Suicide Prevention Dutch Railways



Outline presentation

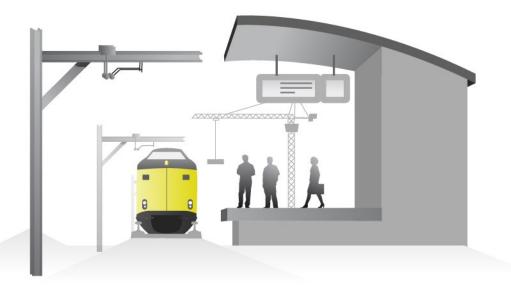
- Dutch Railways
- History programme
- Facts and figures
- Starting points programme
- Media and communication starting points
- Technical and soft measures
- First results and future

Our Mission

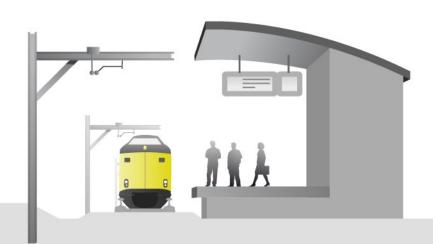
ProRail connects people, cities and businesses by a dense, intensively used rail network.

ProRail provides a secure, reliable, punctual and sustainable rail network and comfortable stations, in conjunction with operators and partners.

Our professionals work efficiently and cost-consciously on a rail network focused on pleasant passenger travel and unobstructed freight transport.



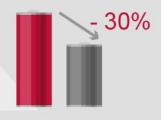
Our Ambition











Safe rail

Zero avoidable accidents

Reliable rail

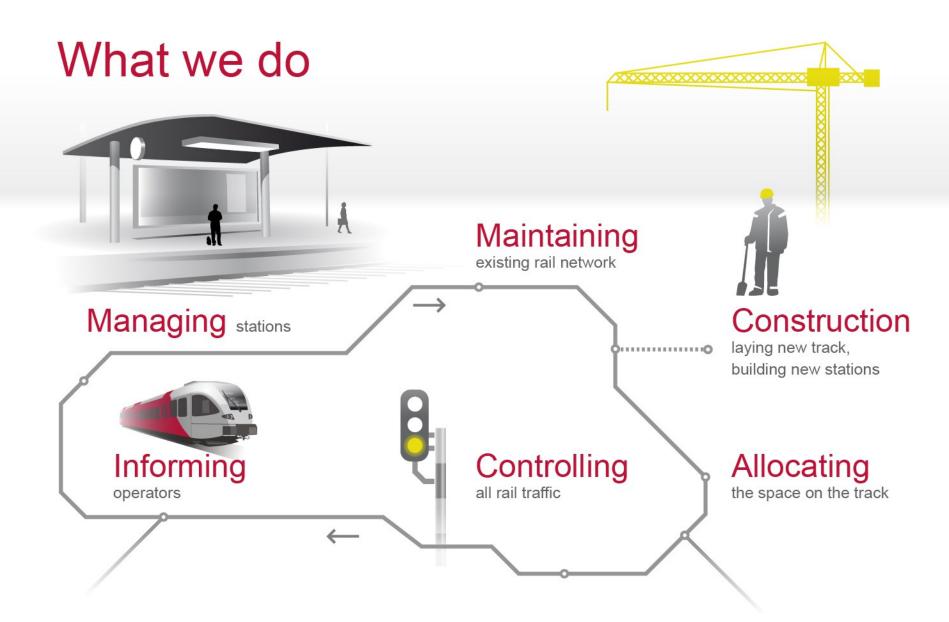
Zero avoidable disruptions - 30%

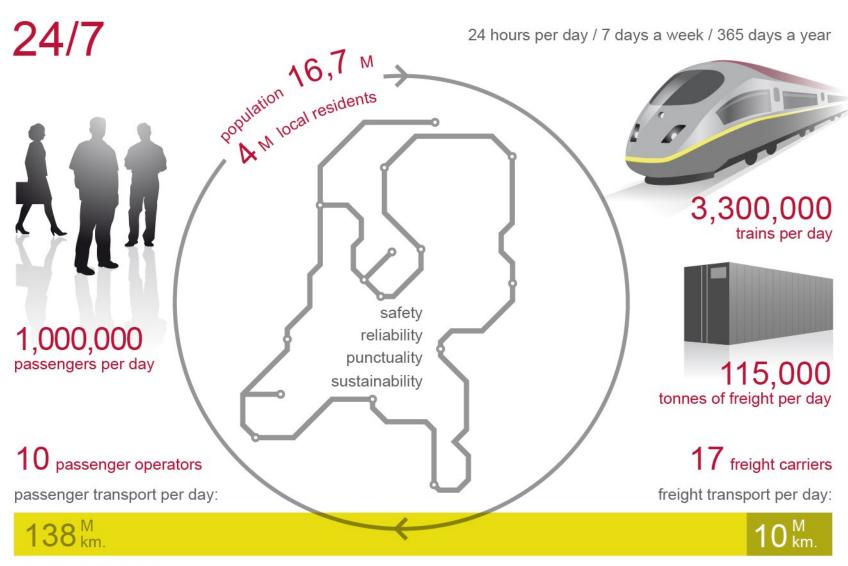
Punctual rail

Further increase in punctuality

Sustainable rail

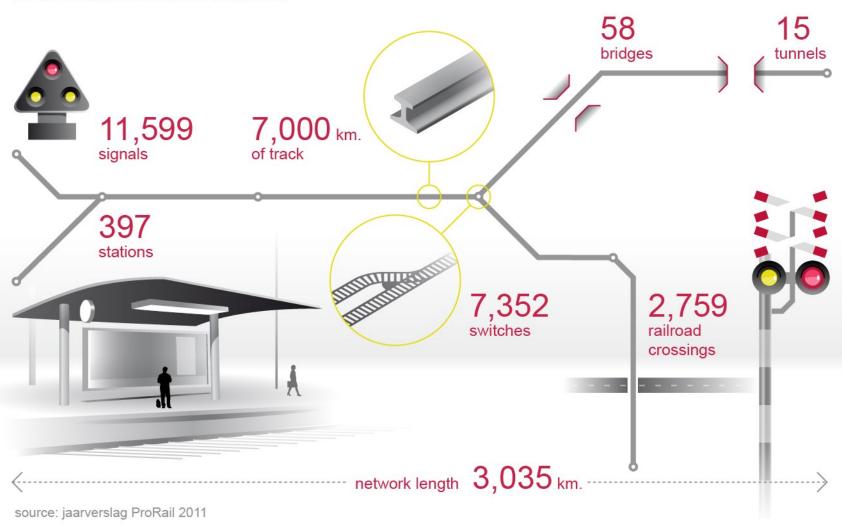
- Less energy consumption
- Highest rung on the CO₂ performance ladder



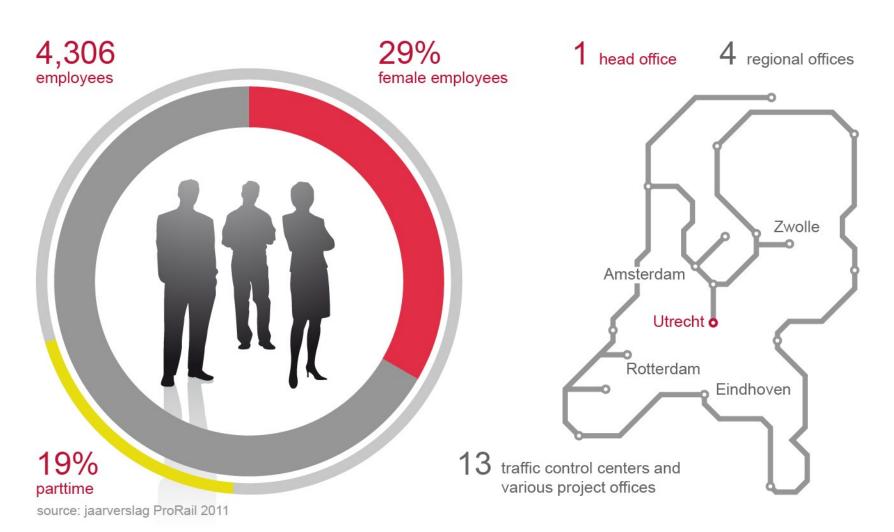


source: jaarverslag ProRail 2011

Infrastructure



Our Professionals



Our customers









Z - L - S - M



NedTrain





























Rurtalbahn



Rotterdam Rail Feeding













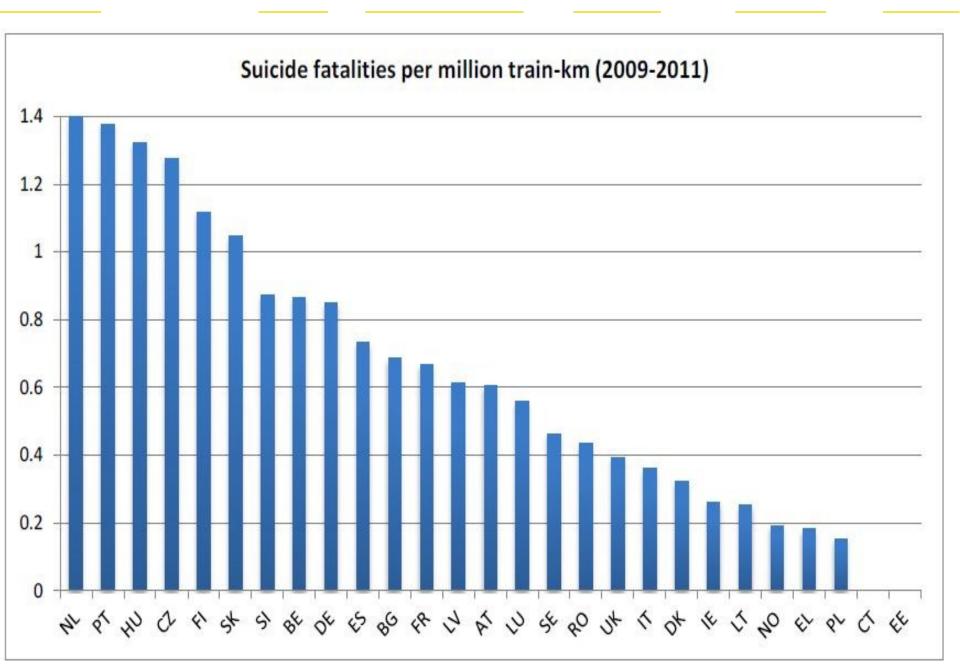






Facts and figures suicides

- On average 200 suicides a year
- Major impact on railway personnel (at least 3 days l.t.i.)
- On average 2.5 hours breakdown time (availability of the railway)
- 58% access at level crossings, 22% off platforms, 18% incidents along the tracks, 2% other locations
- 60% of the suicidal people are/were treated at a mental health institution (nearby).
- Most victims commit suicide in a delusional phase
- Sensational appeal in the media. Unwanted high risk of copy cat behaviour.



Suicides: a focussed approach

Prevention Railway Suicide programme (2010-2015)

Assigned by the ministery of Transportation: There is insight in railway suicide for the purpose of developing and implementing effective measures to reduce incidents.

Goals:

- 1. Prevention of railway suicide
- 2. Reduction of railway breakdown time

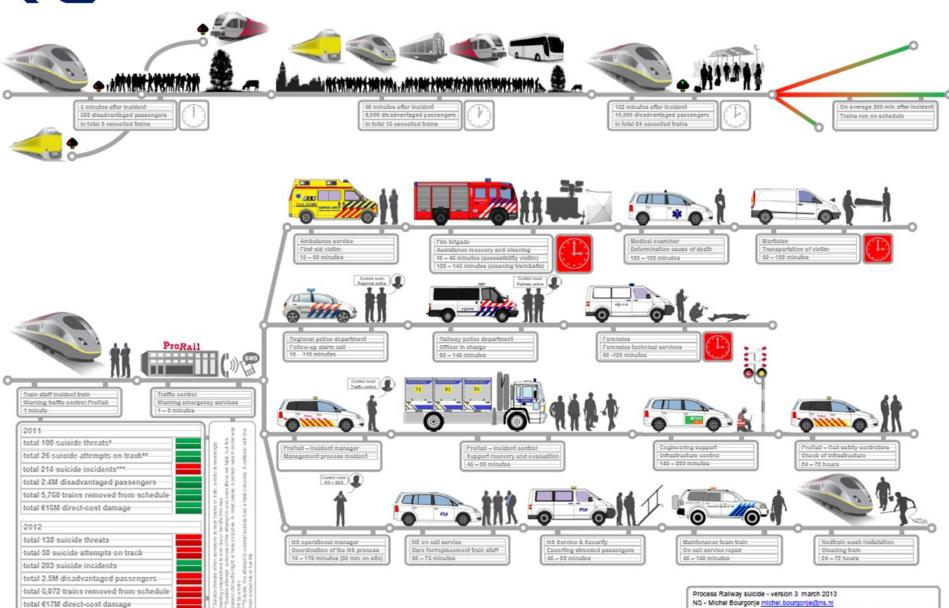
Emphasis on 4 key projects:

- 1. Registration & effect analysis (analysis of effectiveness of preventive measures & improving registration)
- 2. Measures & pilots (determining 'hard' & 'soft' measures)
- 3. (Scientific) Research & Development and Communication
- 4. Improving incident management & decreasing breakdown time



Process railway suicide





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Programme Suicide Prevention

Major social issue

Insight into complex problem

Problem for railways

Technical and soft measures

Major impact on people involved

Impact on availability of tracks

Cooperation stakeholders

2,5 hours breakdown time

Thorough analysis, research and experience

100,000 euros direct costs per incident

Complex communication

Media guidelines and cooperation

Focus Programme

- The national number of suicide in The Netherlands increases, on the railway it seems to stay the same (high and low exceptions)
- We are able to reduce the number of incidents on specific locations (40% reduction), but this also leads to a shift to other locations
- Which is why we are now trying to implement measures in a joining area
- We keep analysing how incidents and trends develop and what side effects occur then finetune our measures
- Communication is an important risk factor, should be dealt with precision and focus

Complex communication

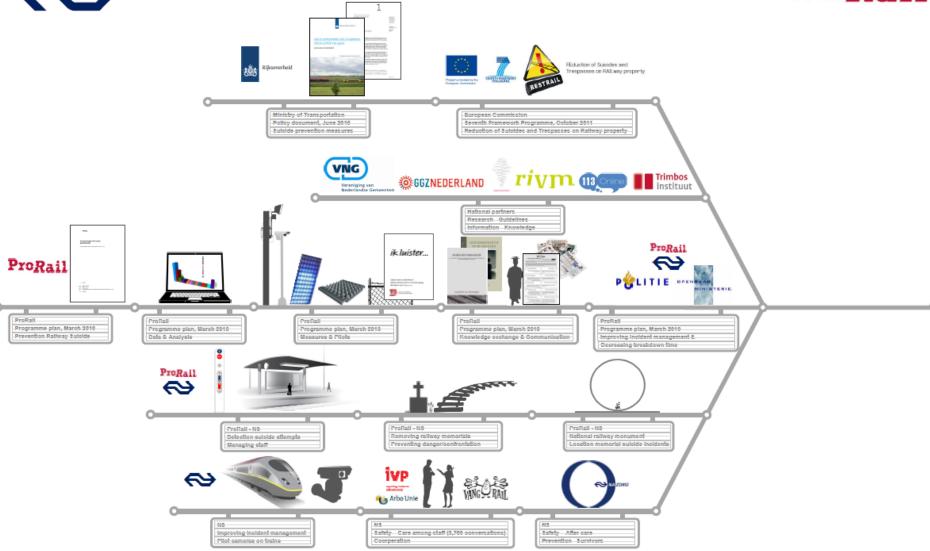
Risk of copy cat behaviour

- Emphasise complexity of suicide and focus on the correct context
- Use **neutral words**, no sensation or romantisising
- Prevent 'framing': no fixed combination of railway and suicide.
- No overrepresentation of the train as a means for suicide.
- No specific locations: they could become suicide spots.
- No specific details on the execution of the suicide. We don't want to give people a manual.
- Emphasise the **prospect of help**. This can have a positive effect.



Prevention measures railway suicide





Prevention measures railway sulcide - version 3 march 2013
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First results (2010-2012) (1)

- International conference in 2011 at promotion of dr Cornelis van Houwelingen on Railway suicide.
- Good and accessible system for data registration and effect analysis
- Technical measures in 2011 at 14 high risk locations throughout the country
- Setting up stakeholder management





June 2013 Paris RESTRAIL

First results (2010-2012) (2)

- Start of international collaboration in international programma FP7: Restrail.
- Official collaboration with 113Online
- Effective pilot with signs near the tracks leading to anonymous psychic help
- Pilot checklist for speeding up the diagnosis after an incident.
- Collaboration with NS on prevention activities
- Media guideline for journalists and developing one media message for the railway sector







What's happening now? (2013) (1)

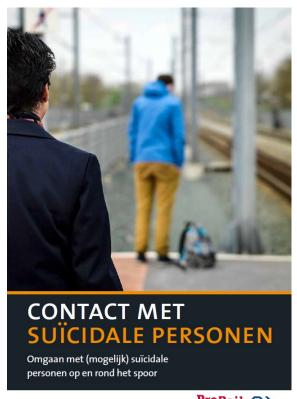
- •Technical (and soft) measures in place based on an "area approach" in the southern part of the Netherlands (Eindhoven)
- Measures at 12 extra risk locations

 Pilot sessions course railway personnel 'Contact with (possible) suicidal persons'

 Feasibility study 'Blue light' on high risk stations and level crossings







What's happening now? (2013) (2)

- Continuous monitoring effect measures area approach and new area research
- Pilot cameras on trains for decreasing breakdown time and analysis possibilities (NS/Arriva)
- Continuing collaboration 113Online, mutual actions towards mental health institutions near the railways, putting up signs at more locations
- Further contribution to international EU programme RESTRAIL
- Implementing media strategy, providing a railway case for second-year Journalism students.



What's next? (2014-2015)

- Continuous analysis existing and new measures
- Choosing which measures can be taken on the basis of area approach, risk locations or innovations
- Implementing training railway personnel for contact with (possible) suicidal people
- Possibly implementing 'Blue Light' op risk locations and level crossings
- Implementing interview study among survivors of a suicide attempt
- Continuing collaboration with 113Online
- EU-programme RESTRAIL, conclusions and dissiminating results
- Media strategy
- Measures with regard to improving breakdown time after an incident



June 2013 Paris RESTRAIL

Questions or information:

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