Toponymic data & map production in the Netherlands

from fieldwork

to crowdsourcing

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Topography as Key Register

Key Register for Topography (*Basisregistratie Topografie*)

- 1:10,000 scale vector database – TOP10NL
- 1:25,000 to 1:1,000,000 scale databases and maps
- Automated generalization and visualization of all maps, manual placement of texts on maps
- 1-year update cycle for all of the Netherlands
- Published with uniform temporal accuracy on all scales
- Open data

Part of system of key registers – essential public data

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Fieldwork as it used to be

Until 1980s: complete revision of map sheets

- Interpretation of aerial images at the office
- Additional fieldwork in the area of the map
- Toponymic data collected at town hall, from signs and local inhabitants

Update cycle: 8 to 12 years

Map production improvement

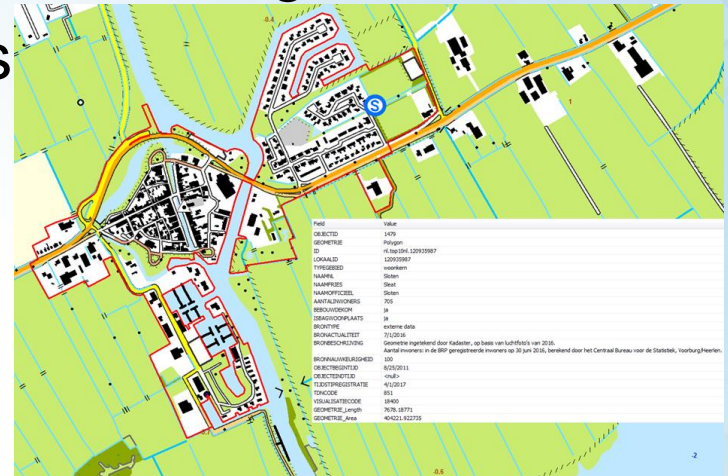From 1990s: updating existing maps – focus on changes

➡️ reducing attention for toponymic data

2009: fieldwork replaced by streetview images

➡️ use of external data sources

2014: Lean production process

➡️ 1-year update cycle

But: many toponymic data not updated at all!

Crowdsourcing toponymic data

Attempt for cooperation with municipalities no success

2017: updating toponymic data in cooperation with local historical societies

- Toponymic maps sent to societies
- Changes indicated by societies sample checked and processed
- Nationwide coverage
- Great enthusiasm

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Names standardization

No national names authority in the Netherlands

- Own standardization rules by Kadaster to maintain uniformity in toponymic data

- No names standardization in other (key) registers like Key Register for Addresses and Buildings updated by municipalities – official street and place names

- Need for generally accepted and applied standards for geographical names

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