



TRUSTWORTHY NUMBERS FOR A STRONG DEMOCRACY

A strategy for Flemish official statistics



Flanders
State of the Art

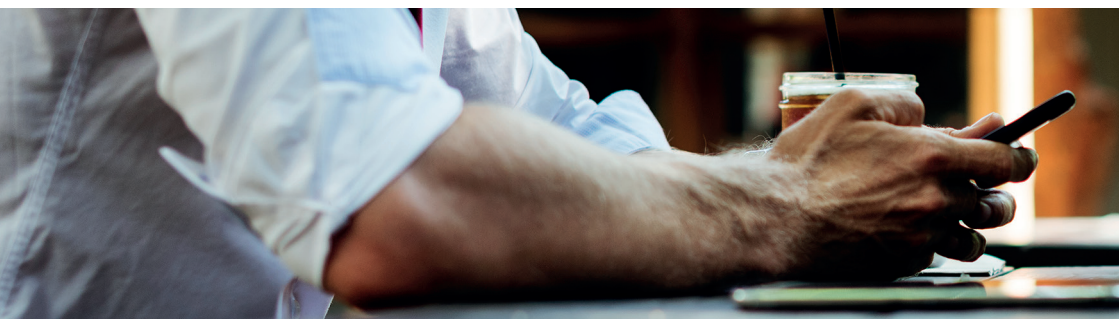
**STATISTICS
FLANDERS**

Statistics Flanders is the network of Flemish government entities which develop, produce and disseminate official statistics. The network has the remit to develop and implement a coordinated official statistics policy, in which a flexible and helpful service delivery to all statistics users is key.

This strategy sets out how we want to develop, produce and disseminate official statistics in Flanders in the future. Our strategic framework is based on international principles for official statistics and is complementary to Flemish official statistics legislation. The four strands of the strategy, which will shape our work, are summarised below.

Official statistics are for everyone

Official statistics serve society as a whole. That is why we not only take into account the government's needs for statistical information, but also the needs of Flemish society at large. Although we are part of the Flemish Government, official statistics should be relevant and accessible to the broadest possible range of users: official statistics are a public good. Government policy should certainly indicate priorities, but it is not exclusively up to the government to determine which statistics should be developed, produced and published.

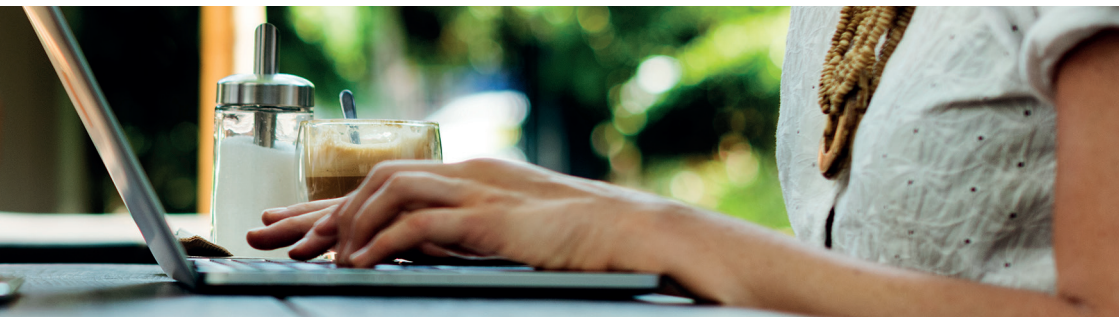


We provide more high-quality statistics through better planning

We ensure that the statistics we produce are of the highest possible quality and cover information needs as much as possible. We proactively examine the themes for which we need to produce more statistics in order to improve our knowledge of Flanders. We will follow international quality standards for the production and dissemination of official statistics; currently they are generally followed albeit not explicitly and not always. Our ambition is to put quality at the heart of everything we do. That is why we will take a more planned approach to the way we produce and disseminate our statistics, which will be communicated transparently and punctually to the outside world.

We work independently and with transparency

The main distinctive characteristics of official statistics are their trustworthiness and reliability, and their recognition as such by society. They should not only be of high quality, but also be developed, produced and disseminated without any form of political interference. We strive for maximum transparency in the development, production and dissemination of statistics, with clear arrangements in place between the political parts of government and the civil service.



We work in innovative ways and focus on the future

In a society where an increasing amount of data are generated by living our daily lives, it is important to stay informed about new technologies and developments in new data sources and statistical methodologies. We will develop an innovative mindset and work with external experts, organisations and partnerships in order to be a continuously learning network that can be flexible in responding to complex user needs.

The full version of the strategic framework can be found at www.statistiekvlaanderen.be/en

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