**Statistics Flanders as a new regional statistical authority: a first SWOT-analysis**

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**Keywords:** statistical authority, institutional setting, network, regional

# Introduction

Statistics Flanders is a new actor in the landscape of statistical authorities in Europe, created in 2016. The Flemish Statistics Authority forms the core of the decentralised network of official statistics and focuses on the development, coordination, production and publication of official statistics across all government departments and agencies. To realise this, a network approach was used in which the coordination is realised through joint working and decision-making.

The ultimate goal of Statistics Flanders is to offer reliable key figures and data about Flanders so that everyone has the right information to make well-founded decisions: citizens, organisations, companies and policy makers of the several policy levels. As official statistics producers we want to tell stories with numbers about Flanders: about the people who live and work here, our economy, our environment and about our place in the world. We want to put our official statistics at the core of an evidence-informed approach to policy making. We also aim to make data openly available so we maximise the use of our data.

# Methods

In this paper we focus on the first steps of Statistics Flanders as a new regional statistical network within the international family of official statistics producers. Using a SWOT-analysis We will explore the strengths and weaknesses, but also the opportunities and threats in building both the network and the Flemish statistics authority as the coordinating centre of the network.

We will also give an overview of the institutional setting within the Belgian federal state, our strategy and the operational objectives of Statistics Flanders.

# Results

# Conclusions