



Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek • *Statistics Netherlands*
Division of Social and Spatial Statistics

OTB research institute for the build environment
TU Delft
Professor Dr. Ir.P.J.M. van Oosterom
Postbus 5030
2600 GA DELFT

contactpersoon
contact

P. Bresters

doorkiesnummer
direct line

+ 31(0)70 337 4521

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Supportletter Maps4Science

Den Haag, 22 December 2011

Dear professor Van Oosterom

With great interest we learned about your project proposal Maps4Science.

This project distinguishes itself from other geo-related projects by the fact that it focuses on large datasets and on the scientific world. It will not only lead to better dissemination of these datasets, but also to more use in research, not only in the field of geo information, but moreover in other science fields.

It is difficult for Statistics Netherlands (CBS) to bring our large data sets close to the potential scientific users. Especially to them who want to download the data for GIS analyses. An example of such a large data set is our (100 by 100 m) grid based population datasets. Viewing this data with geoservices is no problem, but downloading the whole dataset according to the current open standards (OGC GML/WFS) is not possible due to the size of this dataset. We hope and expect that Maps4Science will lead to solutions to solve this problem.

So far, spatial datasets are mostly used in the scientific field of geo information. However, there is a large potential for this data to be used in other scientific fields as well. Especially our social and economic data can be of great use for researchers in many scientific fields. Therefore, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) believes that the Maps4Science project will empower the use of geo information in all fields of science.

We support your project proposal and we will be happy to support the project by providing it with our data. Our datasets will not only be very suitable for testing since they are large, but they are also of great value to many research areas.

Yours faithfully,

Wim van Nunspeet,
Director Division of Social en Spatial Statistics

CBS Den Haag
Henri Faasdreef 312
Postbus 24500
2490 HA Den Haag

Tel. 31 (0)70 337 38 00
Fax 31 (0)70 387 74 29

CBS Heerlen
CBS-weg 11
Postbus 4481
6401 CZ Heerlen

Tel. 31 (0)45 570 60 00
Fax 31 (0)45 572 74 40

Statistics Netherlands (CBS)