

# From Traditional to Register-Based Censuses in the Netherlands

## The Dutch Virtual Census

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### Agenda

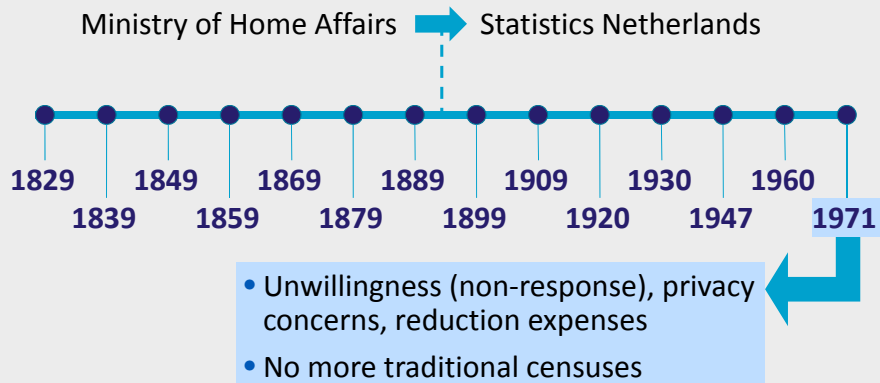
- Introducing the Dutch census
- Data sources & techniques
- Facilitating conditions & challenges
- Comparisons with other countries
- European Census Hub

2



## First Dutch traditional census in 1829

### History of the Dutch census:



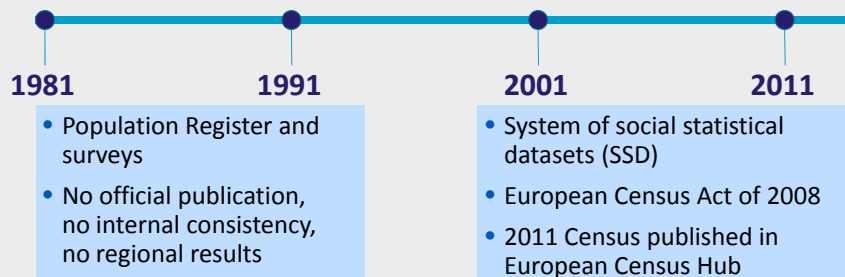
3



## Virtual censuses from 1981 onwards

### Virtual censuses:

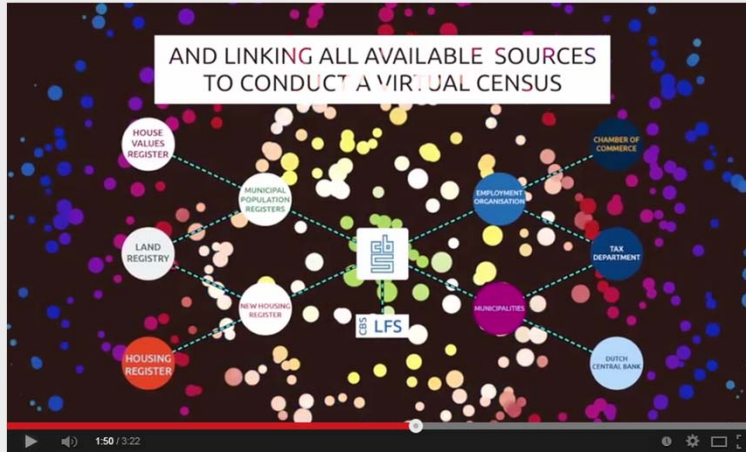
Register-based, no complete enumeration, no census questionnaire



4



## Introduction to the Dutch virtual census



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLpDkcyenf0>

## Only already available data sources

### 2011 Census data sources:

- Registers
  - Population Register
  - Jobs file (all employees)
  - Self-employed file (all self-employed)
  - Fiscal administration
  - Social security administration
  - Pensions and life insurance benefits
  - Housing Register
- Surveys
  - Labour Force Survey

**No census questionnaire required**

## Combining sources requires methodology

### Techniques used in the Dutch virtual census:

- Micro-linkage
- Micro-integration
- Weighting techniques

7



## A cheaper and more socially acceptable alternative

### Characteristics of the Dutch virtual census:

- Relatively cheap (2 million US \$)
- Short production time
- Small census team
- More socially acceptable
- Numerical consistency, but not all levels of detail
- Comparisons over time and international comparisons
- Census data continuously available

8



## Smooth transition in Dutch society...

### Facilitating conditions:

- Legal basis (Statistics Act; no Census Act)
- Public approval
- Cooperation among authorities
- Comprehensive and reliable register system
- Unified identification system; unique identifier

9



## ... yet challenges exist

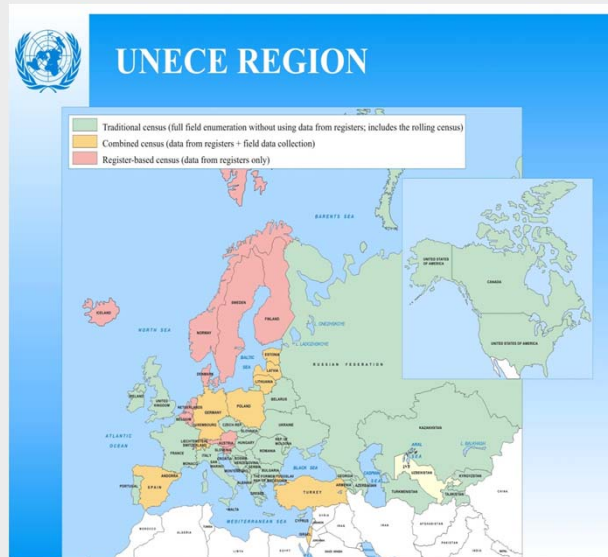
### Challenges:

- Dependency on register holders
- Stability of registers
- Timeliness of registers
- Population base and variable definitions
- Publication of small subgroups
- Lack of flexibility in adding variables

10



## Eight countries have a similar set-up



11



## Dissemination through the European Census Hub

### European Census Hub:

- 32 European Union and EFTA countries
- 35 variables on persons, families, households, dwellings
- 4 geographical classifications (NUTS1, NUTS2, NUTS3, LAU 2)
- Textual metadata and quality data

EU 2011 Population and Housing Census			
Time period or range	Year 2011		
Sex	Total	Male	Female
Geographical area			
Belgium	11,000,638	5,401,718	5,598,920
Bulgaria	7,364,570	3,586,571	3,777,999
Czech Republic	10,436,560	5,109,766	5,326,794
Denmark	5,560,628	2,756,582	2,804,046
Germany	80,219,695	39,145,941	41,073,754
Estonia	1,294,455	600,526	693,929
Ireland	4,574,888	2,270,506	2,304,382

experimental preview  
provisional data



**Thank you for your attention!**

13



## Statistics Netherlands

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14

