

Statistics Netherlands (CBS), in particular its Centre for Big Data Statistics, has been investing in new data sources (e.g. privately held data) and new methods (e.g. machine learning) to improve existing official statistics or create entirely new statistics. In recent years, CBS has put a lot of effort into innovative work in these areas. This way both new and existing societal phenomena can be addressed and new as well as existing users may be served.

Several examples have been developed into concrete experimental statistics, that have been published on the CBS innovation site since 2016. Despite initial enthusiasm for the achievements, bringing them to production has proven difficult. We present a couple of projects where CBS has not (yet) managed to implement the experimental statistics in regular production processes, and discuss barriers we encountered and lessons learned from these experiences.

Keywords: experimentation, new methods, production, lessons learned