Case study for *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0*
Netherlands: Local government use of NSO data – Urban Data Centres

Description	There is a growing realization among public authorities in the Netherlands that their work should be data-driven. This trend is seen at many different levels, ranging from national to local. 'Evidence-based' working has become a focal point for a growing number of municipalities, for instance. This is the reason why they seek collaboration with Statistics Netherlands (CBS). As many municipal councils are structuring their policy along the lines of SDGs, within these collaborations local authorities often ask the CBS for localized SDG data. This collaboration is made possible through 'CBS Urban Data Centres' (UDCs). Within a UDC, a municipality combines its strengths with those of CBS. Core expertise available at CBS on e.g. data infrastructure, data processing and privacy protection is paired with local policy issues by committing (new) data sources towards finding policy solutions and laying bare the local implications of societal developments. This is how local authorities, businesses and institutions improve their understanding of actual developments within the municipality. Various types of data centres have so far emerged in the Netherlands, ranging from UDCs in cities to a specially established Rural Data Centre (RDC) for rural municipalities which have teamed up. The UDC concept has attracted wide international interest. CBS is often seen explaining at international events what the cooperation within UDCs means.
Advantages	There is a very short line between the local authority and the CBS staff. CBS staff are often seconded to UDCs to carry out certain studies.
Challenges	It is often difficult to convince local authorities that studies cost money. Some municipalities do not seem to realize that costs are involved and expect CBS to conduct the studies free of charge.
More information	https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/our-services/urban-data-centres