



Organising cross-border statistics

The role of the statistical offices

Johan van der Valk

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Recent communication of the EC



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.9.2017
COM(2017) 534 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions

{SWD(2017) 307 final}



Ten lines of action



deepen cooperation and exchanges



improve the legislative process



support cross-border employment



promote border multilingualism



facilitate cross-border accessibility



e-government to enable cross-border public administration



provide reliable and understandable information and assistance



promote greater pooling of health care facilities



consider the legal and financial framework for cooperation



build evidence for better decision-making

Cross-border statistics not available?

- Need for comparable data on the border regions: low regional detail and harmonised
- **EU data:** based on harmonised surveys, allowing not much regional detail
- **National data:** regional detail based on administrative sources, not harmonised

Production is challenging

Cross-border statistics are difficult to produce, because they ...

- Require low regional detail,
- using international comparable methods and sources and
- measuring flows of persons & goods

➤ Strong incentive to explore new sources!



Pilot-project *Cross-border data collection*

Objective: Development of methods for cross-border stats

Focus: Labour market statistics at NUTS 3 level

Contents:

- 1a. Better use of Labour Force Survey
- 1b. Use of administrative data
- 2. Exploring mobile phone data (NL&BE)

Duration: 12 months

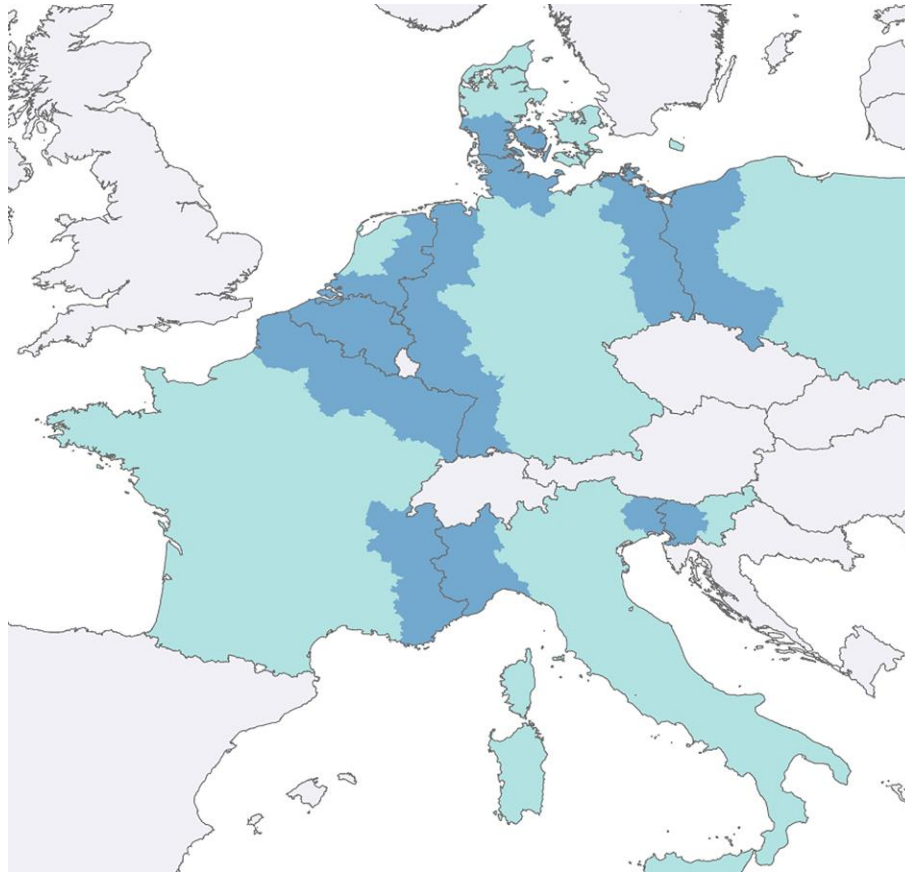
Start: July 2017

Lead Partner: NL

Other partners: PL, DE (IT.NRW), BE, FR, DK, IT, SI



Regions covered in the project



Preliminary results

| | (Labour Force) Survey | Admin data | Mobile phone data |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Comparability | ++ | + | ++ |
| Richness of data | ++ | + | + / ++ |
| Cross-border mobility | - | + | + |
| Accessibility | ++ | + | - |
| Regional detail | - | ++ | +++ |
| Maturity of methodology | ++ | + | - |



Successful project?

Project will prove:

1. valuable cross-border labour market information can be produced for the countries involved
2. Statistical institutes are willing to cooperate in the context of cross-border data
3. Statistical institutes are able to produce data with limited resources



Next steps?

- Extend LFS & admin indicators to the remaining countries and regions
- Further R&D:
 - more regional detail (LAU2)
 - mobile phone methodology
 - other themes
- Organisational issues:
 - How to organise a structural x-border data collection?
 - How to make such data available?
 - Extra work so extra resources?

Future?



Cooperation of statistical institutes is needed

- To use existing data creatively
- To explore new sources
- To develop methodology for impact assessment

In close cooperation with international organisations and stakeholders!

Potential data providing services

- Network of statisticians responsible for cross-border statistics
- Dataset of basic indicators for border regions
- Internet tool for aggregating and presenting data for cross-border regions
- Database of detailed information available for specific local research projects



Questions?



By Frits Ahlefeldt

j.vandervalk@cbs.nl

