

TARGETED ANALYSIS //

**DIGIPLAN – Fact sheet on digital
plan data in the Netherlands**

Annex 2.11 of final report

Final delivery // June 2021



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This deliverable does not necessarily reflect the opinions of members of the ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee.

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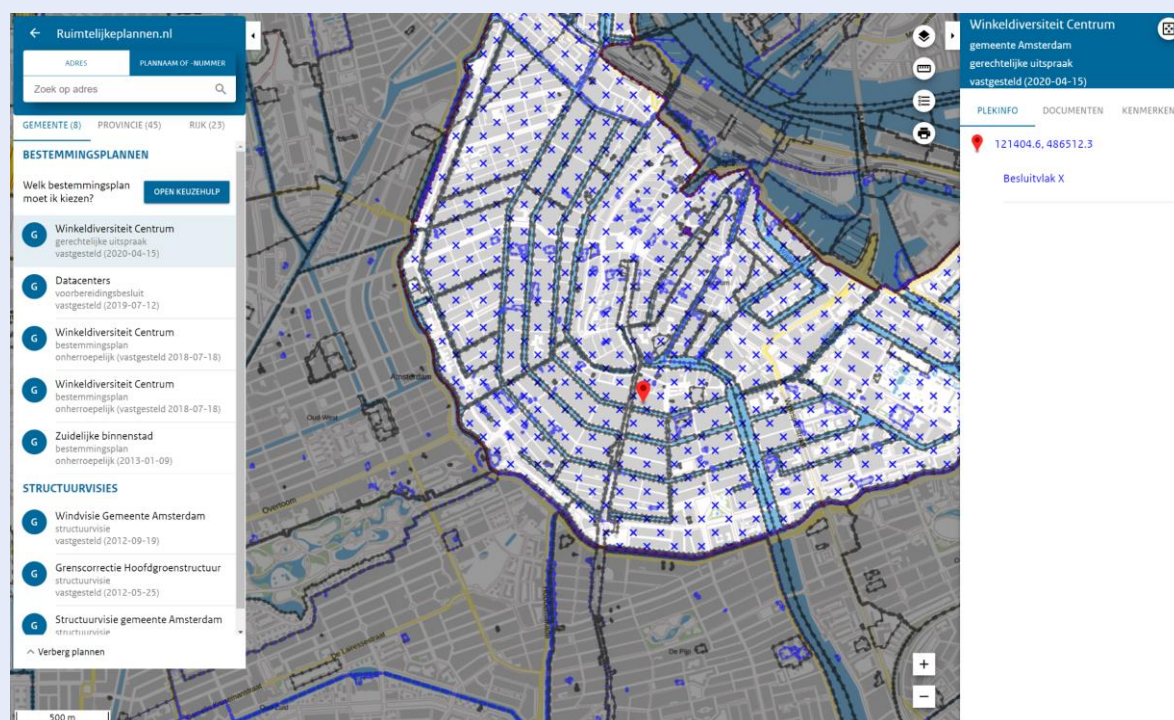
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This fact sheet summarises the experience in digitisation of plan data in the Netherlands. This explorative investigation includes information on the digitisation of plan data, on the digital platform that contains plan data, the current uses of digital plan data as well as foreseen developments of the investigated platforms. The inputs are based on both a desk study and interviews with experts at the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (Geonovum) and the Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster).

The Netherlands (Decentralised; three levels of government)

The decentralised unitary state consists of the central government, twelve provinces and 393 municipalities. While the central government and the provinces are responsible for legislation and spatial vision, the municipalities are the main actors of spatial planning policy and implementation. The digital plan data portal investigated is Ruimtelijkeplannen (<https://www.ruimtelijkeplannen.nl/viewer/>)



Background information

Main stakeholder(s)	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (owner) Kadaster (Management and Maintenance) Geonovum (RO Standards)
Level of digitalisation of the geoportaal	Basic: the user can only see plan data in digital form (on purpose).

The digitisation of plan data

Main purpose(s)	Open governance through increased transparency of government processes due to legal and current digital plan data in the portal.
Added value	Providing public access to digital plan data allows the government to stay lean and reduce costs.

The Netherlands (Decentralised; three levels of government)

Main driver(s)	<p>2003 to 2008: Discussions on digitisation began at the request of the authorities and companies. The municipalities carried out the digitisation of planning data on their own portals</p> <p>2008: A major milestone occurred in 2008 when the government decided that all authorities must publish their plan data in a standardised form on the national portal by the end of 2013.</p>
Main obstacle(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003 to 2008: The contrast between municipal freedom and standardization was a challenge • Since 2008: A challenge was to build a system with legally binding but also simple and understandable information. In addition, it must be adaptable to all authorities with different responsibilities. Also challenging were the five-year timeframe for implementing digital plan data due to capacity and resource limits as well as the changeover for the employees, who had to adapt to new software and systems.
Standards and methods	<p>The planning process is completely digital. The responsible authorities can use their preferred software for digitalizing plan data. However, the final product must comply with the RO standards created by Geonovum, which enable data exchange. The entirety of RO Standards includes legally required standards, practical guidelines and working agreements.</p> <p>Offices or consultants often make plans for municipalities. However, there is only one person of the responsible authority who can upload data on the portal with an electronic signature. Kadaster and Geonovum only check that the standards are followed.</p>

The current platform

Type of digital plan data included	All spatial plans must be digitised and published on the national platform by the responsible authorities (national government, provinces and municipalities). The authorities can publish new plans every day, so it is a continuing process of updating. The portal is checked twice a day for new plans, so that the portal is always up to date.
Legal status of the digital plan data	Digital plans on the portal are legally binding and there is only the current data available. The portal represents the current and legally binding state. It is also possible for the municipalities to publish a pre-concept of a digital plan (Voorontwerp bestemmingsplan) in the development phase, so citizens can react to the proposed plan before the official procedure starts. This pre-concept digital plan (Voorontwerp bestemmingsplan) has no legal binding status, but it is used to facilitate the participation process of citizens.

The current uses of digital plan data

Type of users	All authorities, private sector and the civil society use the portal and the legally binding plan data.
Number of users	170'000 unique users in April 2020
Example of evaluation of planning practices or innovative practices	The correct and strictly regulated and checked data on the portal are valuable used for regulation as well as innovation. For example, certain retail companies use the digitised data to explore potential locations of new stores/malls.

Foreseen developments

With the new Environmental Act (in 2021 or 2022) spatial planning in the Netherlands is affected. New topics are taken into account (health care, environment) and the planning process differs substantially from the current one. Therefore, new standards must be developed. The local authorities and provinces have 9 years to make all plans compatible with the new standards (by the end of 2029). In order to comply with the new standards and the new ways of making plans, there will be a new software and portal with a new interface design. The advantages of the current system will be retained, but the disadvantages should be eliminated. Then it will be easier to find certain or even old/historic plans.

Levels	Planning instruments (Name in English)	Planning instruments (Name in local language)	Included in the geoportal?
National	Structure vision	Structuurvisie	Yes
	National imposed land use plan	Rijksbestemmingplan	Yes
	Project decision	Projectbesluit	Yes
	National Order to make land-use plan	aanwijzingsbesluit	Yes
	National Order to annul land-use plan	Reactieve aanwijzing	Yes
	Preparatory decision	Vorbereidingsbesluit	Yes
Sub-national	Structure vision	Structuurvisie	Yes
Province	Provincial Imposed Land Use Plan	Inpassingsplan	Yes
	Provincial Ordinance	Provinciale verordening	Yes
	Provincial Order to make land-use plan	aanwijzingsbesluit	Yes
	Provincial Order to annul land-use plan	Reactieve aanwijzing	Yes
	Project Decision	Projectbelsluit	Yes
	Preparatory decision	Vorbereidingsbesluit	Yes
Local - municipalities	Structure Vision	Structuurvisie	Yes
	(Municipal) land use plan	Bestemmingsplannen	Yes
	Management regulation	Beheersverordening	Yes
	Project decision	Projectbesluit	Yes
	Development plan	Uitwerkingsplan	Yes
	Preparatory decision	Vorbereidingsbesluit	Yes



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