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Dutch System of Basic Registrations

Abstract

Ministries and some other governmental agencies are used to store similar information about their civilians and companies and keep them in databases for their own use. This often leads to double registration, discrepancies and inefficient procedures to maintain these administrative data-sources. By developing ICT-systems, defining concepts or prescribing legal instruments, it is possible to maintain administrative information about civilians and enterprises in order to improve the quality of administrative data, save maintenance costs, reduce administrative burden and prevent fraud.

In order to avoid double registration, the Dutch government initiated the project "Streamlining Administrative Data" about 15 years ago. In this project, an infrastructure was developed to store administrative information in a network of basic registers. Nowadays, this network is part of the Generic Digital Infrastructure (GDI) of the Dutch government and aims to provide - better governmental service to the public and the business sector, reduction of administrative costs (and burden), surveillance and fighting fraud, efficient public funding and more administrative coherence. Each basic register is implemented in a separate law, under the responsibility of a cabinet minister. The basic idea is that citizens and businesses only once provide their 'personal' information to a governmental body. This information is stored in one basic registration. Each basic registration keeps its own 'authentic' data to fulfill its primary tasks and is supposed to share this with the other registrations in a network (re-use of authentic data). The network plays an important role to provide high quality information on the right moment for policy purposes, to support the emergence services of the police, the ambulance or the fire-department and so on. For this reason, strict rules are imposed on both the keepers and the users of the registrations. The information from the basic registrations in the network is also (re-)used for statistical production.

The Trade Register of the Chambers of Commerce is the basic registration in the administrative network which play a key role in business statistics, since it forms the main input for delineating legal units in the Dutch SBR. Besides the organization of the administrative network of Basic Administrations in the Netherlands, this paper will also focus on the use of the network in statistics.

The 'Danish Government Basic Data program' promises that 'good basic data of everyone' will be a 'driver for growth and efficiency'. The objectives of this program show a lot of similarities with the Dutch 'Digital Agenda' in this respect. The authors of the papers of Statistics Netherlands (Rico

Konen) and Statistics Denmark (Steen Eiberg-Jørgensen) collaborated to focus on the different approaches of both countries to achieve similar objectives.