

Annual Report 2025

Chairman

2025 was a year in which dedication, cooperation and humanity once again took centre stage for NL-SAR. Every Sunday, our volunteers and dogs were ready to train, learn and grow — always with the same goal: being prepared to help those who need us.

Our assistance was requested several times throughout 2025. At times, we could breathe a sigh of relief while still en route, as the missing person had already been found. On other occasions, we were on site to support, to search or to relieve the police. In every situation, we stood ready.

Alongside our operational deployments, there were many moments of connection. We gave presentations, organised workshops for children, and took part in special events such as Dreamnight at the Zoo and 'Een dag niet ziek'. 2025 also brought sadness. We said farewell to three volunteers, one of whom passed away unexpectedly and far too soon. Their commitment and involvement remain part of who we are.

We look back with pride on a year in which we once again demonstrated what NL-SAR stands for: reliability, expertise and a warm heart for both people and animals. We look ahead to 2026, in which we will continue to dedicate ourselves with the same energy to everyone who needs us.

Activities

Every Sunday, our dogs and volunteers train intensively. In all weather conditions, we prepare our teams for searching, locating and assisting missing persons. In 2025, we welcomed Aiko and Aika to our team. Our dear Saar retired on 19 August.

We would like to thank all the companies that granted us access to their locations for our training sessions.

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The police use Burgernet to involve citizens in missing-person cases. We monitor Burgernet and alerts on social media, and we also maintain direct contact with care organisations.

Below is an overview of our activities in 2025:

14 February (afternoon): contacted by the police following a Burgernet alert. During the phone call, the missing person was found.

22 February: travelled to Bonheiden (Belgium) to support our colleagues from DOS. The person was found before our arrival.

23 February: contacted the police after a Burgernet alert. Half an hour after speaking with the control room, the police called back to report that the person had been found in their former residence.

10 April: received a call from care organisation Proteion. While en route, we were informed that the person had been found outside the organisation's grounds.

14 July: a Burgernet alert close to home, less than a 15-minute walk away. On site, we spoke with the police and the care organisation. During this discussion, the good news came that the person had been found. To support the police, NL-SAR, together with a staff member from the care organisation, collected the person and brought them back to the care facility.

23 July: received a Burgernet alert. We contacted the police and mobilised the team. While en route, we received the good news that the person had been found.

31 August: responded to another nearby Burgernet alert. We began a search without dogs. During the search, we were informed that the person had been found, about an hour after the initial alert.

30 September: at the request of the community police officer and the family, we began an afternoon search (without dogs). The person had already been missing since the day before the Burgernet alert. By evening, the person had still not been located. Two teams with dogs searched along a cycle path (inaccessible by car) near the water. During the search, we received word that the person had been found.

10 October: began a search without dogs. Due to a vehicle issue, we had to abort the search. The Burgernet update indicated that the person had not yet been found.

22 October: contacted the police following a Burgernet alert. Deployment of search dogs was not yet required. The update indicated that the person had not been located. Contact with the police did not lead to a search operation.

29 October: began a search without dogs. After consulting with the police, we decided to call in the volunteers with dogs. During preparations, we received word that the person had been found.

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In addition to our training and deployments, we also carry out other activities. We provide demonstrations and presentations to show who we are and what we do. Each

year, we organise a team outing. As a foundation, we also find it important to support other organisations.

11 and 12 March: presentations for ZijActief Voerendaal and ZijActief Ransdaal. A week later, for the Women's Association in Sweikhuizen. Our chairperson introduced participants to the world of missing-person cases in the Netherlands and the skills of our dogs.

5 April: team outing. During this evening, we said farewell to two dedicated volunteers. That same evening, we received the sad news that we would also have to say a final goodbye to another volunteer. A few days later, we attended his funeral.

24 May: NL-SAR attended TALim. During workshops, we introduced children to the role of a dog handler and the skills required. It was a fun and educational morning.

13 June: participated in Dreamnight at the Zoo in Born. This global event aims to give chronically ill and disabled children and their families a wonderful evening. Throwing and hiding balls for the dogs were the favourite activities.

July: our chairperson attended the Forensic Research & Innovation Symposium. Maintaining our knowledge and skills is essential for the functioning of our team.

6 September: participated in 'Een dag niet ziek' in Maastricht, an event for (long-term) ill children and their families. The children could take part in various activities with our dogs.

NL-SAR maintains a close relationship with our Belgian colleagues from Dogs On Search (DOS). Our joint training session took place in Schinnen in September.

27 September, 4 and 11 October: NL-SAR was once again present at TALim. During workshops, we introduced children to the role of a dog handler and the skills required. These were very enjoyable and educational mornings.

Finances

Financially, 2025 was a straightforward year. Thanks to donations, presentations and savings-card contributions, we were able to continue investing in equipment, training and team clothing. Every contribution — large or small — makes our work possible, and we are sincerely grateful to everyone who supports us.

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In 2025, we received a donation of €25 into our bank account — thank you for this. The presentations we delivered generated €620.15, including fixed fees and donations collected in our savings pot. The supermarket Plus savings cards raised €72.

Expenses in 2025 were as follows:

- € 307.79 in fixed banking costs
- Three radios purchased for € 74.76
- Clothing with printed logos for € 132.50
- A webinar for our instructors from Scent Imprint for Dogs costing € 42.35
- Small expenses for flowers, cards and similar items totalling € 72.10

