



## **Building and maintaining partnerships between academia and official statistics – Some of the best practices of Statistics Netherlands**

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### **Abstract**

For Statistics Netherlands (SN) the exchange of knowledge and expertise is of great strategic importance. Therefore, in recent years we actively invested in and established various forms of cooperation with academia. The cornerstones of the cooperation are besides research (and innovation), data, education and recruitment. We look for and establish cooperation both at an institutional and at a personal level. At an institutional level we offer microdata access facilities for academic research purposes; establish special research chairs; sign bilateral cooperation (framework and program<sup>1</sup>) agreements to stimulate and facilitate project agreements; and participate in joint research projects. Whereas at a personal level we challenge our employees and give some the possibility to develop themselves as (inter)nationally respected academic experts. Conversely, we offer students the possibility to do an intern or perform their Master thesis at SN. And in some case university PhD's and postdocs the opportunity to do (part of) their research at SN. We also participate in each other's expert groups and advisory boards. Forms of joint education are Group assignments, Summer Schools, Data Camps and Data Challenges, and the European Master in Official Statistics (EMOS).

One of our best practices we like to share is the investment in setting up SN relationship management with academia. In recent years, the collaboration between SN and universities (incl. universities for applied science) has been strengthened and structured in close collaboration with stakeholders, both within and outside SN. We have created overviews, described processes, drawn up assessment frameworks, and developed evaluation processes for strategic collaborations. Now a solid foundation has been laid; a steering group helps to focus, e.g. to move towards a more theme-oriented approach which helps to reduce the chance factor in the collaboration and

In summary, on the one hand setting up relationship management provided us with a more effective way to achieve SN's objectives. And on the other, with a view to the relationships involved, which are for the long(er) term and reciprocal, this means that we can deepen our mutual cooperation relationships being more reliable partners.

### **Keywords:**

Partnerships; Relationship Management; Academia; Official Statistics; Strategic agenda

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<sup>1</sup> This 'best practice' will be presented by Joyce Ten Holter (Institute for Advanced Study, University of Amsterdam)