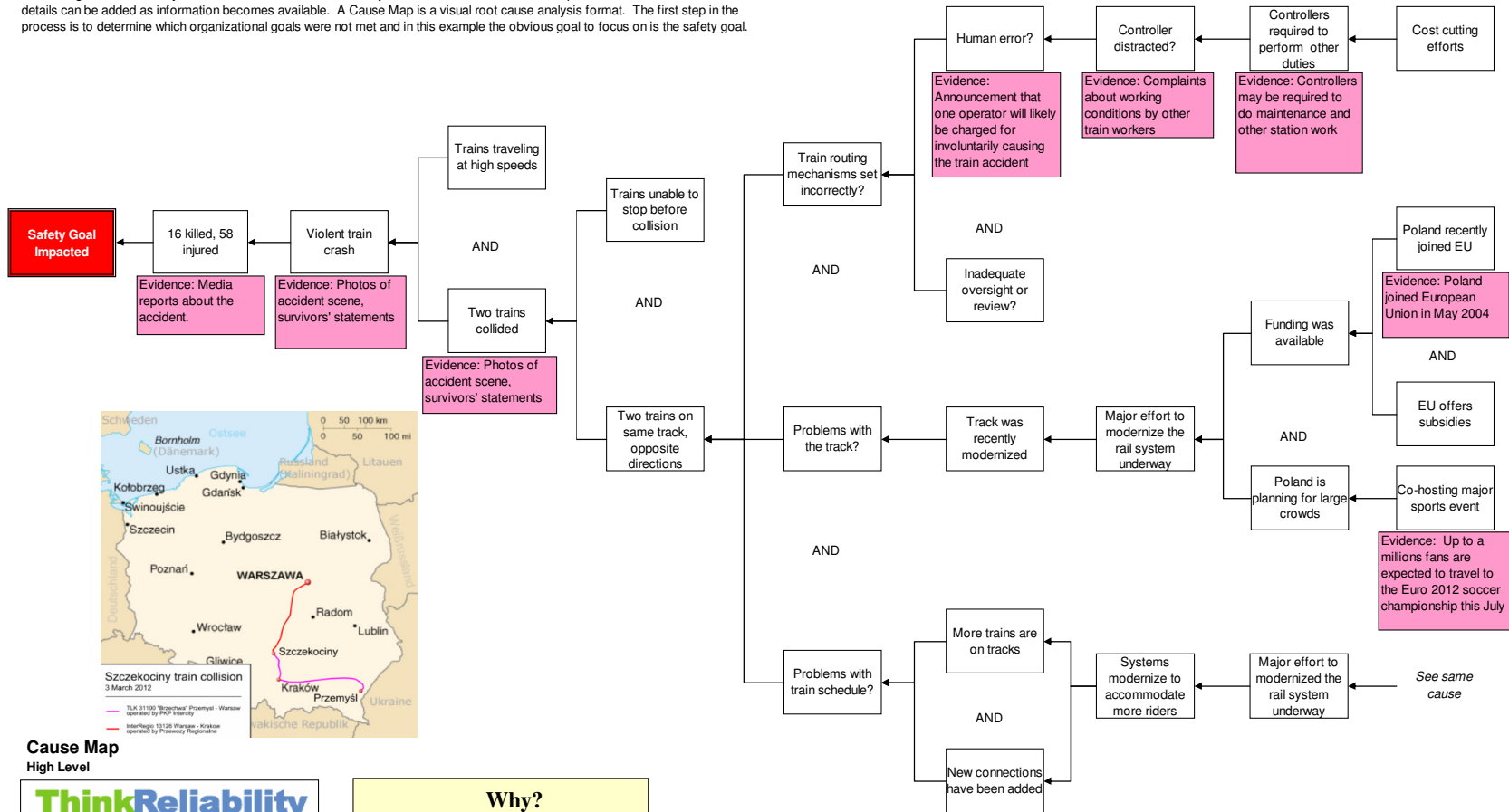# Deadly Train Collision in Poland

Szczekociny, Poland
March 4, 2012

On March 4, 2012, two passenger trains collided head-on near Szczekociny, Poland killing 16 and injuring 58. It was Poland's deadliest train crash in 20 years.

An investigation is underway to determine what caused the deadly accident, but an initial Cause Map can be built now and more details can be added as information becomes available. A Cause Map is a visual root cause analysis format. The first step in the process is to determine which organizational goals were not met and in this example the obvious goal to focus on is the safety goal.

Cause Map

High Level

Why?

Effect ← Cause

NOTE: Read the Cause Map from left to right with the phrase "Was Caused By" in place of

---

Safety Goal Impacted

← **16 killed, 58 injured**
Evidence: Media reports about the accident.

← **Violent train crash**
Evidence: Photos of accident scene, survivors' statements

AND

- **Trains traveling at high speeds**
- **Two trains collided**
Evidence: Photos of accident scene, survivors' statements

AND

- **Trains unable to stop before collision**

AND

- **Two trains on same track, opposite directions**

AND

Train routing mechanisms set incorrectly?

AND

- **Human error?**
Evidence: Announcement that one operator will likely be charged for involuntarily causing the train accident

← **Controller distracted?**
Evidence: Complaints about working conditions by other train workers

← **Controllers required to perform other duties**
Evidence: Controllers may be required to do maintenance and other station work

← **Cost cutting efforts**

- **Inadequate oversight or review?**

Problems with the track?

← **Track was recently modernized**

← **Major effort to modernize the rail system underway**

← **Funding was available**

AND

← **Poland recently joined EU**
Evidence: Poland joined European Union in May 2004

AND

EU offers subsidies

AND

← **Poland is planning for large crowds**

← **Co-hosting major sports event**
Evidence: Up to a millions fans are expected to travel to the Euro 2012 soccer championship this July

AND

Problems with train schedule?

← **More trains are on tracks**

AND

- **New connections have been added**

← **Systems modernize to accommodate more riders**

← **Major effort to modernized the rail system underway**

← *See same cause*