

### Ministry of VROM →

Where the rural and urban environment as well as government buildings really matter.  
Where policies are developed, implemented and enforced.

**Knowing that, in a small country like the Netherlands, it pays to think big.**



The municipalities are the prime participants in the New Key Projects. The government's role is to ensure optimum quality. Investors and property developers are expected to contribute financially to the development of the HSL station areas.

### Core goals

The government's core goals for the six New Key Projects are:

- to develop the HSL station areas holistically, ensuring high architectural and environmental quality. The areas must also be easily accessible and attractive places to live and work;
- to maximise the spinoff from the investment in the HSL station areas in urban renewal and the intensive use of urban space;
- to maximise the spinoff from investment in commercial real estate in urban renewal and a better environment.

### Participants in the New Key Projects

Many participants are engaged in the six New Key Projects. The public-sector participants include the government, municipalities, provinces, and regions. The private-sector participants include landowners, property developers, and investors. Cooperation is crucial. The participants must share the tasks and risks equally.

The government has reserved €1 billion for the New Key Projects. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment will help plan the HSL station areas and provide funds if private participants do so too. The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management will be primarily responsible for optimising the railway stations' transport function. The municipalities, provinces, and regions will be responsible for improving the regional and local infrastructures. And the government, the Dutch railway company NS, and the HSL operators will work together to improve the quality of other station facilities.

### More information

On [www.vrom.nl](http://www.vrom.nl), you will find more information about the planning and progress of the New Key Projects, publications, and links to the municipal project sites.

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# New Key Projects: the station as a gateway to the city

**The Netherlands is set to join the new European high-speed railway network (HSL), which will create great opportunities for the stations on the network's routes. Their optimum accessibility should persuade many national and multinational businesses to move close to them. With new facilities, outstanding architecture, and uncluttered open spaces, the HSL station areas could be transformed into attractive places to live and work.**

The investment we put into improving the HSL station areas will spin off to the rest of the Netherlands. This is why the Dutch government launched six "New Key Projects" (NSP) in 1997.

#### The New Key Projects are centred on six HSL stations:

1. Amsterdam South (Amsterdam-Zuidas)
2. Rotterdam Central
3. The Hague Central
4. Breda
5. Utrecht Central
6. Arnhem Central and Coehoorn

#### Attractive places to live and work

The construction of the HSL has caused the government to take a fresh look at the HSL stations, which are having to cope with growing numbers of passengers. Some of the stations will soon be too small, and some passengers find them unpleasant and unsafe. On the other hand, the stations occupy central areas of our cities – areas currently underused.

The government has therefore seized on the arrival of the HSL as a chance to renovate and improve these stations and their surroundings. It wants to spread the stations' bustling urban atmosphere to their surroundings, creating new station areas that are again a valuable part of the city. The government has therefore urged the municipalities to transform their HSL station areas into hubs of urban life.

The HSL station areas must become:

#### → Attractive

The HSL station areas must become highly desirable places, with a balanced mix of dwellings, businesses, and urban facilities.

#### → Transport hubs and "passengers' palaces"

The HSL stations must be future-proof, with optimum accessibility, connections, and transfer capacity. They must be able to cope with a large amount of passengers.

#### → Urban meeting places

The HSL station areas must match the demands of passengers and residents. Their buildings must be well laid out. And the overall atmosphere must be one of a safe, lively public space.

In line with its overall policies on planning and the environment, the government wants the six New Key Projects to help improve the quality of life in their cities and encourage large businesses to move there.

