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Before January 2012, he held the positions of Director External cooperation, dissemination and key indicators; until 2009 of Director for Agricultural and Environment statistics and Statistical cooperation and until 2006 the position of Director of External Relations Statistics and, for a short period, Director of Business Statistics. He joined Eurostat in May 2004, closing a 20 year career at Statistics Netherlands (CBS). His last position (2000-2004) at Statistics Netherlands was Director of Social and Spatial Statistics. He has a PhD in Spatial Sciences at the University of Utrecht and is originally trained in Human Geography and Mathematical Sociology.