobs.
- Within each of the 19 districts, probation counters are located in the offices of the Public Prosecutors agency for registration, selection and allocation.
- The probation organizations have a centralized organization with regional offices. These offices maintain contact with the partners in the judicial chain (Public Prosecuting Office, Custodial institutions, Police)

¹ International Centre for Prison Studies (2009), *Prison Brief for the Netherlands*. London: King's College. Available online at: www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/icps/worldbrief/

and with the municipalities to deliver service geared to the type of problems as defined them.

- The Probation Services provides services to adults only; for minor offenders there are separate organisations.

Tasks

The tasks of the Probation Service are closely intertwined with the criminal justice process. The Service is active in every phase of the criminal justice process, from arrest to enforcement. The tasks are the following:

- Diagnosis and advice;
- Supervision of conditional sanction modalities;
- Performing behavioural interventions;
- Performing task penalties, in particular labour penalties.

The Probation Service can only perform probation activities as commissioned by the judicial authorities: the Public Prosecutor Service, the judiciary and the prison system. That means that there is no 'voluntary contact' with detainees.

Ex-detainees are not supervised by the Probation Service, unless this is within the framework of the Penitentiary Programme (in that case, detention is still continuing) or for the conditional release if special conditions have been imposed; the Probation Service then supervises and helps to achieve compliance with those conditions.

Number of staff

	RN	SvG	Salvation Army	Total
Management:	159	23	27	209
Executive personnel:	1,153	573	168	1,894
Administrative personnel:	159	85	23	267
Total	1,471	681	218	2,370

- Daily average number of offenders/clients dealt with: -

New developments

- A large and extensive project to increase the number of conditional sanctions as alternative to non-suspended prison sentence started in 2006 (31% of the prison sentences is < one month).
- A new law on conditional release with –if needed- supervision by the probation service came into force in July 2008.
- A project was set up in 2008 to improve transition from penitentiary institutions to community (70% of the detainees is sentences again within six years).
- A project to modernize the task of advice and supervision was set up (2008).

- The Dutch probation aims to strengthen ties with the world of science: research programmes, improved education and training, special 'probation' Professors and Lecturers in universities and schools of social work.

Probation during the different stages of the criminal procedure

	Pre-trial phase	Trial and enforcement phase	Post-release phase
Preparing a social enquiry report/recommendation request	x	x	x
Early help/intervention (during the period of arrest at the police station)	x		
Supervision/assistance to pre-trial detainees	x		
Supervision/assistance etc. to offenders whose cases are conditionally waived	x		
Supervision/assistance to offenders whose pre-trial detention has been conditionally suspended	x		
Supervising/organizing etc. community service	x	x	
Supervising/organizing training or learning projects	x	x	
Supervising etc. drug/alcohol treatment programmes	x	x	
Pre-sentence report	x	x	
Supervising etc. suspended sentence	x	x	
Supervising etc. mentally ill or retarded offenders (in-out patient orders)		x	x
Supervising etc. special measures for drug addicts	x	x	x
Supervising etc. conditional release/parole			x
Advisory report with respect to amnesty/pardon		x	x
Assistance/support to persons who are granted amnesty/pardon			x
Supervising a custody probation order		x	

This summary is based on the country chapter in the book *Probation in Europe*, the most comprehensive survey of probation systems and services in Europe today. If you wish to order it, please click [here](#).

