

# Dutch Probation Service

International Office

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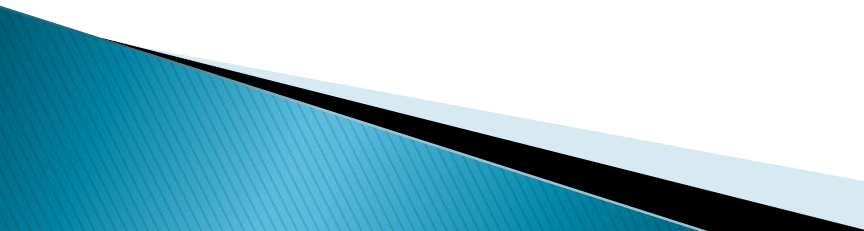
# Since 1975

- ▶ Small country with a lot of ‘abroad’
- ▶ Travel-loving people

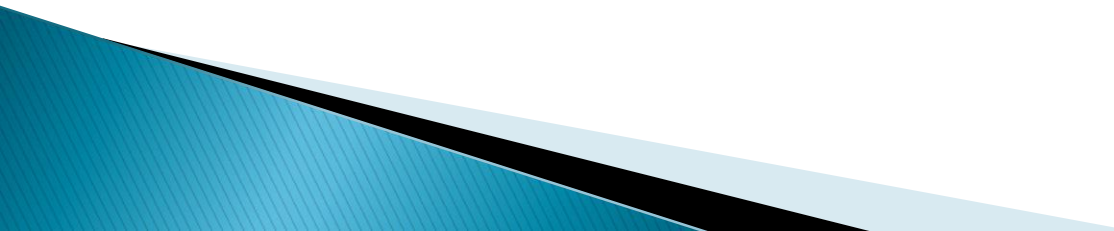


- ▶ Before 1975: foreign contacts of individual probation officers in border regions (Belgium, Germany)
- ▶ 1975: Establishment of Bureau Buitenland
- ▶ 1997: Substantial expansion and intensification through permanent subsidy injection from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

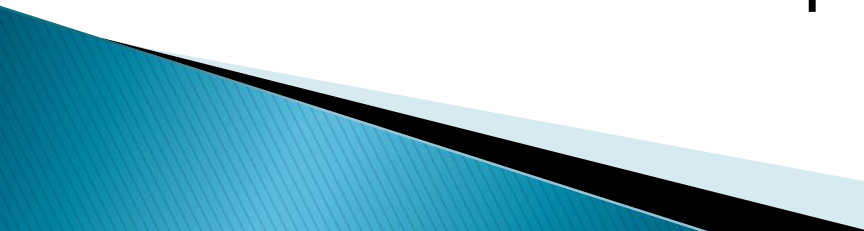
# The actual work takes place abroad

- ▶ On a daily basis an average of 2000 Dutch prisoners (3/4 in EU countries)
  - ▶ Visited and coached by a worldwide network of about 300 volunteers
  - ▶ Guidance usually takes place in direct contact with Dutch embassies, consulates and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - ▶ Where possible contact with fellow probation officers, prison staff, etc. (options vary by country)
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# Ultimate goal

- ▶ Limiting additional damage caused by foreign detention (isolation problem due to distance, culture and language)
  - ▶ Preparing for return of prisoner to Dutch society
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# What we do and how we do it

- ▶ Importance of having volunteers world wide
  - ▶ Educational opportunities for Dutch Nationals imprisoned abroad (via the Foundation for Education Behind Foreign Prison Bars)
  - ▶ Due to Covid far less visits
  - ▶ Alternatives (mostly writing and rarely SKYPE or Zoom)
  - ▶ Importance of after care/ follow-up care, based on information received from volunteers
  - ▶ Our volunteers report in a secured portal
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# What we do and how we do it

- ▶ Detainees are visited once every 6 weeks (prior to Covid)
  - ▶ Permission to visit is largely arranged in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - ▶ We provide two-day introductory course for our new volunteers
  - ▶ Organize webmeetings for our volunteers
  - ▶ Regional coordinators (based in Utrecht) also coach the volunteers (respond to reports)
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