

The Dutch probation: working on a safer society

Presentation by Ellen Sinnige
(director of probation service for
addicted offenders)

T. Stecke

The Dutch Probation



**NATIONALE
RECLASSERINGS
DAG**

COLLECTE 17 JUNI 1950

NATIONALE RECLASSEERINGS-DAG

VAN DE INSTELLINGEN VAN ALLE GEZINDTEN



Year 1823:

A private initiative
launched;

“Netherlands Society for
the moral improvement of
prisoners.”

No formal relation with the
government.

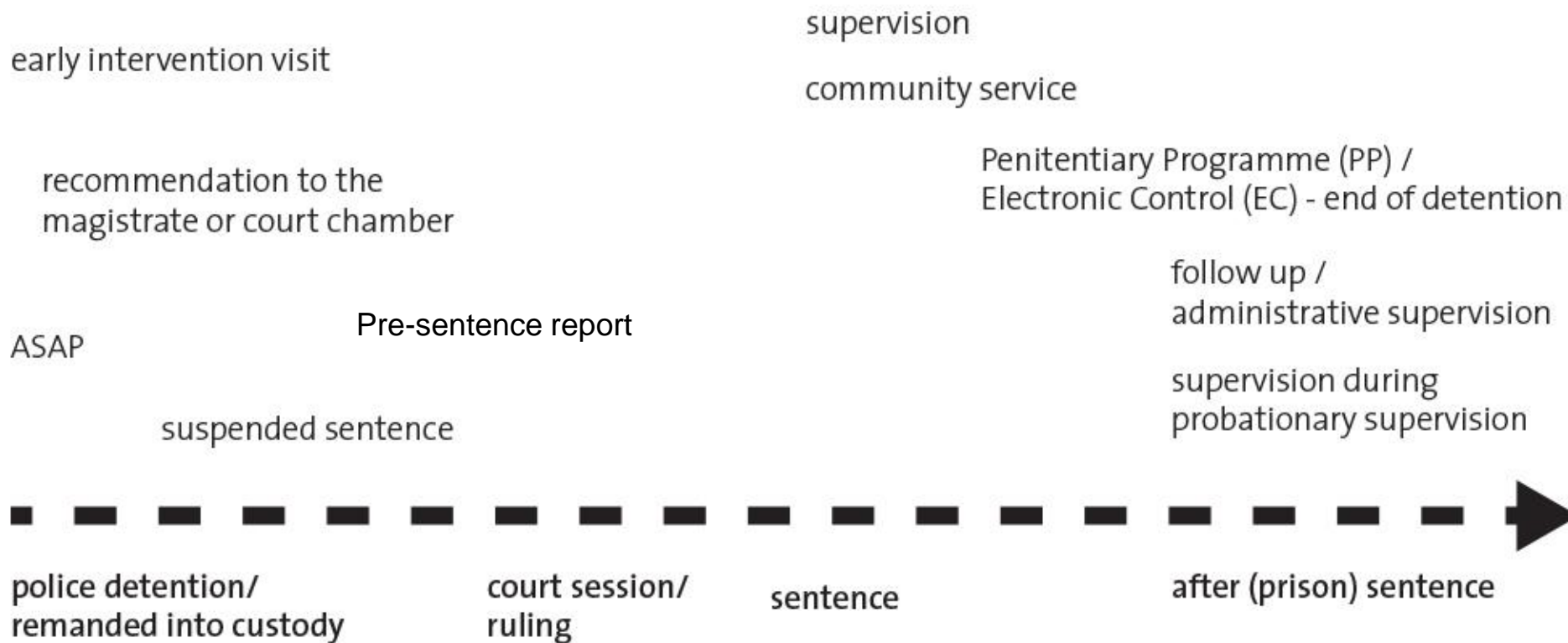
Now:

Probation act (first act 1910)
3 private organisations
Highly professionally
organized

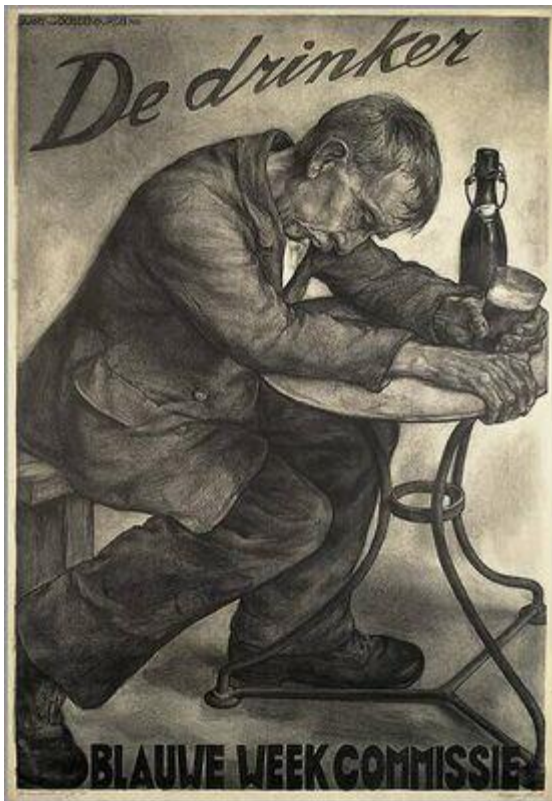
Mission statement

- Reduction in recidivism
- Punishment alone not effective: a combination of punishment and support is needed
- Focus on behavioral change & risk management
- A safer society

Constant factor in criminal justice chain



But



Structure (1)

- Three **PRIVATE** probation services:
 - **Dutch Probation Service**
 - Reclassering Nederland
 - **Probation service for addicted offenders**
 - Stichting Verslavingsreclassering GGZ - SVG
 - 10 private organisations for mental health and addiction
 - Only these 10 are allowed to execute probation services
 - **Salvation Army**
 - Leger des Heils Jeugdbescherming en Reclassering

Structure (2)

- Close cooperation between the 3 organisations:
 - Distribution of clients based on characteristics of clients
 - Accountability towards ministry
 - Joint supporting services (e.g. education, registration system)
 - Service definitions and development
 - Staff
 - Offices
- Directors represent probation on accounts

Current position in the justice system

- Prosecution and prison service act as commissioning clients
- Budget comes from the Ministry of Justice and Safety
- Annual negotiations about the required effort based on long term prognoses of crime rates

Financial facts and figures

- Annual budget
 - 2015: 208.8 million
 - 2016: 216.3 million
 - 2017: 218.8 million

Yearly budget prison services 2 billion

- Steady division over the 3 organisations:
 - 60% - 30% - 10%
- Based on $P \times Q$ (Price x Quantity) and lump sum



Current position in the political field

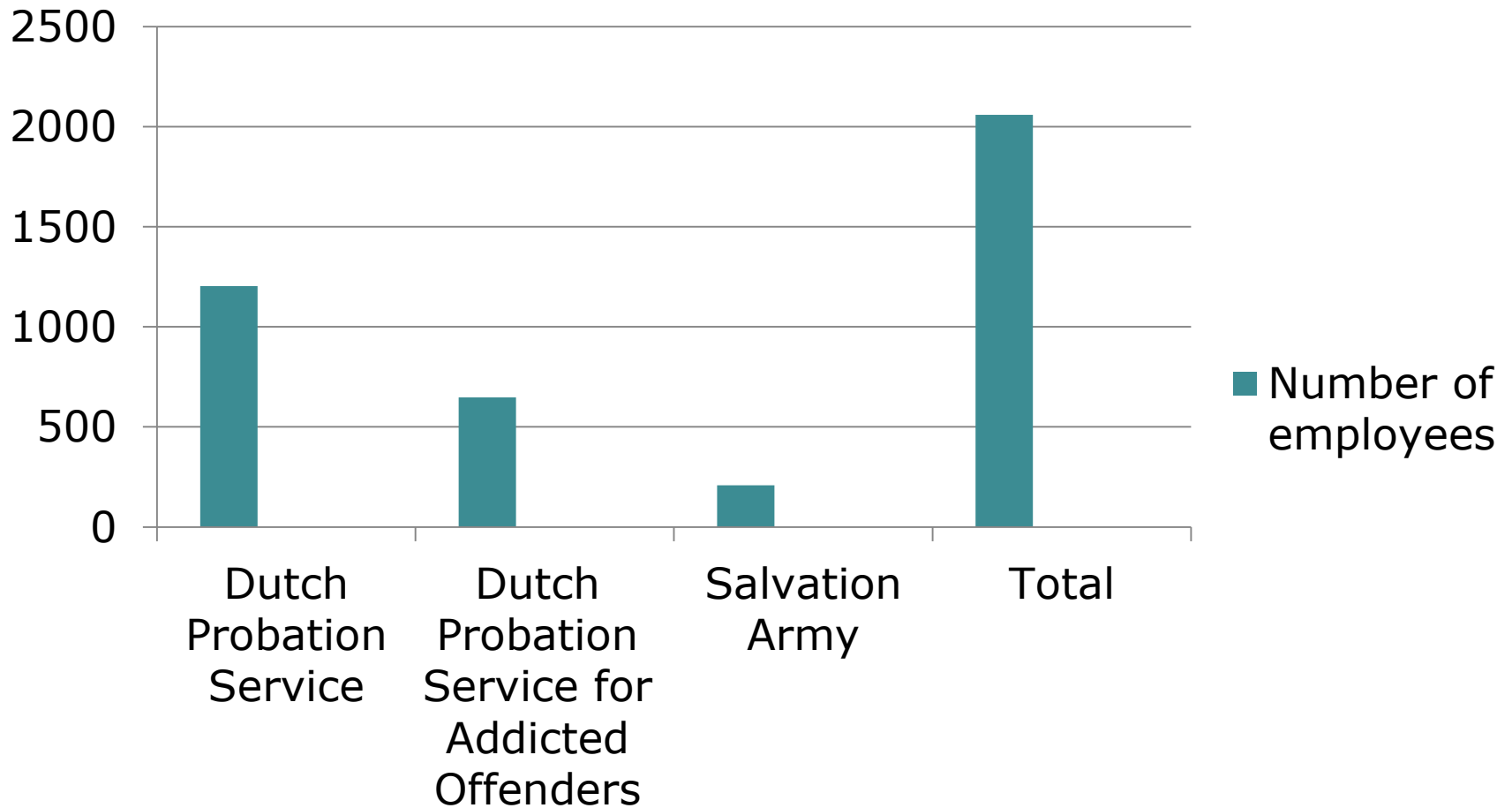
- Probation and Ministry of Justice and Safety work together on joint topics and projects, inspired by political priorities
- Sometimes we disagree on how to carry out our work!



Main challenges in the political field

- Delicate process: political lobby versus good relation with civil servants
- Many political parties (14)
- How to deal with reducing crime rates?
- Probation versus Penitentiary services

Employees 2016



The system

- A balancing act
 - Between the three organisations
 - Between the three organisations and ministry
- Independent
 - in executing and developing services
 - in the way we are organised
 - in taking position in political discussions
- A stable and strong position in the justice system
 - Environment is changing

Questions?

