

Smart Sanctioning in the Netherlands

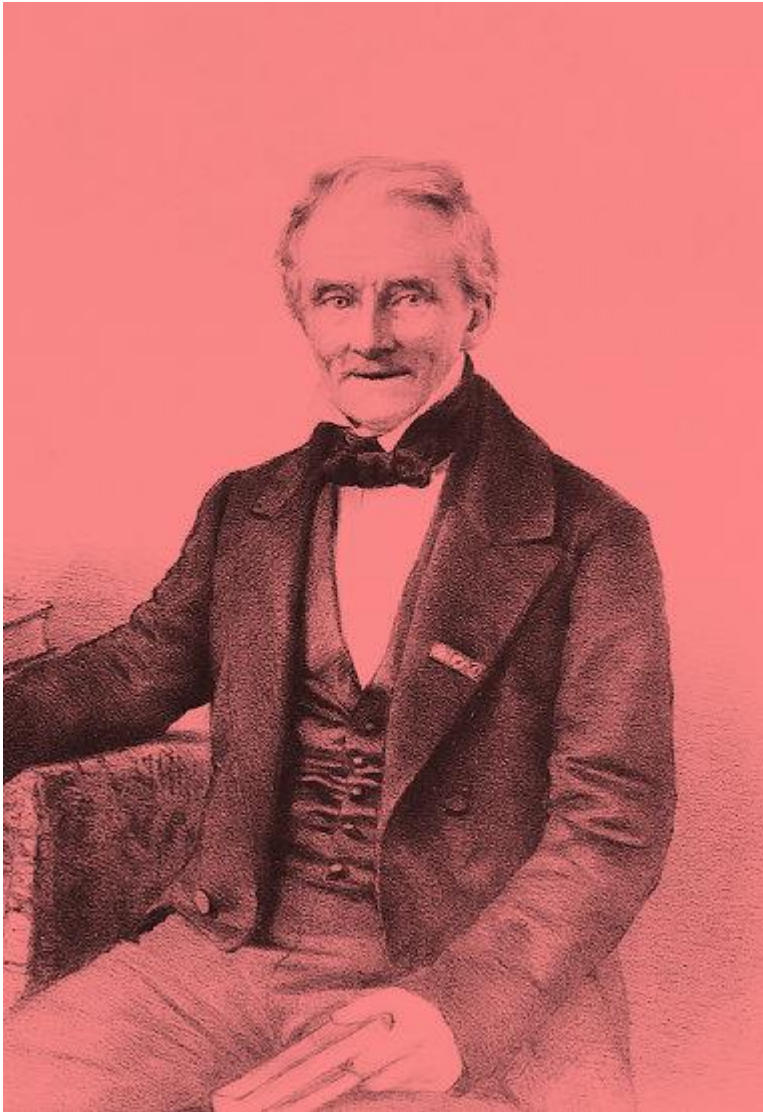


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Director general

Dutch Probation Service

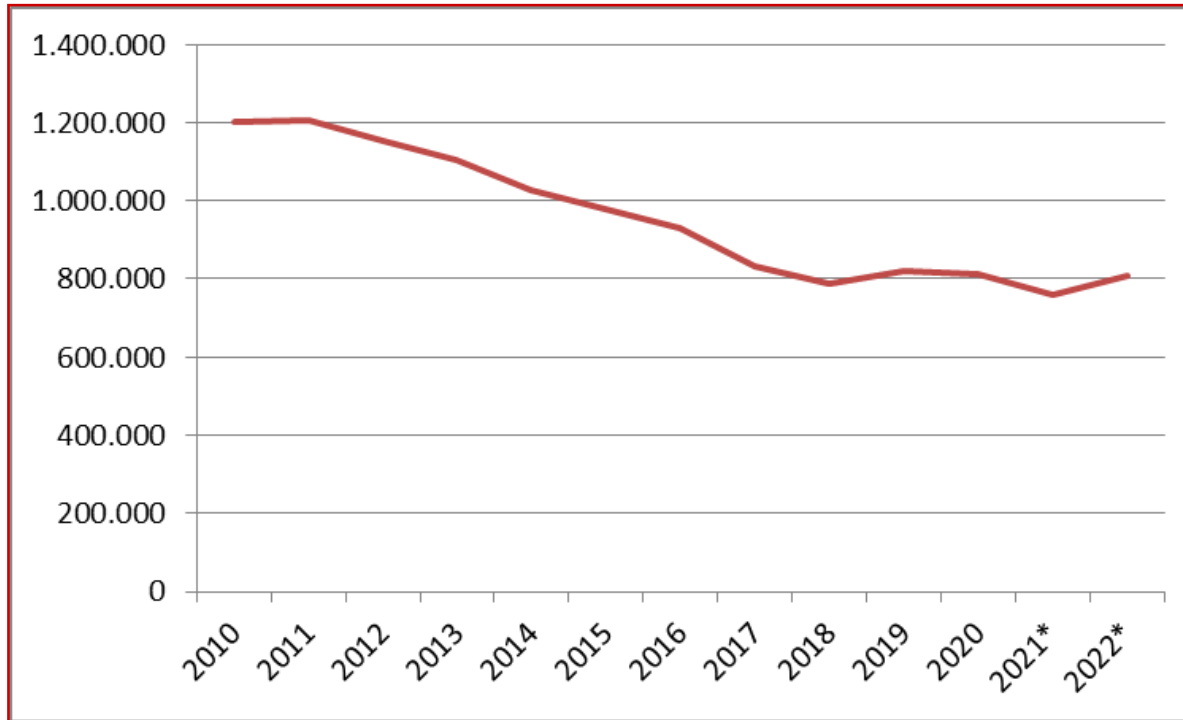
Short history of 200 years Dutch Probation



- Private initiative and volunteers
- More judicial instruments and tasks
- Funding by the government and stricter requirements
- Humanization
- Stronger ties with government, criminal justice partners and science

Some facts & figures (1)

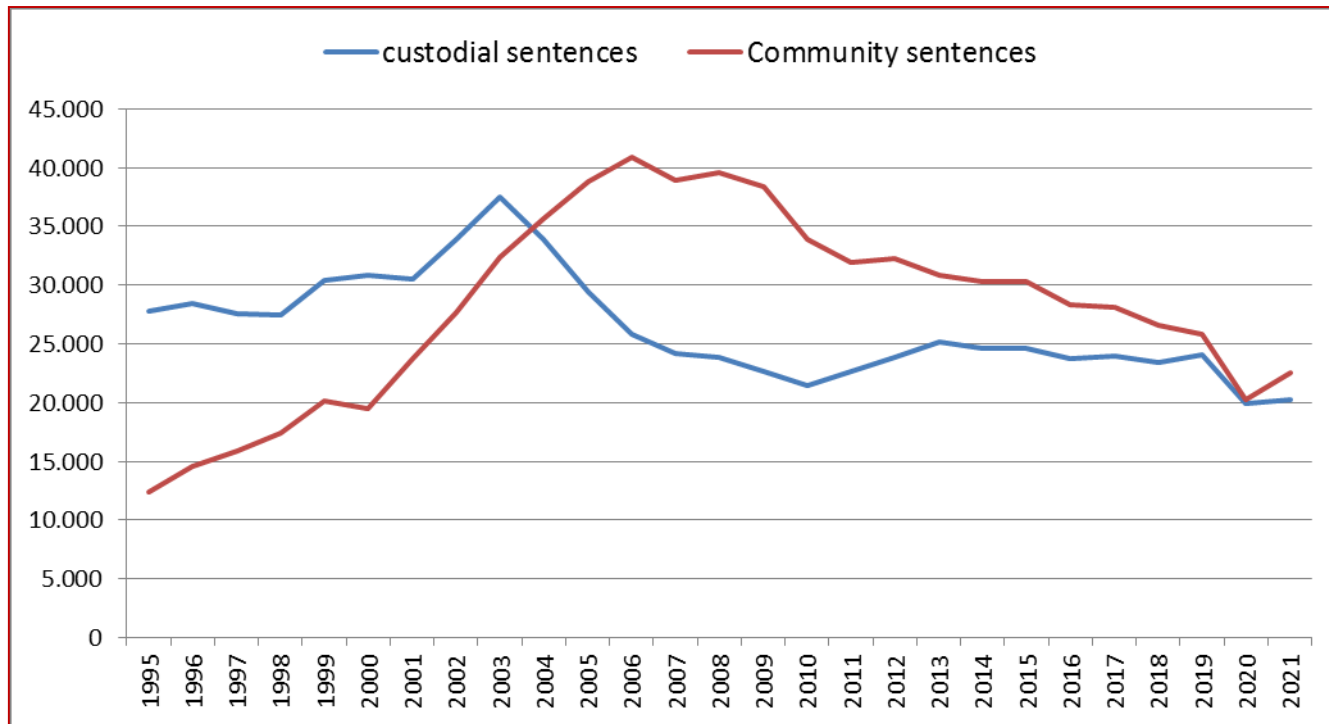
Registered crimes in the Netherlands 2010 – 2022



*Source: CBS (Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics)

Some facts & figures (2)

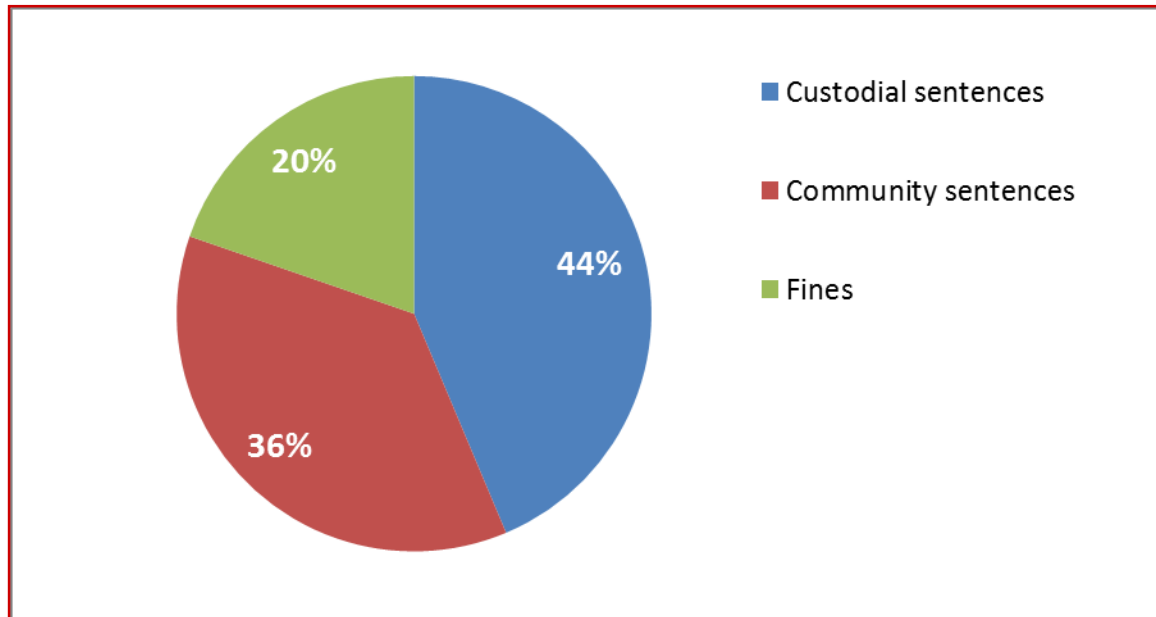
Custodial and community sentences 1995-2021*



* Source: CBS (Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics)

Some facts & figures (3)

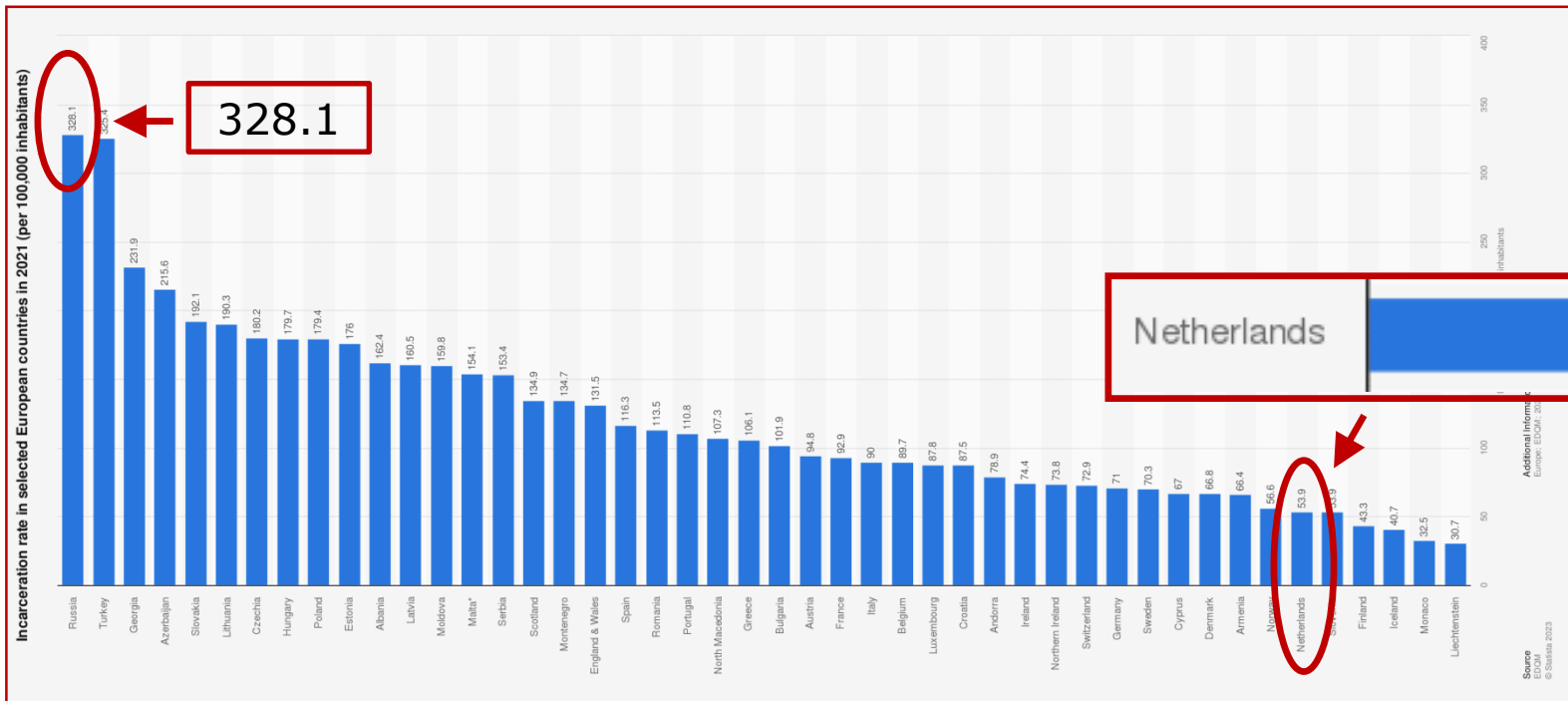
Distribution of sentences (=80.000) in the Netherlands in 2021*



*Source: Criminaliteit en rechtshandhaving 2021. Ontwikkelingen en samenhangen, p. 70-78

Some facts & figures (4)

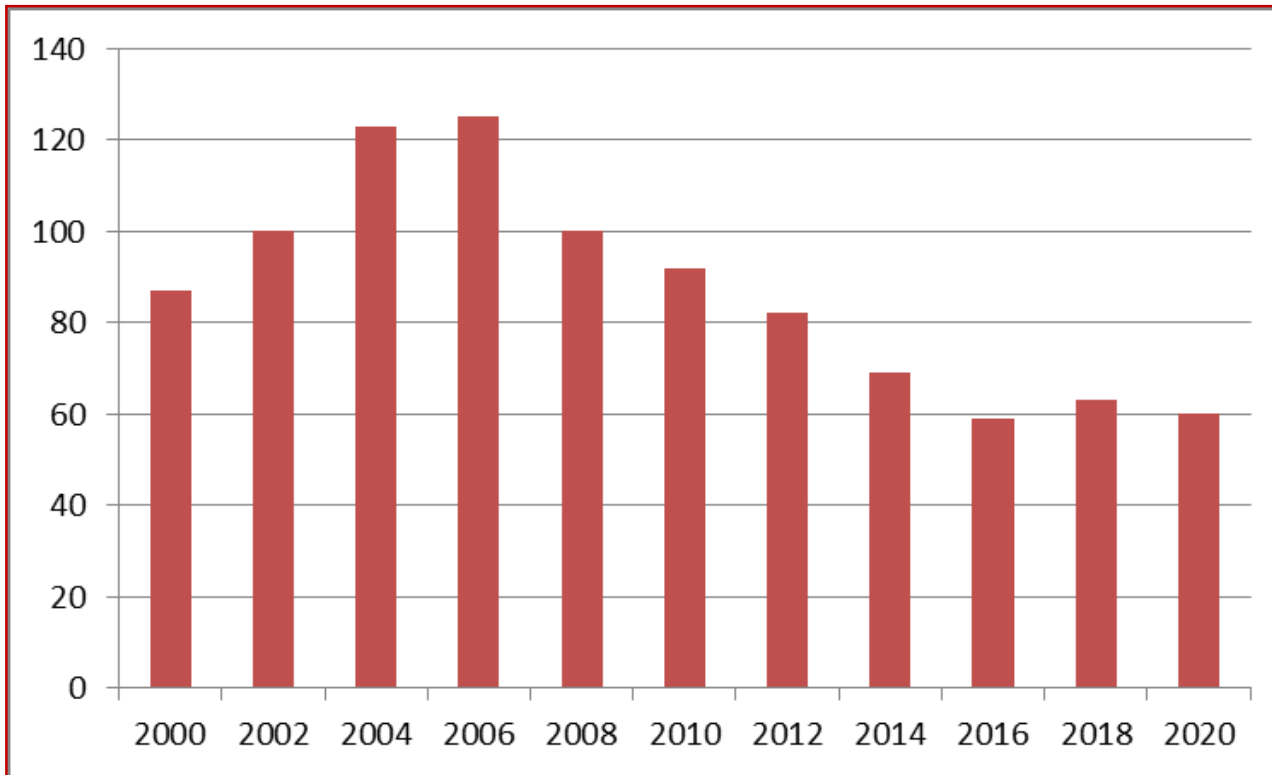
Incarceration rate European countries in 2021, per 100.000*



*Source: Statista

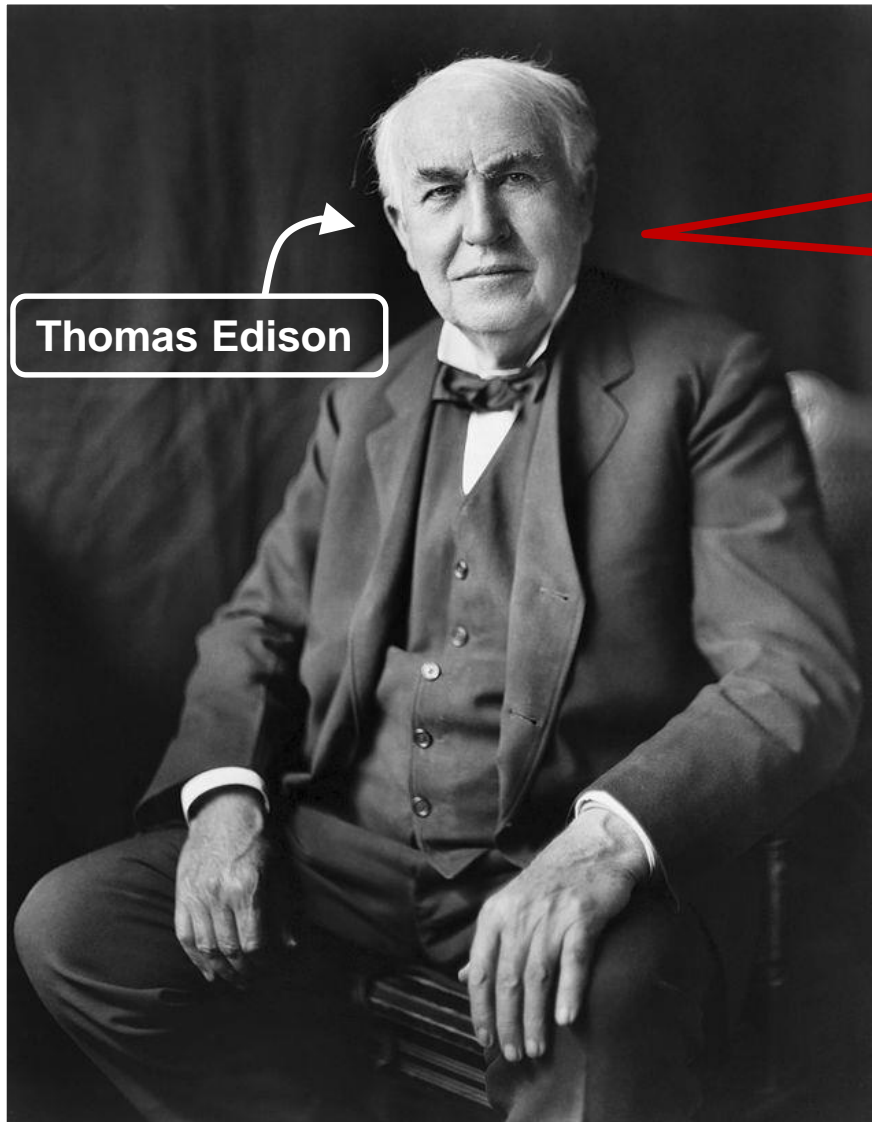
Some facts & figures (4)

Incarceration rate in the Netherlands 2000-2020, per 100.000*



*Source: World Prison Brief data

Nevertheless... let's rethink our Penal System



Thomas Edison

There's a **better** way to do...

Find it!

**Better, and smarter!
Because...**

Better and smarter because...

- **Imprisonment**
 - is not effective to reduce recidivism
 - is expensive
 - Daily costs
 - In the long run (→ recidivism)
 - does harm (to prisoners and their family)
- **Community service**
 - is effective to reduce recidivism
 - is a humane way to retribute (and make amends)
- **Supervision + EM** is effective to reduce recidivism
- **Restorative justice** is effective to reduce recidivism
- **Some people** need (mental) care



So what do we propose?

- Less (short) custodial sentences, and instead...
- More and/or longer community service orders
- Community service including learning basic skills
- More supervision with electronic monitoring
- Electronic detention
- Restorative justice whenever possible
- (early) diversion, e.g. to mental health institutions

- Strategy
 - longitudinal research
 - influencing public opinion via media & political lobbying



- Thoughts?
- Questions?

Thank you for your attention



Johan Bac
Director general

