Key challenges in the management of Big Data

for the institution and the individual

Barteld Braaksma

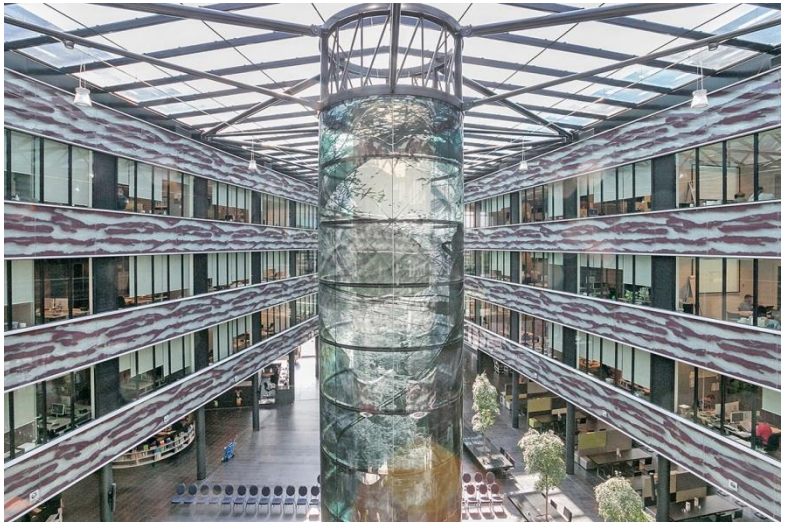
25 October 2018

Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS)

- Established 1899, 5 employees at Binnenhof
- 1949-1973: 23 locations in The Hague
- 1973-2008: Voorburg
- 2008-now : Leidschenveen
- 1978-now : Heerlen

- Since 10-10-10: Bonaire

Two (three) offices- or sixteen?



- 1982: 3600 employees
- 2018: 1800 employees

Most employees now with higher (HBO/WO) education

Urban Data Center

CBS has started to create Urban Data Centers

To connect CBS data and CBS data-expertise to cities leading to:

- ***a better understanding of a city***
- ***better informed city decisions***
- ***better city finances***
- ***harmonized and standardized data (local – regional – national – international)***

Departmental data center (2x)

Rural data center

Academic data center

Provincial data center

A statistical treasure chest

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) enables people to have debates on social issues on the basis of reliable statistical information

Statistical results next to data on individual persons, companies, etcetera

Confidentiality protected by law (GDPR and CBS Act)

CBS products and services

Traditional

- ✓ Regular official statistics (annual, quarterly, monthly, …)
- ✓ Press releases and other publications
- ✓ Dissemination to EU, IMF, OECD, UN, …
- ✓ Machine-readable open data
- ✓ Microdata access for scientific purposes
- ✓ Commissioned statistics
- ✓ Applied research
- ✓ Statistical software
- ✓ Statistical training

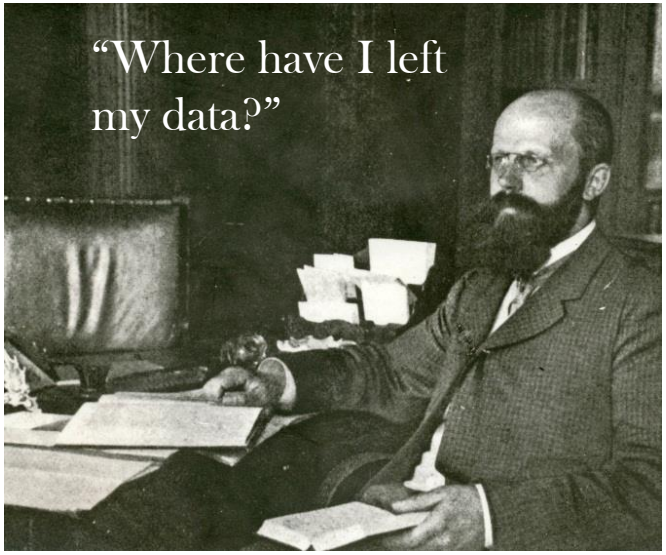
CBS was elected best government organisation of the year 2015

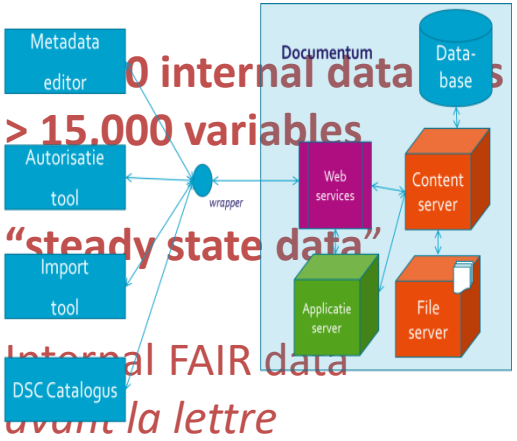
New and under construction

- ✓ Urban Data Centers
- ✓ Statistical consultancy
- ✓ Third party data services
- ✓ Experimental statistics
- ✓ Data camps and hackathons
- ✓ CBS Academy
- ✓ Information dialogue

Data Service Centre (DSC)

for internal data management





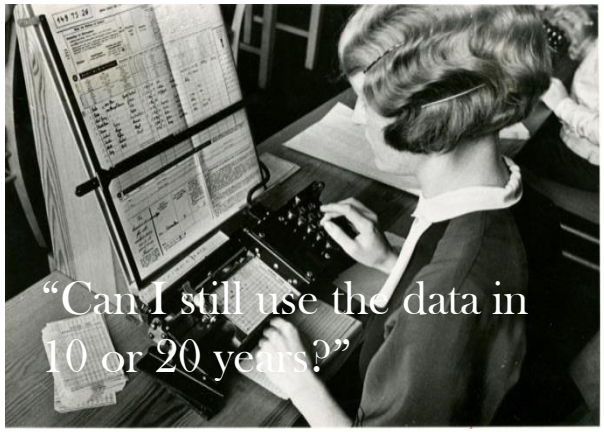
0 internal data s

> 15.000 variables

"steady state data"

Internal FAIR data

avant la lettre



But: is the time of statistics over?

In a post-truth world, statistics could provide an essential public service

John Pullinger

(National Statistician UK)

By combining the best of both worlds

Statistics Netherlands

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jan/19/crisis-of-statistics-big-data-democracy

Data, data everywhere

Information has gone from scarce to superabundant.

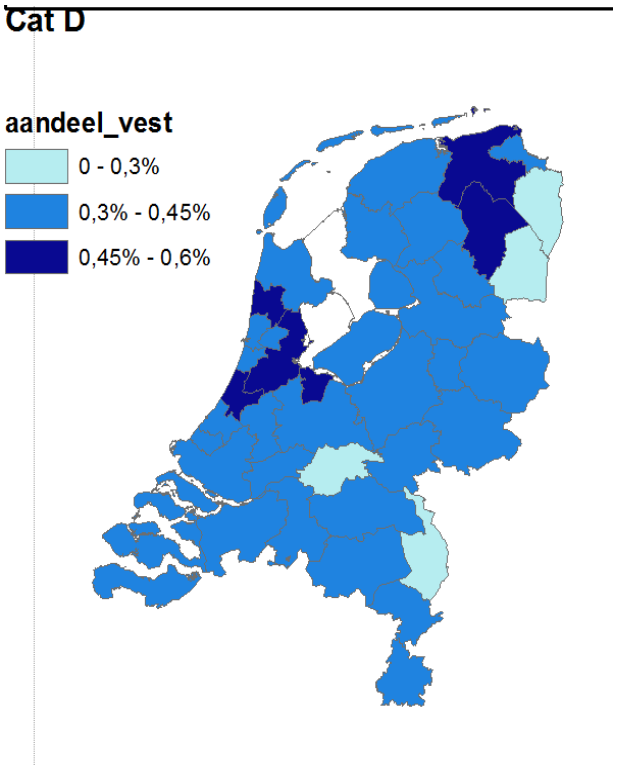
The Economist

CBS answer: Center for Big Data Statistics

Center for
Big Data Statistics

- Academic, public, private partners
- Both national and international
- Various relationships

Measuring the internet economy
in The Netherlands



Main research question:

"What is the importance of the internet to the Dutch economy?"

The aim of the research project was fourfold:

1. Determine a pragmatic definition of "the internet economy"
2. Show the importance and size of the internet economy in NL
3. Show the possibilities of new measurement methods
4. Explain differences from regular statistics/concepts

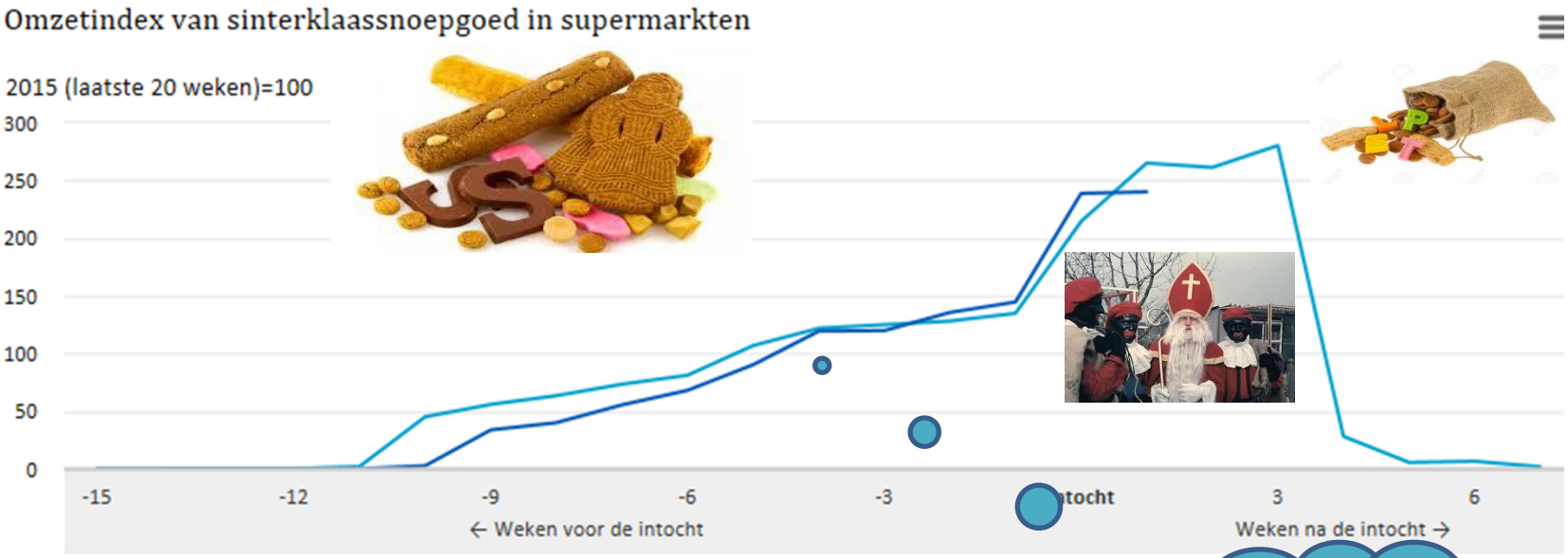
Center for Big Data Statistics

Google

dataprovider

2.5 million Dutch websites linked to business register

The Peppernut Index
seasonal cookies and candy



Could we say something about regional food patterns?

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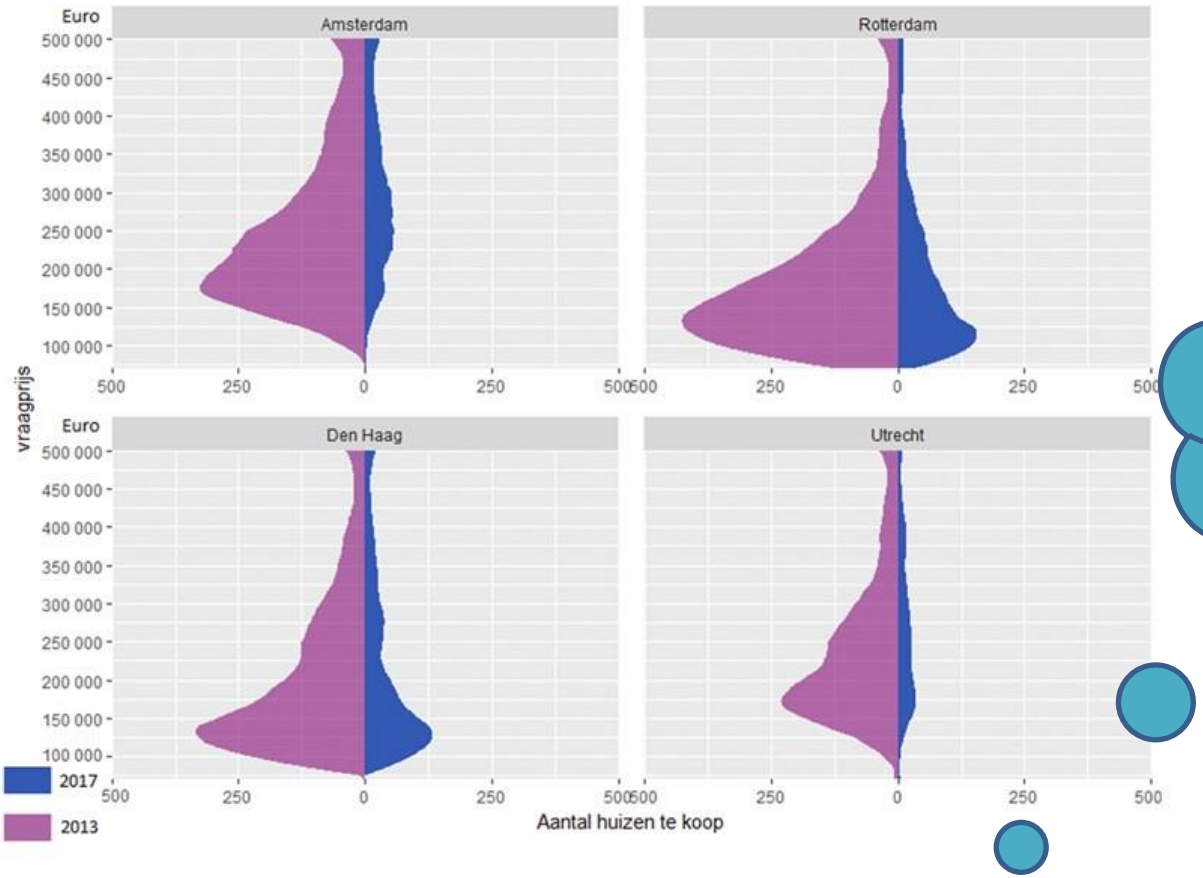
The Dutch online housing market



How to integrate such an API in the CBS environment?

Number of houses for sale online, 2013+2017

Source (API): JAAP.NL ALLES OVER HUIZEN |data services|

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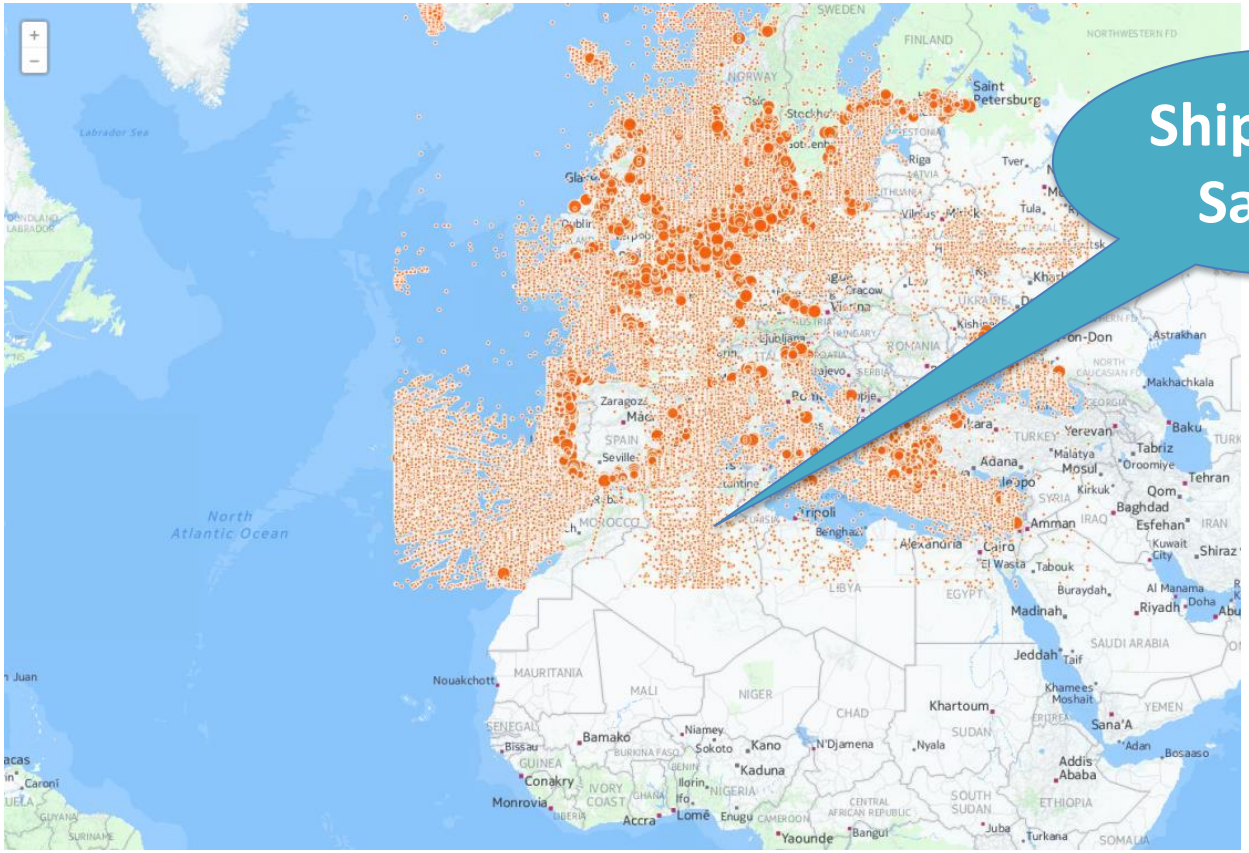
What about quality of big data?

AIS data from ships



Automatic identification system

Worldwide standard using GPS-like sensors

For most ships obligatory

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Innovative collaboration models:

CBS-UTwente Data Camp 2015

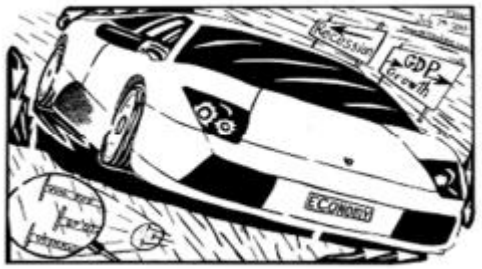
The Netherlands in bloom

Maaike Hersevoort (CBS)
Hamed Mehdipoor (UT)

2013-02-24

2014-02-24

Do cars drive the economy?



Dan Ionita (UT) and Ronald van der stegen (CBS)

- Dutch GDP and Dutch Traffic

- GDP vs Traffic
  3 % increase in GDP corresponds to 12 % increase in traffic
- Traffic ahead of GDP
  1 quarter
- Correlation
  82% from 2010-Q3 till 2014-Q4
  91% from 2011-Q2 till 2014-Q4

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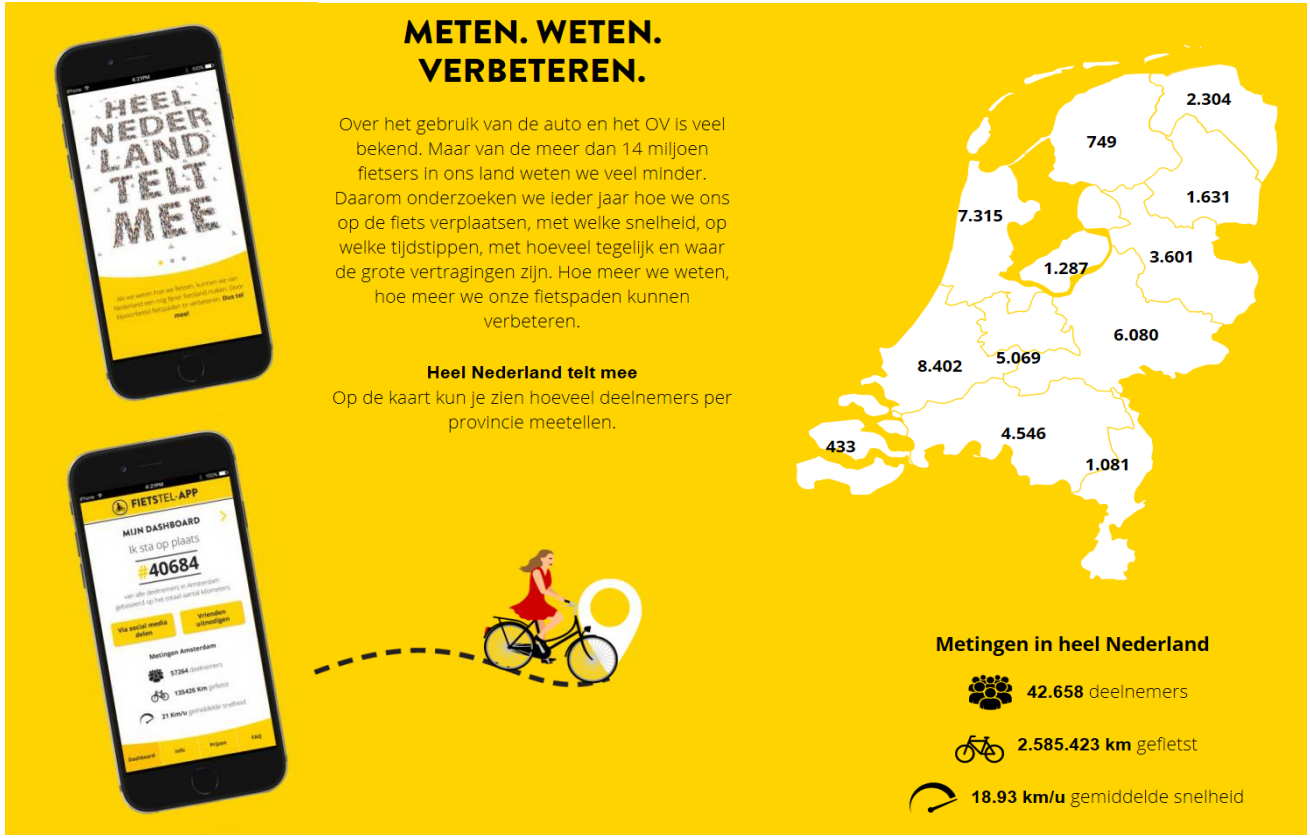
National bicycle counting week

Using the crowd with the help of students



Can we turn this into statistics?

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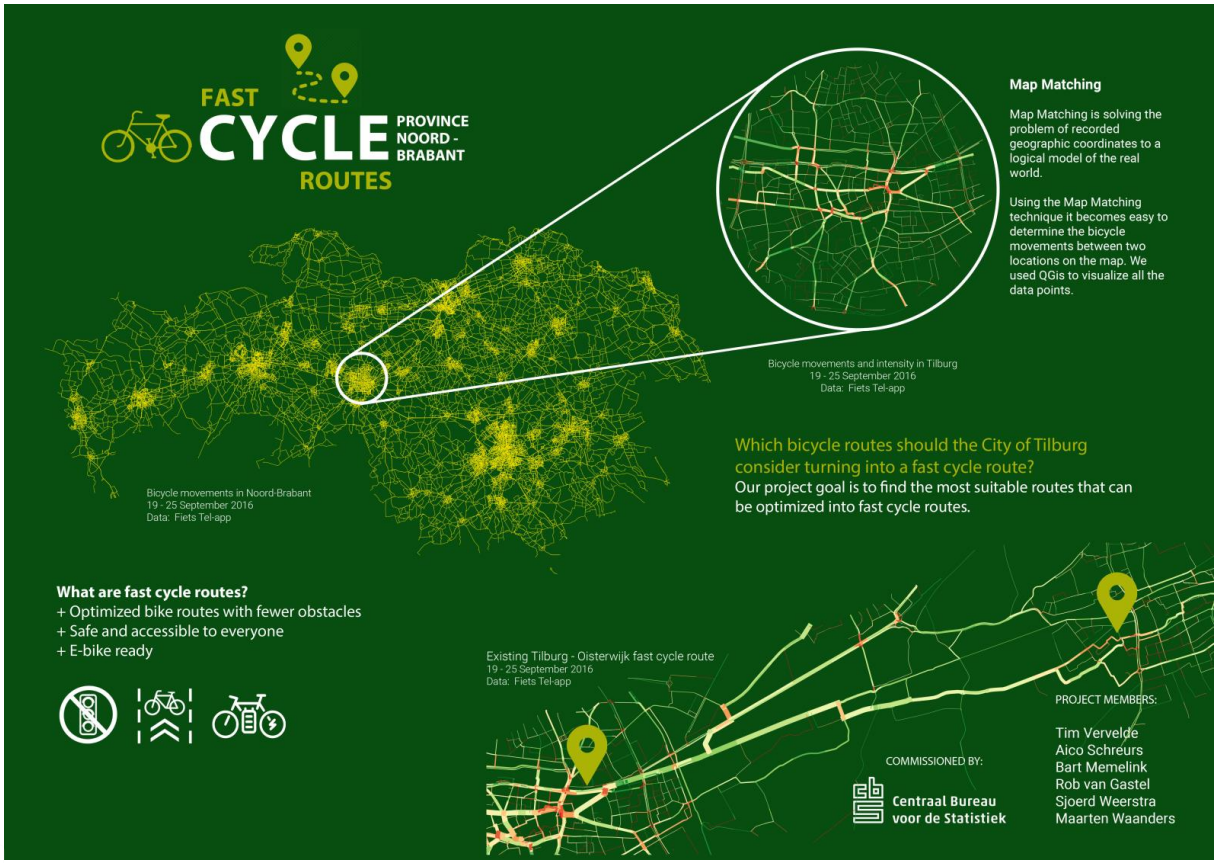
Fontys

National bicycle counting week

Using the crowd with the help of students



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Fontys

Yes we can! See also the [site]

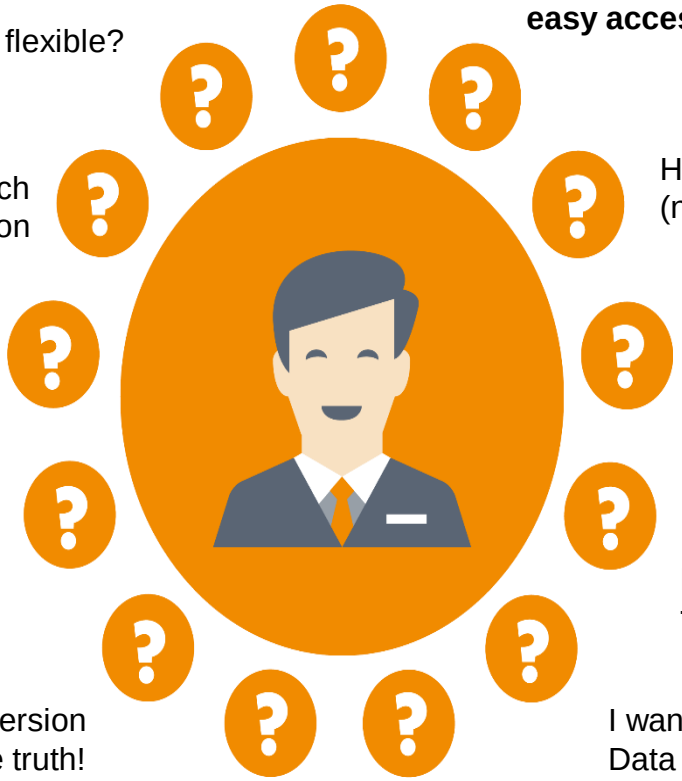
Data dilemmas

Users are impatient
and create own solutions

Can we use third-party HPC facilities?

How to give external users secure and easy access to microdata?

How to make data delivery more flexible?



Analysts spend too much time on data preparation

How can we process (near) real-time information?

How to keep data quality and governance under control?

Adding new information is time consuming and costly

How to secure anonymization and pseudonymization?

How can I use cloud-based solutions fast and safe. Is it legal?

I want a single version of the truth!

I want to implement a Data Management Platform

How to use the potential of big data without copying complete data sets?

How can I support self service?

Better data access for scientific research

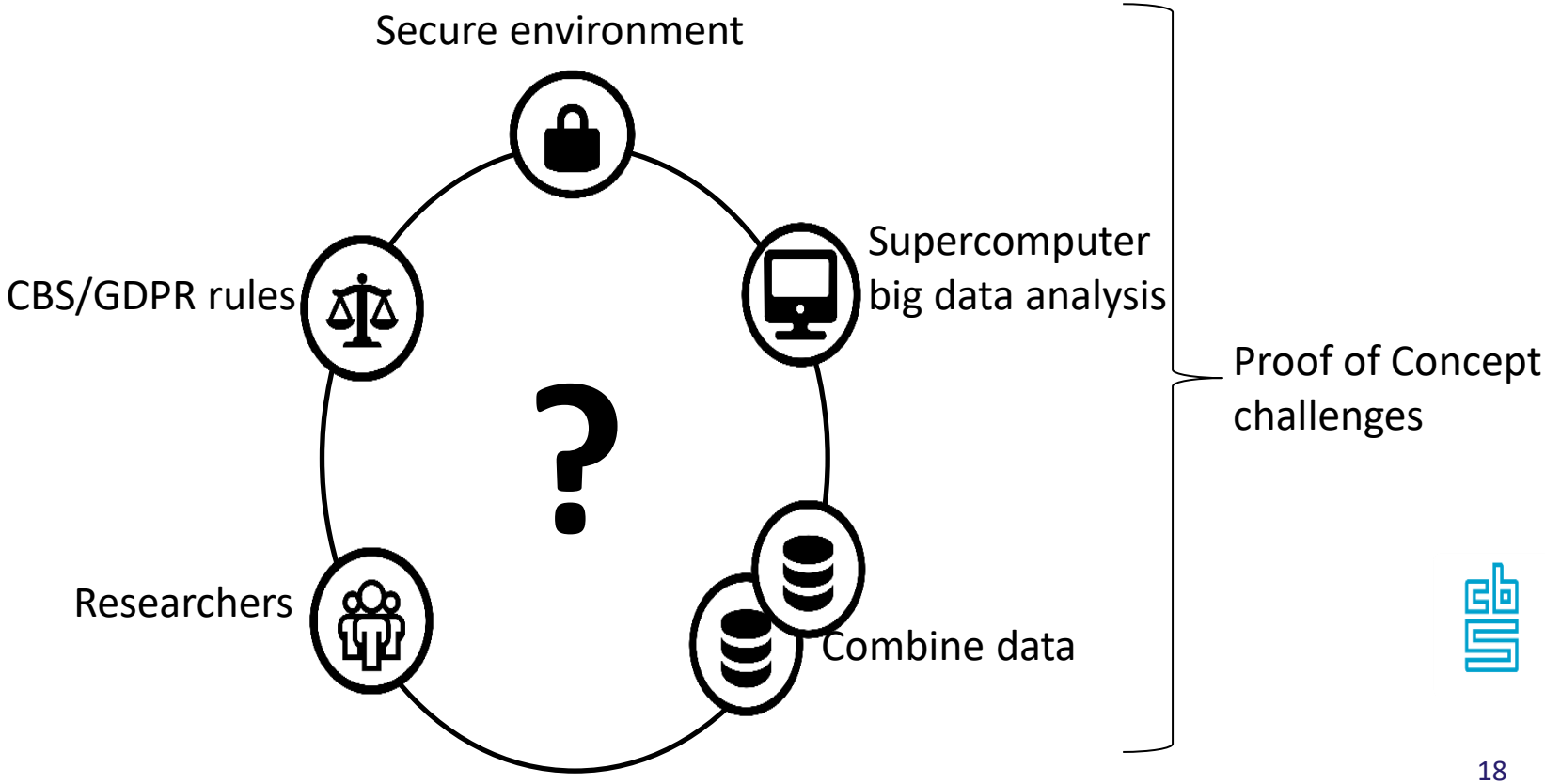
From the ODISSEI website:

(Open Data Infrastructure for Social Science and Economic Innovations)

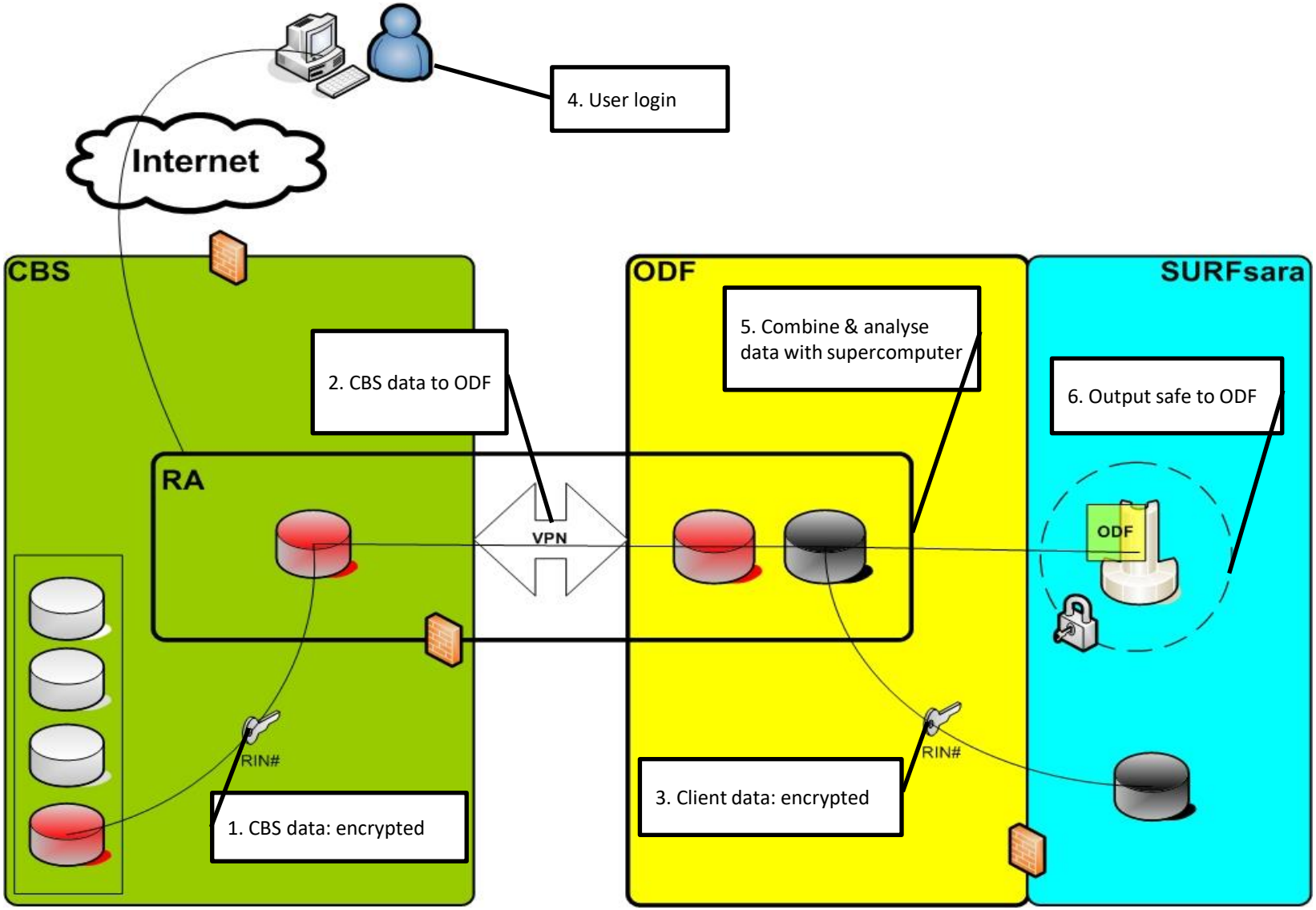
ODISSEI works to develop a **sustainable research infrastructure** for the social sciences in the Netherlands. Through ODISSEI, researchers within the social sciences will have **access to large-scale, longitudinal data collections** connected to registrations from Statistics Netherlands (CBS). (…)

(…) The creation of a national data platform has been **included in the National Roadmap** for Large-Scale Scientific Infrastructure 2016-2020.

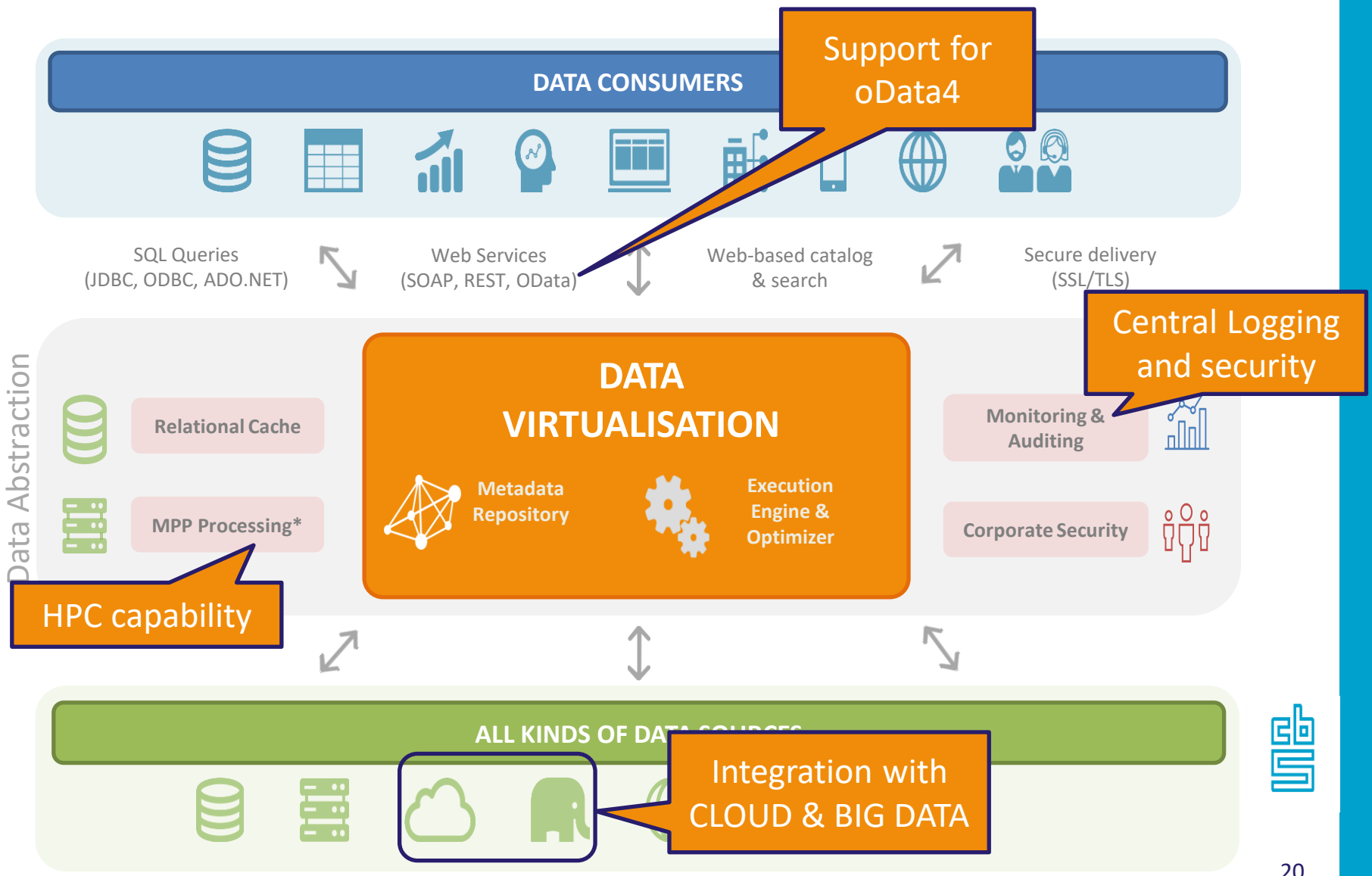
Proof of Concept ODF- ODISSEI Data Facility



ODF implementation



Towards a Data Virtualisation Architecture



* Massive Parallel Processing

Hal Varian ‘On workers and managers’

- Chief economist at Google
- Emeritus professor at Berkeley

The McKinsey Quarterly, Januari 2009:

I keep saying the sexy job in the next ten years will be statisticians (…)

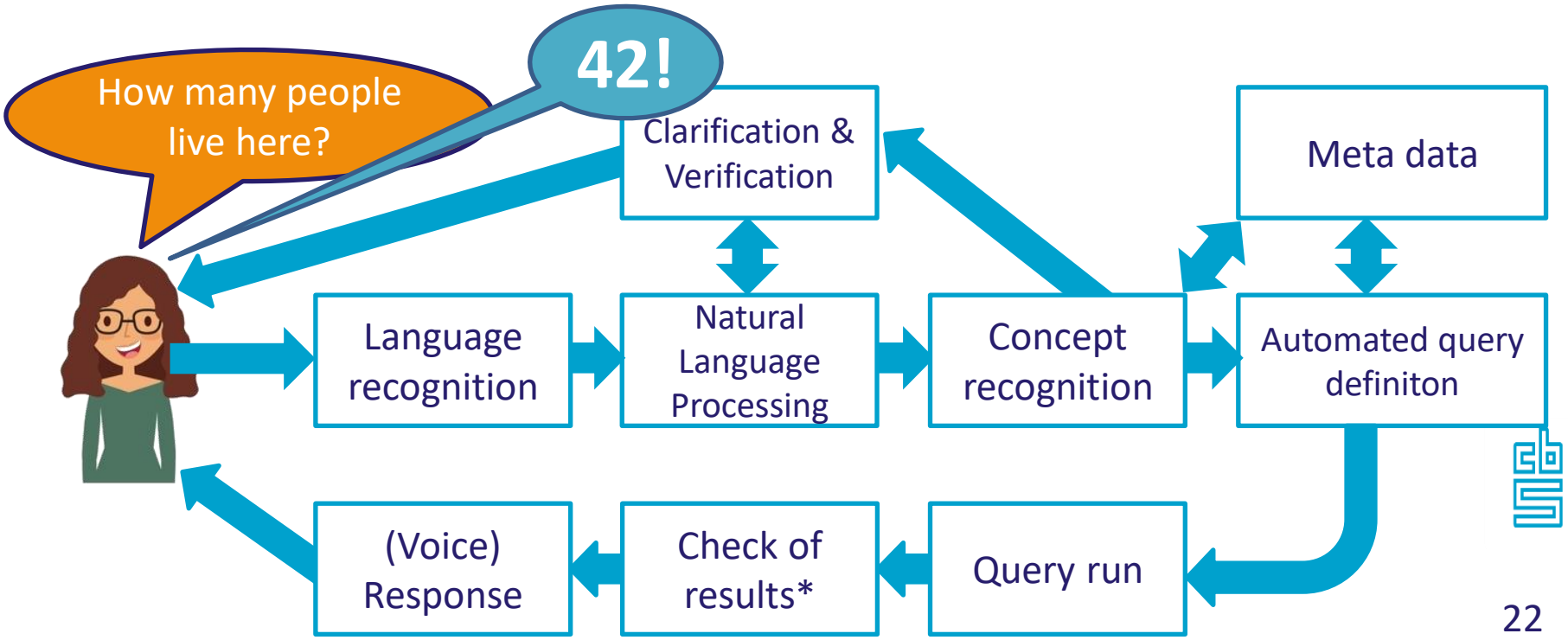
Because now we really do have essentially free and ubiquitous data. So the complimentary scarce factor is the ability to understand that data and extract value from it.

I think statisticians are part of it. (…) Managers need to be able to access and understand the data themselves.

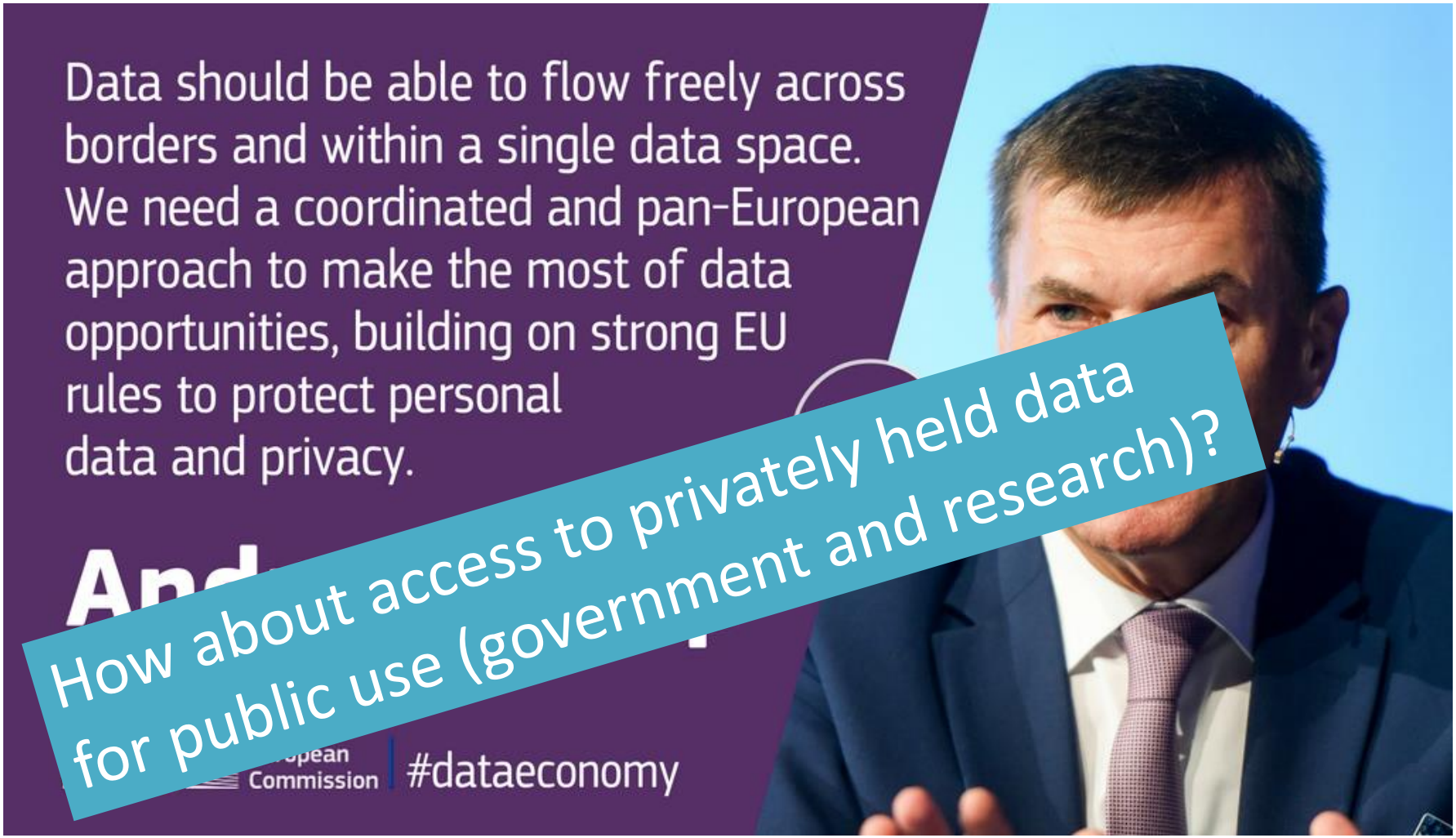
The Information Dialogue

"An **arbitrary user** can ask CBS any **arbitrary question** at any **arbitrary moment** via any **arbitrary platform** (desktop, tablet, mobile device).

Next, CBS **clarifies the question** in a partly or fully **automated dialogue** and, based on available content (text, images, data, audio, visuals and data visuals) **a single complete answer is given in a format demanded by the user**."



Data is an EU priority



How about access to privately held data for public use (government and research)?

Takeaway messages (long versions)

1) The importance (and volume, variety and velocity) of data is rapidly growing. This calls for new methods and architectures of data management.

2) New relations between societal partners are emerging. Collaboration and partnerships are crucial in moving forward. Data sharing is not just an option, it is a must!

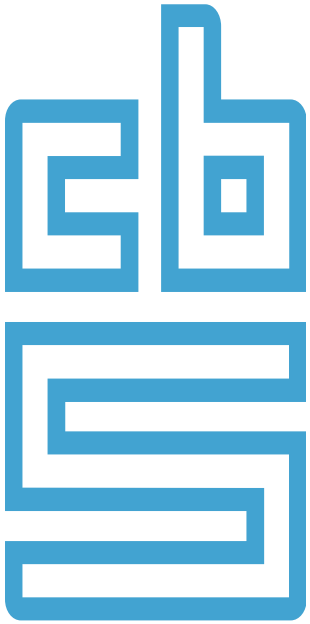
3) A combination of top-down (frameworks, guidelines) and bottom-up (experiments, concrete cases) approaches works best.

4) The importance of soft skills (communications, negotiation, sensitivity to the environment) for researchers is increasing. The ivory tower disappears.

5) Whatever you do, support at top management level is extremely important- create the conditions for change and innovation.

Takeaway messages (short versions)

1) New methods and architectures of data management are needed
2) Collaboration and partnerships are crucial in moving forward
3) Combine top-down and bottom-up approaches
4) The importance of soft skills is increasing
5) Create the conditions for change and innovation at top level



Facts that matter