

Disabled people and disaster:

a Dutch approach



Taskforce Handicap en Samenleving

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The Netherlands

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Taskforce Disability and Society

- Aim
- Methodology
- Results
- Position in Dutch society



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Why the interest in disability and disaster?

- A consequence of mainstreaming
- In Dutch: a way of doing and acting 'inclusive'
- A new 'refreshing' topic
- Everybody has to deal with safety and protection



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How was the attention increased?

A three- track plan (film)

1. Increasing self-support with disabled people in case of emergency
2. Stimulate and promote the acting and doing
3. A general promotion to every Dutch citizen that safety and protection is a general theme.



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The following questions are relevant

- Which developments (in society) have influenced this latest hype for safety?
- What results are achieved?
- Are there any lessons to be learned?



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Which developments (in society) have influenced this latest hype for safety in the Netherlands?

1. The Taskforce Disability and Society focuses on empowerment and accessibility in general.
2. 11.09.01 and Katrina
3. October 2005 first meeting between disabled people, fire officers, policymakers
4. The development of decentralisation
5. Two Researches



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Which developments have influenced this latest hype for safety?

- **First Research**

How many people are disabled during a disaster?

- **Result**

20% (3.2 million) of the Dutch people are vulnerable during disaster



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Which developments have influenced this latest hype for safety?

- Second research

Are the regions and communities prepared to rescue disabled people?


- Result

No, they are not.



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What results are achieved? (in one year!)

1. The production of the DVD: 'not scared but prepared'
2. The development and production of the test 'not scared but prepared'
3. This test is implemented in the homepage of www.crisis.nl
4. Two formers mayors are 'disability- and disaster' ambassador.



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What results are achieved? Part 2

5. Development and production of the first written learning material for officers of the fire brigades.

6. **1.500 questions** as a result of the free distribution of the DVD 'not scared but prepared'!



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What results are achieved? Part 3

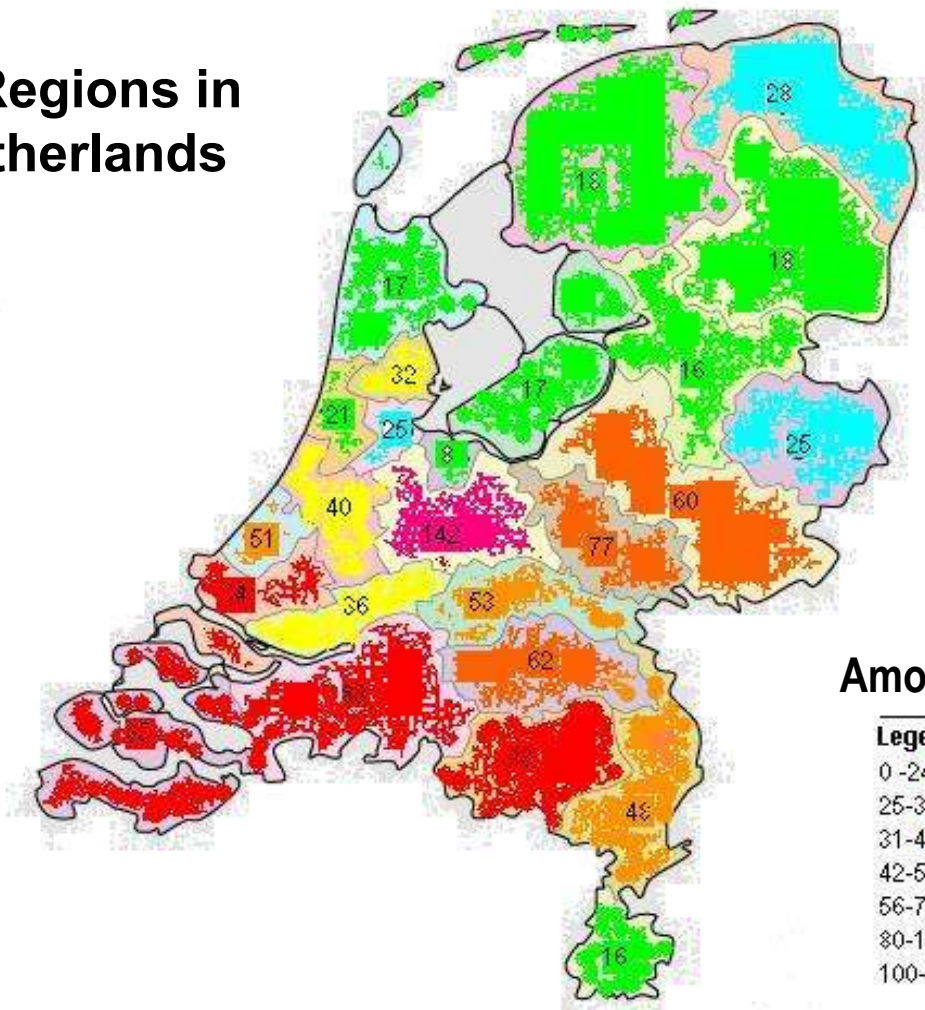
7. The development and production of the Rvarium ® (Xperience)
8. The integral participation of 11 disabled people during the recent national exercise
9. Formal request of the Dutch Minister for Internal Affairs.



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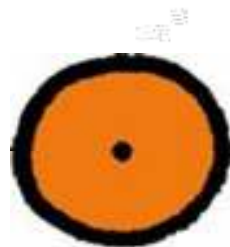
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Safety Regions in The Netherlands



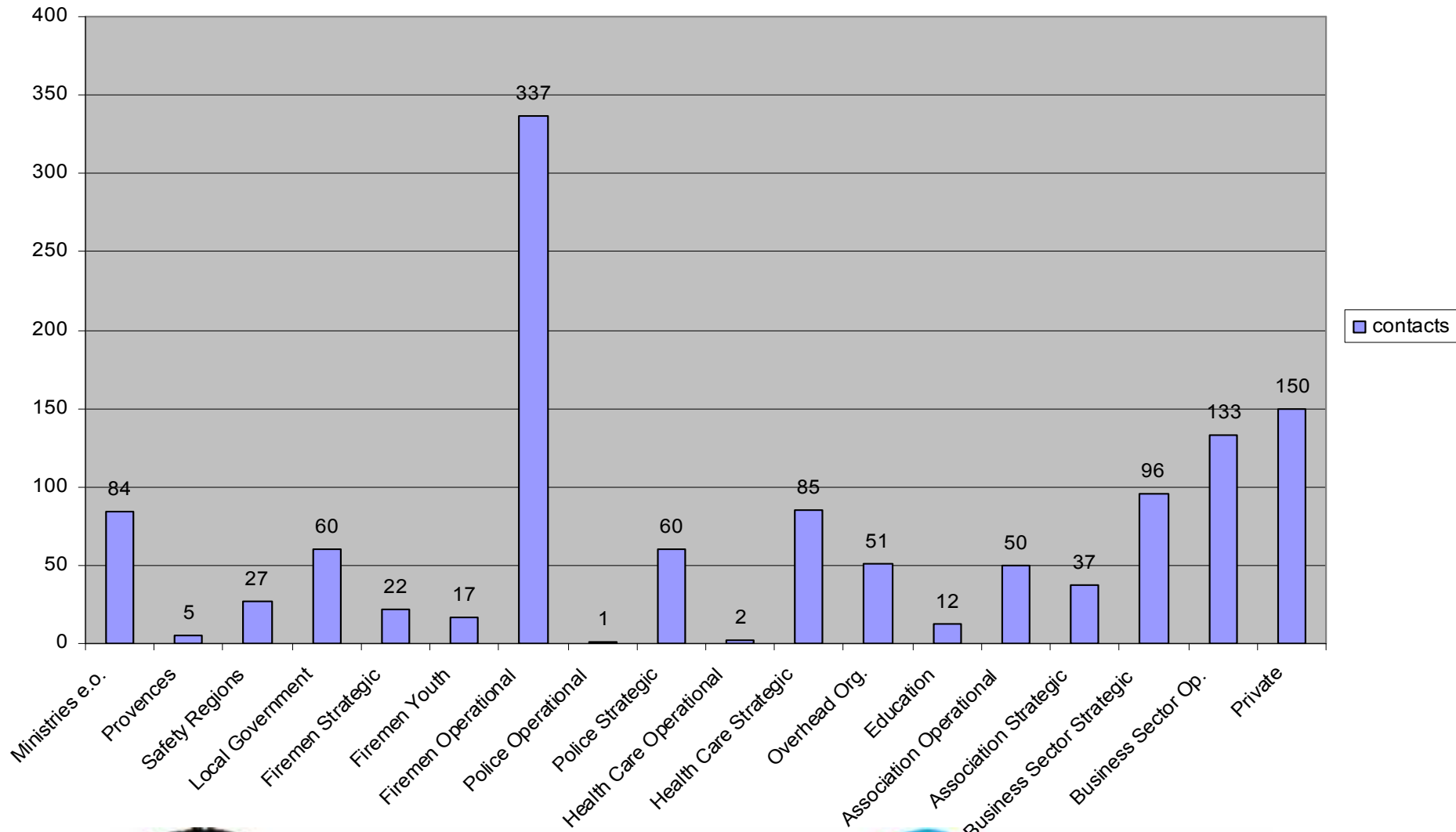
Amounts of contacts/ Questions

Legenda



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Are there any lessons to be learned?

- Nobody is against safety
- This issue is not only complicated but also complex.
- The visits to the Rvarium (Xperience)
- The consequences for disabled people themselves
- Cooperation is the keyword in this issue.
- Do not blame anybody, but commit everybody to take their responsibility
- Keep it simple and practical!
- Small disasters at home (burning marmite) can create large disasters for disabled people
- Collect experiences and share those with others
- Transform national plans and tactics, but organise it on local level and use the local dynamics



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Future plans

- Paradox between the privacy law and the need to be registered
- Take care of innovative budgets to develop technological methods
- Stimulate disabled people to be prepared to act
- Take care for developing training programs for professional rescuing officers



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Last remark!

Organise a national platform for exchanging experiences and organise international networking

Starting in Verona!

The Dutch representatives in Verona are ready for networking and making alliances.....

Thank you for your attention!



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