



# SDMX in a FAIR official statistics landscape

Statistics Netherlands

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12<sup>th</sup> SDMX Experts workshop, 7-11 Oct. Amsterdam



# Contents

- The official statistics landscape
- Open source software for access; awesome list
- Features commonly offered: towards FAIRness
- And what about linked data?
- Wrap-up



# Statistics Netherlands output

The collage displays several key outputs from Statistics Netherlands:

- Population dashboard:** Shows population figures for the Netherlands, including a population counter (17,778,852) and key figures for 2021 (+115,200).
- News article:** "Inflation rate up to 14.5 percent in September" (06/10/2022 15:00), featuring a photo of a gas stove burner.
- Consumer prices:** "Consumer prices; price index 2015=100" (Changed on: 06/10/2022 06:30). Includes a table of expenditure categories and a table of CPI data.
- Regional data:** "Regional" overview showing 189 people per sq km.
- Other articles:** "8 in 10 businesses" (13/10/2022 15:00) and "Export to up by 2.5 percent in August" (12/10/2022 15:00).

Periods	CPI (2015 = 100)	Derived CPI (2015 = 100)	Year-on-year change CPI (%)	Year-on-year change Derived CPI (%)
2021 June	109.67	107.84	2.0	1.9
2021 July	110.23	108.39	1.4	1.3
2021 August	110.71	108.87	2.4	2.3
2021 September	110.79	108.94	2.7	2.6
2021 October	112.18	110.91	3.4	3.3
2021 November	113.17	111.29	5.2	5.0
2021 December	114.01	112.12	5.7	5.6
2021	110.39	108.55	2.7	2.5
2022 January	114.53	113.64	6.4	7.4
2022 February	115.27	114.37	6.2	7.1
2022 March	119.46	118.49	9.7	10.7
2022 April	119.81	119.21	9.8	10.9
2022 May	119.05	118.18	9.0	10.0
2022 June	119.05	118.18	9.0	10.0
2022 July	121.57	121.11	10.5	11.1
2022 August	123.95	124.11	12.4	12.4
2022 September*	126.80	127.11	14.5	14.5

## Layered Open Data architecture

News articles



Thematic pages & visualisations



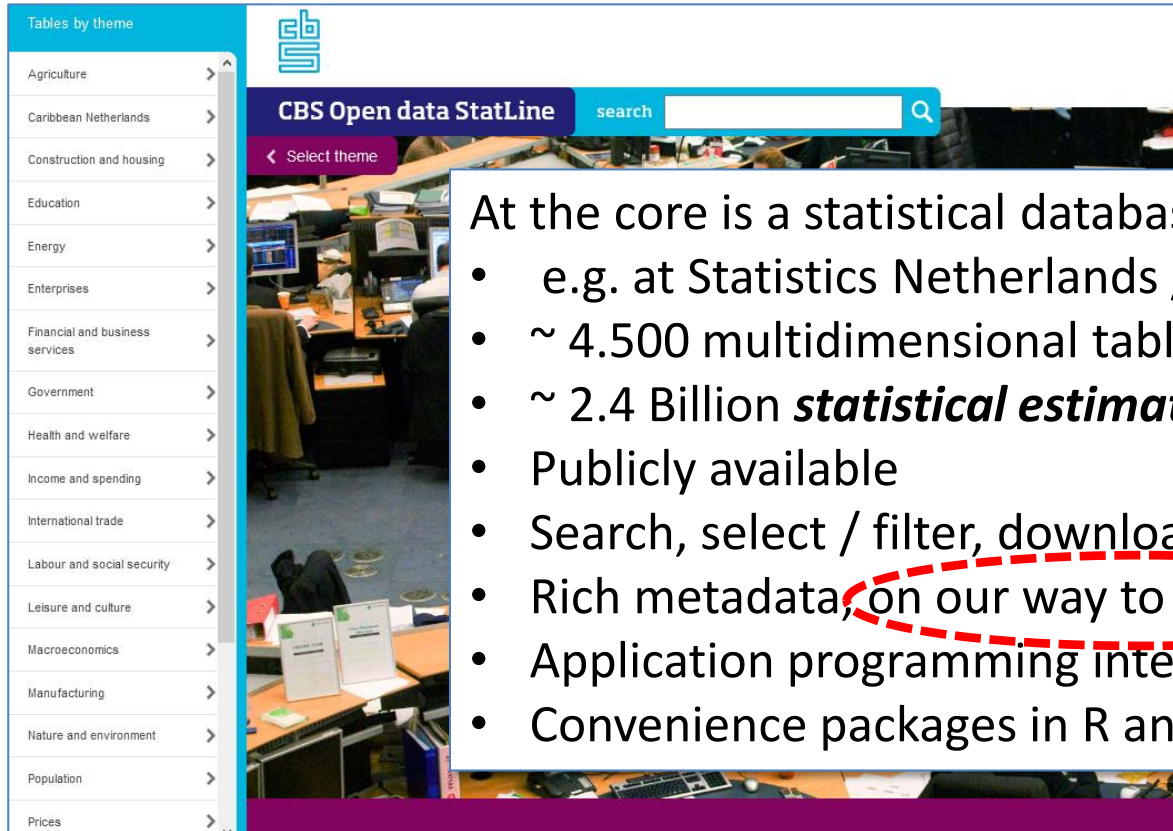
Selected data slices



Statistical Estimates



# Statistical dissemination database



Tables by theme

- Agriculture
- Caribbean Netherlands
- Construction and housing
- Education
- Energy
- Enterprises
- Financial and business services
- Government
- Health and welfare
- Income and spending
- International trade
- Labour and social security
- Leisure and culture
- Macroeconomics
- Manufacturing
- Nature and environment
- Population
- Prices

CBS Open data StatLine search

Select theme

At the core is a statistical database:

- e.g. at Statistics Netherlands / CBS:
- ~ 4.500 multidimensional tables
- ~ 2.4 Billion ***statistical estimates*** (active tables)
- Publicly available
- Search, select / filter, download
- Rich metadata, on our way to SDMX
- Application programming interface (API): Odata
- Convenience packages in R and Python

# Official Statistics landscape (OSL)



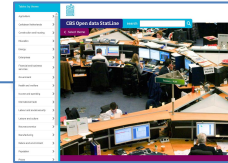
OSL = collective output of all official statistics organizations

STATISTICS DENMARK

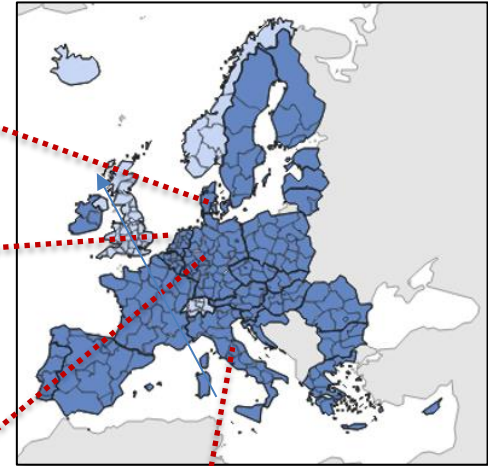
Labour force status in percentage by employment status, time, age and sex

Economic activity time	Total	Men	Women
2020Q4			
Age total	79.4	82.2	74.6
15-24 years	48.7	59.4	40.6
25-34 years	58.2	68.4	47.9
35-44 years	68.2	74.1	64.2
45-54 years	68.4	70.1	66.7
55-64 years	70.2	69.1	71.0

DK



NL



DE

IStat | your direct access to the Italian Statistics

2019 Agricultural Census

Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Number of farms	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
Number of agricultural households	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000

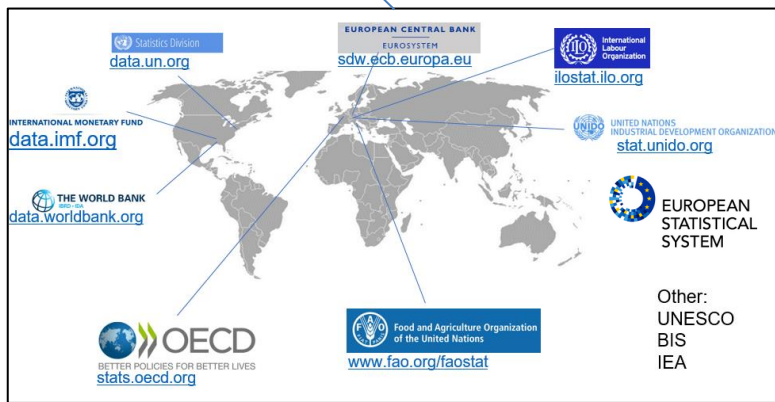


# Official Statistics landscape (OSL)



sdmx

OSL = collective output of all official statistics organizations

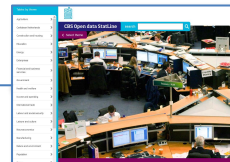


STATISTICS DENMARK

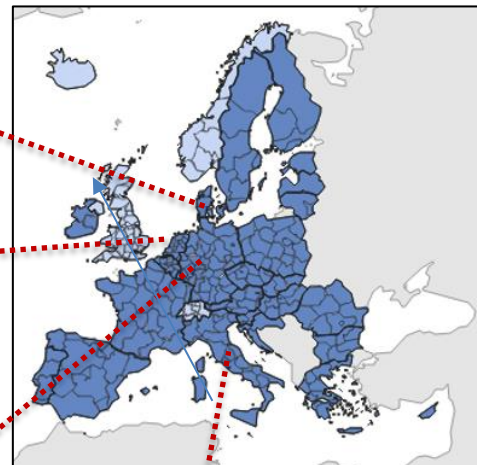
Labour force status in percentage by employment status, time, age and sex

Economic activity time	Total	Men	Women
2020A	79.4	82.2	74.6
Age total	48.7	59.4	40.6
15-24 years	86.2	88.4	79.0
25-34 years	88.2	92.1	84.2
35-44 years	88.4	90.1	86.7
45-54 years	79.3	80.1	78.0

DK



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DE

IStat | your direct access to the Italian Statistics

2019 Agricultural Census

Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Number of farms	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
Number of agricultural households	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000



# Awesome list of statistical software

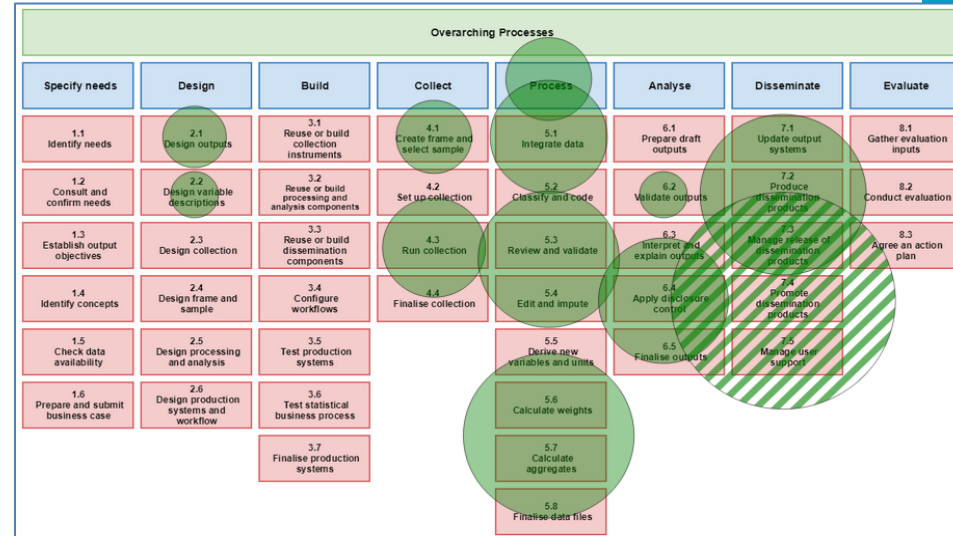
- A *community approach* to knowledge management
- To *collectively remember useful software* in official statistics
- Started UNECE SDE 2017
- Maintained by *statistical community*
- How:

- Using [awesome concept](#)
- [awesomeofficialstatistics.org](https://www.awesomeofficialstatistics.org)
- **Largest category:**  
“Access to official statistics”



uRos17-23

# awesome packages by GSBPM





## Statistical disclosure control (GSBPM 6.4)

- GitHub v5.1.7b3 last commit march license EUPL-1.2

Java and C++ application [Mu-ARGUS](#). Tool to create safe micro-data files. S

- GitHub v4.2.4.2 license EUPL-1.2

Java C++ Fortran and Delphi application [T-ARGUS](#). Tool to protect statistical

- CRAN 5.7.6 – 2 months ago license GPL-2

R package [sdcMicro](#). Disclosure control for statistical microdata.

- CRAN 0.32.6 – 4 months ago

R package [sdcTable](#). Disclosure control for tabulated data.

## Sampling (GSBPM 4.1)

- CRAN 2.10 – a month ago license GPL (>= 2)

R package [sampling](#). Several algorithms for drawing survey samples, including sampling designs (high entropy, systematic, Rao-Sampford, etc.), and calibration

- CRAN 4.0 – 4 years ago license GPL (>= 2)

R package [surveyplanning](#). Tools for sample survey planning, including sample expected precision for the estimates of totals, and calculation of optimal samp

## Data integration and record linkage (GSBPM 5.1)

- CRAN 0.3.4 – 5 months ago license GPL-3

R package [reclin2](#). Functions to assist in performing probabilistic record linkage a pairs, comparing records, em-algorithm for estimating m- and u-probabilities, for also be used for pre- and post-processing for machine learning methods for reco

- CRAN 0.4-12.4 – a year ago license GPL (>= 2)

R package [RecordLinkage](#). Implementation of the Fellegi-Sunter method for reco

- CRAN 1.4.1 – 2 years ago license GPL (>= 2)

R package [StatMatch](#). Statistical Matching or Data Fusion

- CRAN 0.6.1 – 24 days ago license GPL (>= 3)

R package [fastLink](#). Implements a Fellegi-Sunter probabilistic record linkage mod

Over 30 software packages, giving access to  
> 60 dataproviders, majority are R-packages



## Access to official statistics (GSBPM 7.4)

- CRAN 0.6-3 – 7 months ago license GPL (>= 2)

R package [rSDMX](#). Access to data or metadata from statistical organisations that support SDMX. The package contains a list of SDMX access points of various national and international statist

- CRAN 0.3.1 – 7 months ago license GPL-3

R package [readsdmx](#). Read SDMX into dataframes from local SDMX-ML file or web-service. P OECD.

- GitHub v2.14.0 last commit last wednesday license Apache-2.0

Python [sdmx](#). Python library that implements SDMX 2.1 to explore data from SDMX data provi data and metadata and convert it into Pandas objects.

- CRAN 0.4.3 – 7 months ago license MIT + file LICENSE

R package [rjstat](#). Read and write data sets in the JSON-stat format.

- PyPI v2.4.0 license Apache License 2.0

Python [pyjstat](#). Read and write JSON-stat.

- GitHub v0.2.8 last commit march 2023 license MIT

Java application [json-stat.java](#). Read and write JSON-stat. By Statistics Norway.

- CRAN 0.2.5 – 2 years ago license CC0

R package [oecd](#). Search and Extract Data from the OECD

- CRAN 0.8.21 – 7 months ago license BSD\_2\_clause + file LICENSE

R package [sorvi](#). Finnish Open Government Data Toolkit

- CRAN 4.0.0 – 3 months ago license BSD\_2\_clause + file LICENSE

R package [eurostat](#). Tools to download data from the Eurostat database together with search



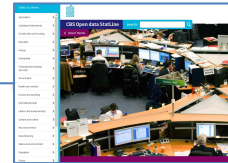
# Software layer surrounding OSL

- > 30 software packages
- > 60 dataproviders
- > majority R-packages
- > Some use SDMX

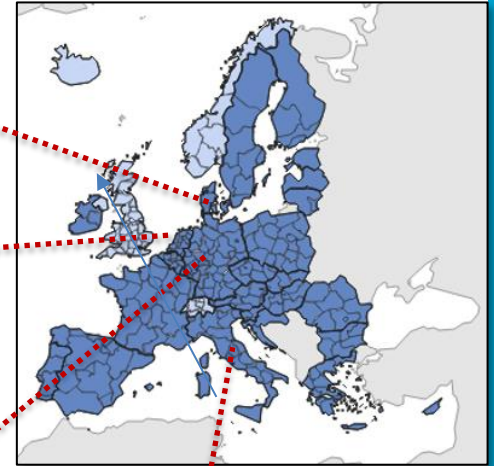
OSL



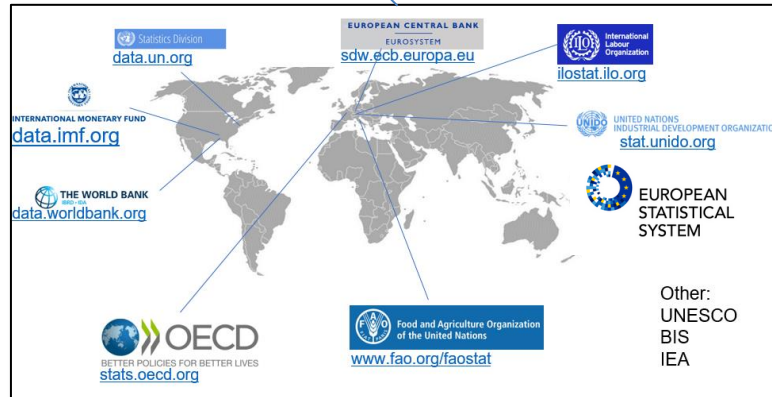
DK



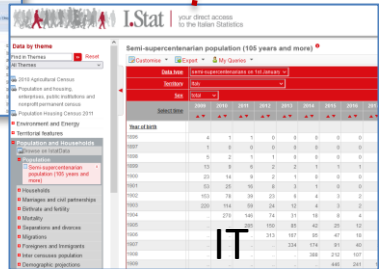
NL



Data user



DE



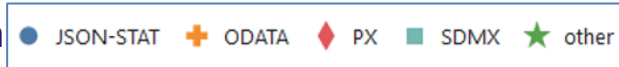
IT



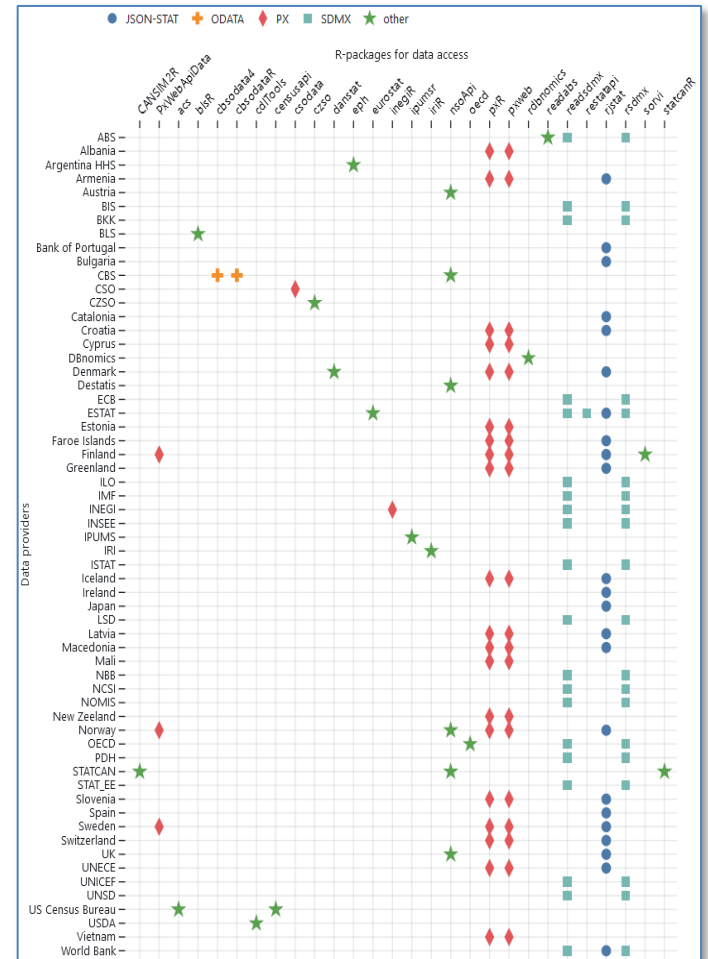
# “access to official statistics” software landscape

- Matrix derived from documentation and links to web pages and packages execution:

packages (38) x data



- Standards:



[https://observablehq.com/@olavtenbosch/access to official statistics](https://observablehq.com/@olavtenbosch/access_to_official_statistics)

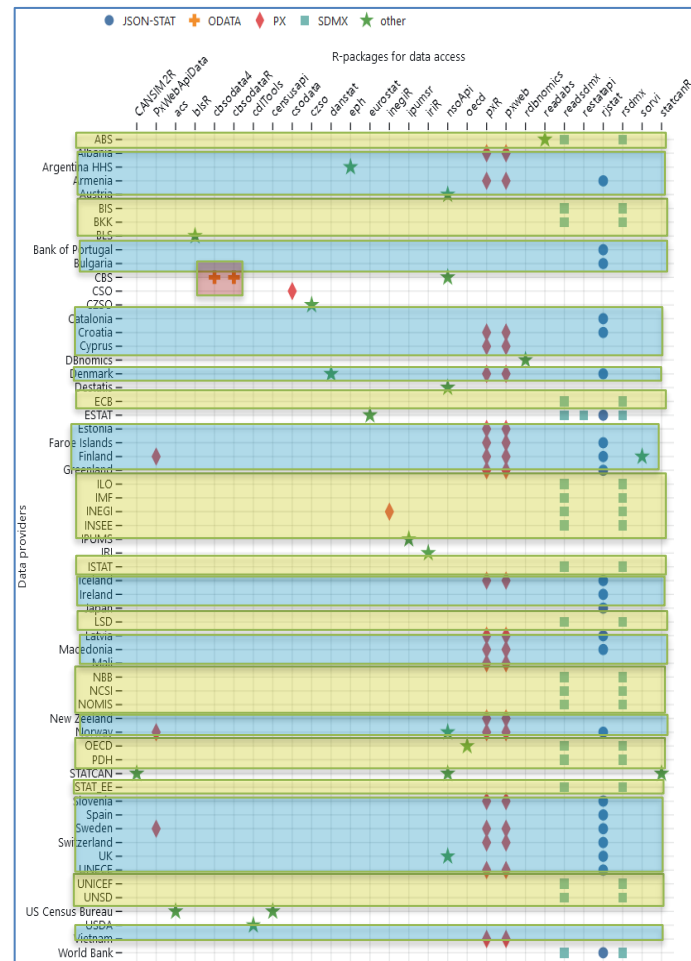
# “access to official statistics” software landscape

- Matrix from docs, links to web pages and packages execution: packages (38) x dataproviders (60) x standards (5)

- Standards:

- JSON-STAT/PX v. SDMX: almost disjunct worlds

- ODATA: CBS only




[https://observablehq.com/@olavtenbosch/access to official statistics](https://observablehq.com/@olavtenbosch/access%20to%20official%20statistics)



# Features commonly offered

- **endpoint hiding**: wrapping the preconfigured endpoint(s) in a function
- **catalogue retrieval**: to list the availability datasets on the endpoint(s)
- **search**: to search for datasets or within datasets
- **endpoint queries**: query for subsets / slices on the endpoint(s) side
- **local queries**: the ability to easily slice or filter on the client
- **caching**: preventing unnecessary roundtrips
- **cartographic queries**: retrieve a geo data or a map with the data
- **registry access**: access to coordinated metadata in registries



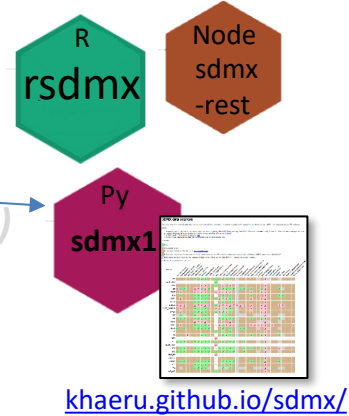
Could we build a “one-for-all” solution with all features?

## Software features supporting FAIR principles

Software feature	Findability	Accessibility	Interoperability	Reusability
endpoint hiding	yes	yes		
catalogue retrieval	yes	yes		
search	yes			
endpoint queries		yes		
local queries		yes		
caching		yes		
cartographic queries	yes		yes	yes
registry access	yes	yes	yes	

# Features powerful in SDMX (1)

- **endpoint hiding**: wrapping the preconfigured endpoint(s) in a function
- *catalogue retrieval: to list the availability datasets on the endpoint(s)*
- *search: to search for datasets or within datasets*
- *endpoint queries: query for subsets / slices on the endpoint(s) side*
- *local queries: the ability to easily slice or filter on the client*
- *caching: preventing unnecessary roundtrips*
- *cartographic queries: retrieve a geo data or a map with the data*
- *registry access: access to coordinated metadata in registries*








# Features powerful in SDMX (3)

- **endpoint hiding**: wrapping the preconfigured endpoint(s) in a function
- **catalogue retrieval**: to list the availability datasets on the endpoint(s)
- **search**: to search for datasets or within datasets
- **endpoint queries**: query for subsets / slices on the endpoint(s) side
- **local queries**: the ability to easily slice or filter on the client
- **caching**: preventing unnecessary roundtrips
- **cartographic queries**: retrieve a geo data or a map with the data
- **registry access**: access to coordinated metadata in registries


2021



Validation in R using metadata  
from SDMX registries

Olav ten Bosch, Mark van der Loo  
Statistics Netherlands


8th SDMX Global Conference, 27-30 September 2021



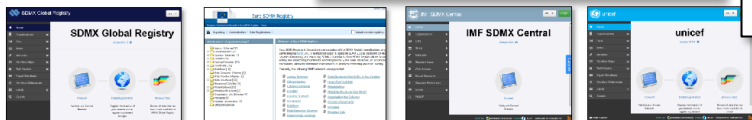
Data cleaning with R (1)

- R data cleaning ecosystem
- **validate**: check data based on validation rules
- **dmodify**: change data based on 'if-this-then-that' rules
- **errorlocate**: locate errors based on validation rules and mark them for correction
- **simputation**: many different imputation methods

MPI van der Loo and E de Jongh (2020)  
Statistical data cleaning with applications in R  
John Wiley & Sons, NY



SDMX registries

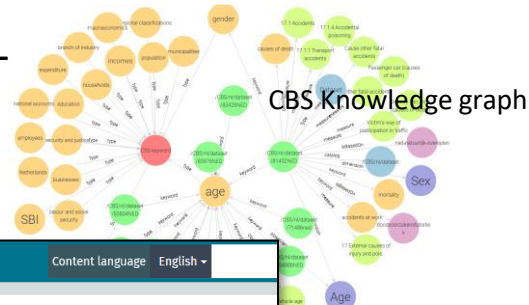


Validating data in R using SDMX registry



# And what about linked data? (1)

- Multiple organisations offer (meta)data as Linked Data (LD)
- URIs, SKOS, XKOS, schema.org, SPARQL



Publications Office of the European Union

Search: nace2

EU Vocabularies

Home Controlled vocabularies Models Business collections

EU Vocabularies > Controlled vocabularies > Taxonomies > nace2

Permanent link

Asset

### Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Union

Version: 2 **LATEST**

URI: <http://publications.europa.eu/resource/dataset/nace2>

Type of dataset: Taxonomy

About Downloads Documentation Alignments Release notes Diff files Advanced

Published: 2022-07-15 NACE Rev. 2 (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Union (EU). It is the European Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities), Rev. 4, which is maintained by the United Nations.

Author: Eurostat

Publisher: Publications Office of the European Union

Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006

[op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/eurostat](http://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/eurostat)

CBS taxonomy

Content language: English

education > diploma

PREFERRED TERM: **diploma**

BROADER CONCEPT: education

NARROWER CONCEPTS: bachelor degree, diploma higher professional education, continuation programme, master's degree, Master's degree, professional qualifications, propaedeutic certificate

IDENTIFIER: 2468

IN OTHER LANGUAGES: diploma

URI: <https://taxonomie.cbs.nl/vocab/2468>

DOWNLOAD THIS CONCEPT: RDF/XML TURTLE JSON-LD CSV

Alphabetical Hierarchy New

- agriculture and fisheries
- businesses
- CBS corporate terms
- construction and housing
- education
  - classification of education
  - curriculum
  - denomination
  - diploma
    - bachelor degree
    - diploma higher professional education
    - continuation programme
    - master's degree
    - Master's degree
    - professional qualifications
    - propaedeutic certificate
  - education legislation
  - education policy
  - education programme
  - education statistics
  - educational attainment level
  - educational institutions
  - government expenditure on education
  - programme stage
  - student population
  - student progress
- employment and unemployment
- energy
- environment
- health
- industry
- international trade
- labour market
- language
- research and development
- services
- social security
- tourism
- transport
- unemployment

[vocabs.cbs.nl/taxonomie](https://vocabs.cbs.nl/taxonomie)

Scottish Government  
Riaghaidh na h-Alba  
gov.scot

STATISTICS.GOV.SCOT

Explore Tools

developer documentation

### Linked Data Vocabularies

For brevity, this list does not include third-party vocabularies. To view an exhaustive list of all vocabularies in use on statistics.gov.scot including third-party vocabularies, please see the linked data vocabularies page.

DATA

CONCEPT SCHEMES

A concept scheme is a collection of concepts about a topic. A concept scheme often acts as a list of possible values for a certain property of a resource (i.e. possible objects for RDF triples).

- 4-fold RESEAS classification
- 6-fold urban/rural classification
- Access to Car
- Accident Status
- Accommodation Type and Occupancy
- Admission Type
- Admissions, Discharges and Deaths
- Adult Disability Payment Indicators
- Affordable Housing Supply Programme Category

[statistics.gov.scot](https://statistics.gov.scot)

# And what about linked data? (2)

- Statistical metadata as LD helps modeling *changes in metadata & linkability*

Geographical area Netherlands and country schemes

Content language English

Alphabetical Hierarchy Groups

There is no term for this concept in this language.

NUTS 3 Areas 2021  
Countries and areas  
Geographic areas Netherlands  
Netherlands  
NUTS 1 areas  
Provinces  
Regional classifications  
NUTS 3 areas  
CR14 Achterhoek  
CR26 Agglomeratie 's-Gravenhage  
CR21 Agglomeratie Haarlem  
CR25 Agglomeratie Leiden en Bollenstreek  
CR19 Alkmaar en omgeving  
CR15 Arnhem/Nijmegen  
CR27 Delft en Westland  
CR02 Delfzijl en omgeving  
CR40 Flevoland  
CR23 Groot-Amsterdam  
CR29 Groot-Rijnmond  
CR24 Het Gooi en Vechtstreek  
CR20 IJmond  
CR18 Kop van Noord-Holland  
CR38 Midden-Limburg  
CR34 Midden-Noord-Brabant  
CR07 Noord-Drenthe  
CR04 Noord-Friesland  
CR37 Noord-Limburg  
CR10 Noord-Overijssel  
CR35 Noordoost-Noord-Brabant  
CR01 Oost-Groningen  
CR28 Oost-Zuid-Holland  
CR03 Overig Groningen  
CR32 Overig Zeeland  
GM0654 Borsele  
WK065413 's-Gravenpolder  
WK065414 's-Heer Abtskerke  
WK065415 's-Heerenhoek  
WK065401 Baarland  
WK065402 Borssele  
WK065403 Driewegen wijk (Borsele)

PREFERRED TERM **GM0654 Borsele (nl)**

TYPE <http://rdf.histograph.io/Municipality>  
<https://schema.org/AdministrativeArea>

BROADER CONCEPT CR32 Overig Zeeland (nl)  
PV29 Zeeland (nl)

NARROWER CONCEPTS WK065401 Baarland (nl)  
WK065402 Borssele (nl)  
WK065403 Driewegen wijk (Borsele) (nl)  
WK065404 Ellewoutsdijk (nl)  
WK065405 Heinkenszand (nl)  
WK065406 Hoedekenskerke (nl)  
WK065407 Kwadendamme (nl)  
WK065408 Lewedorp (nl)  
WK065409 Nieuwdorp wijk (Borsele) (nl)  
WK065410 Nisse (nl)  
WK065411 Oudelande (nl)  
WK065412 Ovezande (nl)  
WK065413 's-Gravenpolder (nl)  
WK065414 's-Heer Abtskerke (nl)  
WK065415 's-Heerenhoek (nl)

REPLACES GM1254 Borssele (nl)

TEMPORAL COVERAGE 1970-01-01/..

START DATE 1970-01-01

NOTATION GM0654

Linking within ESS

ShowVoc

ESTAT\_Nomenclature\_of\_Territorial\_Units\_for\_Statistics

Concept Collection Scheme Property Alignments

- LU Luxembourg
- LV Latvija
- ME Црна Гора
- MK Северна Македонија
- MT Malta
- NL Nederland
  - NL1 Noord-Nederland
  - NL2 Oost-Nederland

WIKIDATA

Item Discussion Read View history

Wikidata is turning 10 in October 2022, and the community is organizing plenty of decentralized birthday events all around the world. You can join one of them or organize your own!

**Borsele** (Q10071)

municipality in the Netherlands

- In more languages

Language	Label	Description
English	Borsele	municipality in the Netherlands
Dutch	Borsele	gemeente in Zeeland
German	Borsele	Gemeinde in den Niederlanden
French	Borsele	commune de Zélande, Pays-Bas

All entered languages

Statements

instance of  municipality of the Netherlands

start time 1 January 1970

+ 2 references

Linking outside ESS

# Reflections on linked data (LD) in offstats

- LD is well suited to *link across ESS* and to *non-ESS communities*
- LD suited to model *complex statistical metadata dependencies*
  - Example: a complete historical graph of Dutch geo-changes on municipality level for over two centuries
- Challenges:
  - LD can be perceived *complex* to end-users => need for *data stories*
  - *Flexibility* of LD model gives room for different implementations among ESS => need for *harmonization*
- Food for thought: with the current *AI training data hunger*: could statistical LD content more easily picked up than ESS-specific standards like SDMX?



# Becoming (more) FAIR...



open	Access	Digital objects	Standards
		 News, charts, thematic	Schema.org DOI Dublin Core (DC)
		 Metadata / registries	SDMX (STAT-) DCAT SIMS Linked Data SPARQL SKOS Schema.org RDF XKOS
	 Statistical estimates	SDMX OData JSON-stat CSV JSON R Python GEO standards GeoJSON OGC	
restricted		 microdata	DDI / DC Linked Data

- # standards
- Identifiability
- Note the software layer!
- Work with communities

**DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH**  
*A peer-reviewed, open-access journal of population sciences*

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**DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH**  
 VOLUME 49, ARTICLE 40, PAGES 1117–1162  
 PUBLISHED 13 DECEMBER 2023  
<https://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol49/40/>  
 DOI: 10.4054/DemRes.2023.49.40

*Research Material*

Programmatic access to open statistical data for population studies: The SDMX standard

Frans Willekens

© 2023 Frans Willekens.  
 This open-access work is published under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Germany (CC BY 3.0 DE), which permits use, reproduction, and distribution in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are given credit.  
 See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/de/legalcode>.

> **A1: (Meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardised communication protocol**



# Wrap-up

- Official Statistics Landscape grows towards **standardisation: SDMX, JSON-stat/PX**
- Data user can choose from over **30 open source software packages**, each offering specific functionality to over **60 data sources**
- Many NSIs offer **targeted (R-)packages** for data and metadata access
- **Common features** in software layer identify
- **SDMX** scores well on 3 of the features
- There is **no software package** that provides access to **all** official statistics
- Dream:
  - **one generic (R-)package** to access all official statistics content from all dataproviders supporting maximum FAIRness\*
  - offstats community and the open source / data science community have to work together to reach that goal

\* FAIR: Findable, Accesible, Interoperable, Reusable

Feedback: Olav ten Bosch [o.tenbosch@cbs.nl](mailto:o.tenbosch@cbs.nl) [pubs](#)



[awesomeofficialstatistics.org](https://awesomeofficialstatistics.org) Please

☆ Star 280

