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How is life in the North of the Netherlands?

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Well-being

- > The problem of **definition** **short term: emotional feelings of happiness**
- > Many terms for more or less the same thing (how well one's life is going) **long term: life satisfaction**

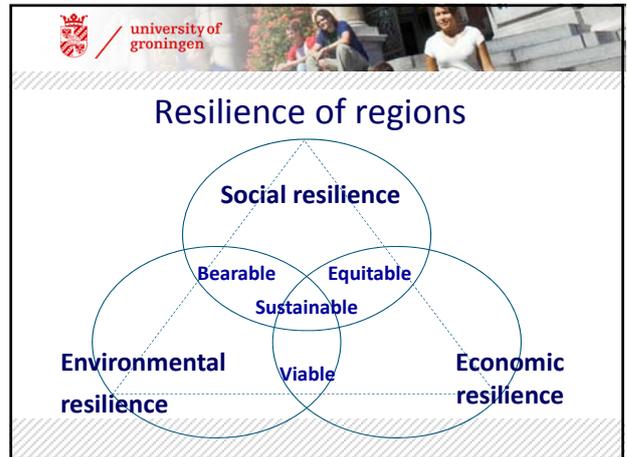
- Quality of life
- Welfare
- Health
- Happiness

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People's Well-being: changing preferences

<i>Objective measures</i>	<i>Subjective measures</i>
> Life expectancy	> Health perception
> Mortality rates	> Access to services
> Poverty	> Material deprivation
> Crime	> Safety and trust
> Income	> Life satisfaction
> Un-/employment	> Happiness
> Education	> Capabilities
> Gender balance	> Equal opportunities
> Working hours	> Work life balance



North of the Netherlands: facts and figures

- > 1.7 million inhabitants, 11 % of The Netherlands
- > 650.000 jobs, SME's are overrepresented
- > Stable population, but population growth in the cities, decline in countryside near sea and border
- > Growth GDP and employment close to the national average, just as the sectoral distribution
- > Unemployment higher, average educational level and average income lower than the national average
- > Specific assets: natural gas (+earthquakes), amenities like Wadden UNESCO-Worldheritage largest wetland area in Europe
- > Governance: decentralization from central government to municipalities + merging of municipalities

Development total population and pop. 20-64

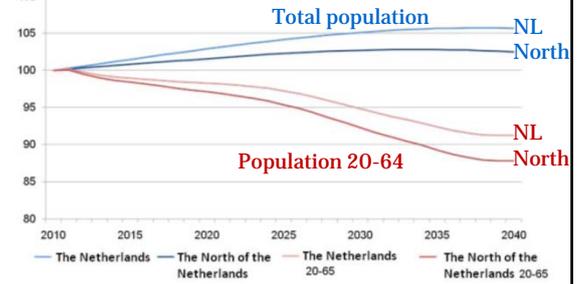
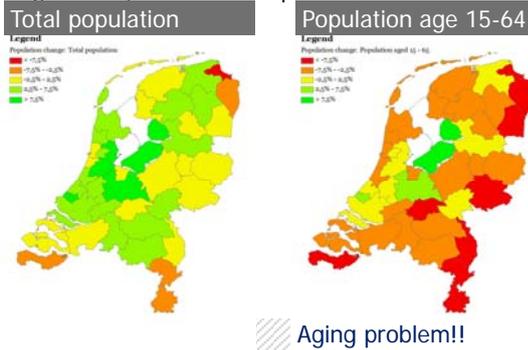
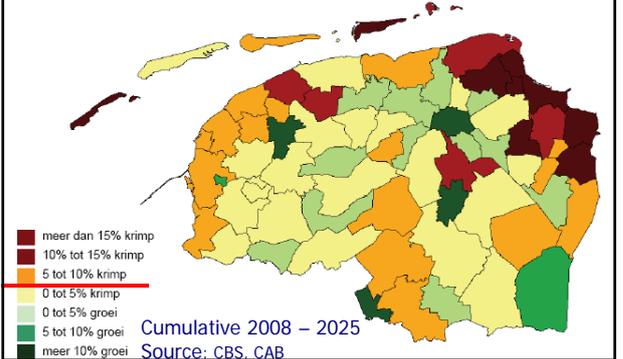


Figure 11 Development of total population and population 20-64 years in the Netherlands and the North of the Netherlands, period 2010-2040. Source: Statistics Netherlands/CAB, 2010.

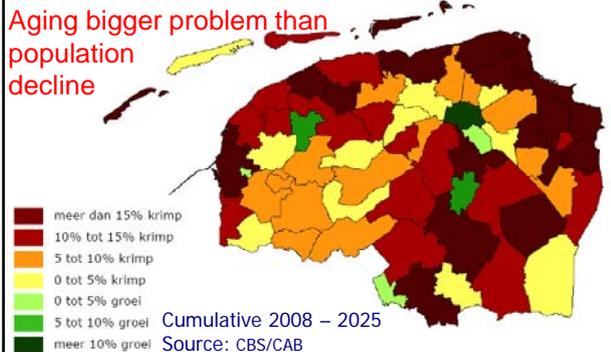
Regional Population Development 2010-2025



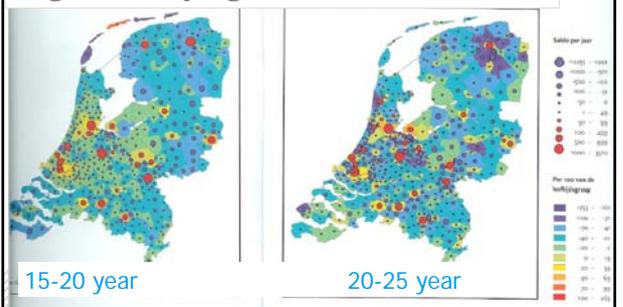
Population 2008-2025

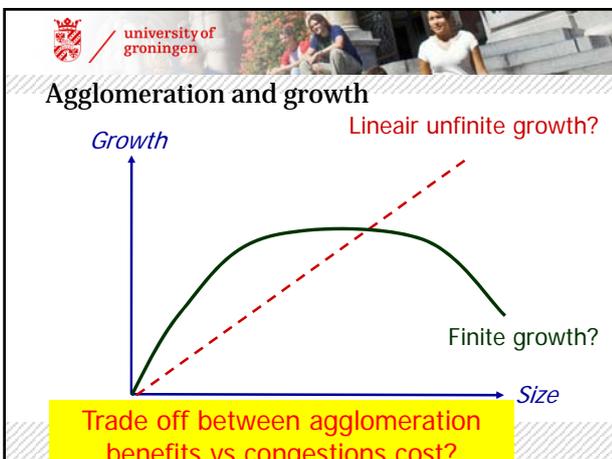
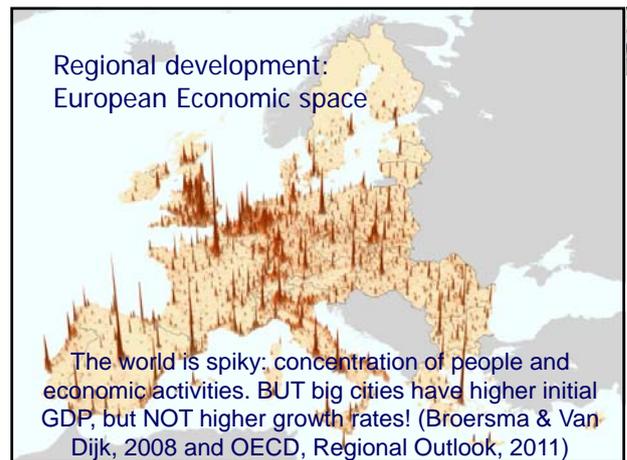
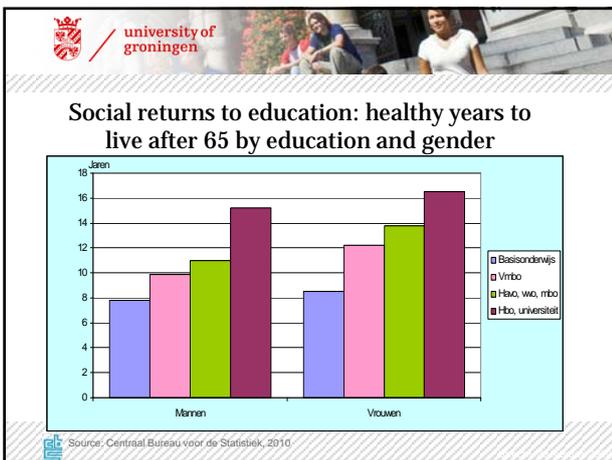
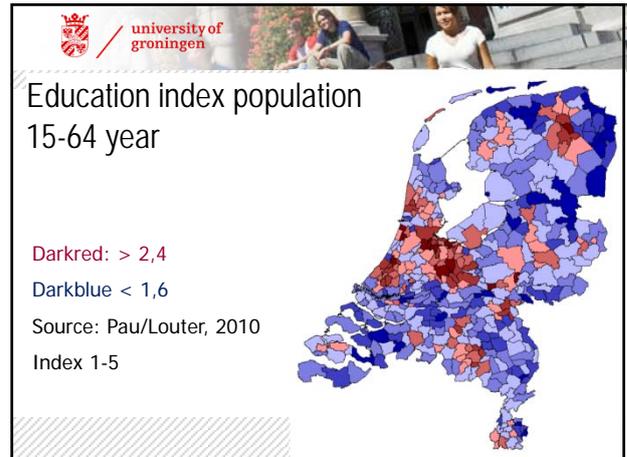
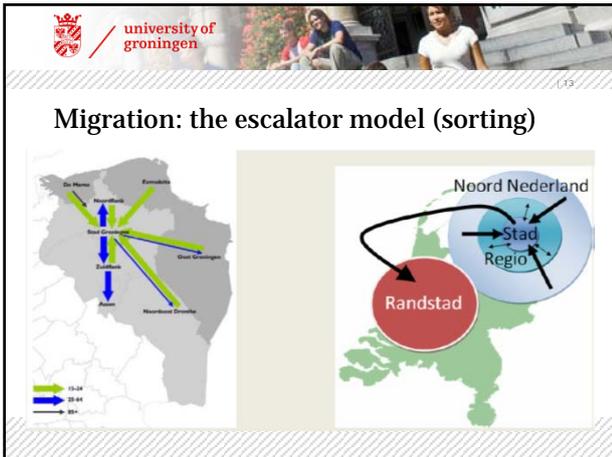


Labour force 20-65



Migration by age 2000-2006





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The Role and Value of (Big) Cities from pure economic and broad well-being perspective

- > **ECONOMIC:** (Big) cities have higher productivity, generate more knowledge outcomes (patents, innovations, copyrights, licenses), have higher human capital – both stocks and inflows
- > **But also:** higher land and housing/land prices
- > **WELL-BEING:** (Big) cities have high quality services and amenities like universities, musea, concerts
- > **But also:** more traffic jams, more air pollution, more crime, higher risk of being the target of war and terrorist attacks

The future of cities in the world:

Shifts in the spatial structure of the economy? (Broersma/Van Dijk, 2008)?

Scale effects in production (Krugman, NEG) versus amenities (Philip Graves; Partridge, 2011)

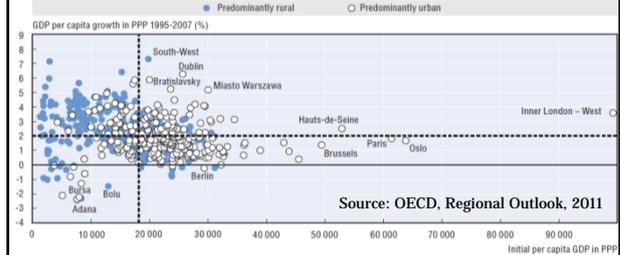
Concentration followed by spread effects?

Access to services: broadband, health, education, banking

Environmental and social sustainability: less traffic, renewable energy, environmental protection, climate change, safety, social cohesion, house with a garden

→ **Focus on well-being, quality of life, livability and sustainability (amenities)**

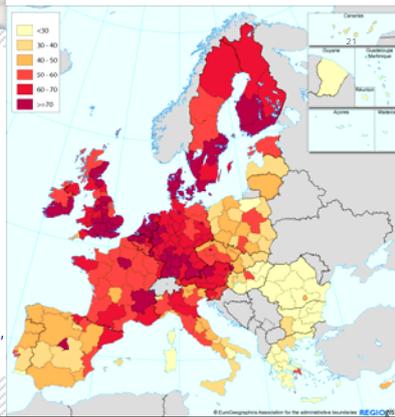
Figure 1.4. A large variation of regional growth profiles, 1995-2007
Predominantly urban and rural regions, 1995-2007



Big cities have higher initial GDP, but NOT higher growth rates!
Opportunities for growth are observed in all type of regions!

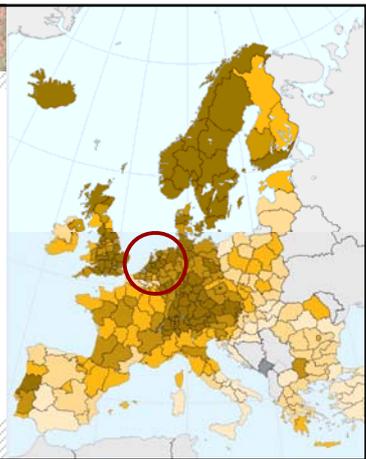
Competitiveness Index, 2010

Index - Values range between 0 (low) and 100 (high)

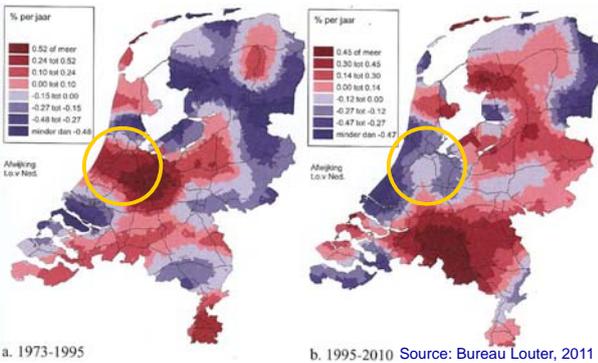


Source: EU-Commission (November 2010)
Investing in Europe's future, 5-th Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion

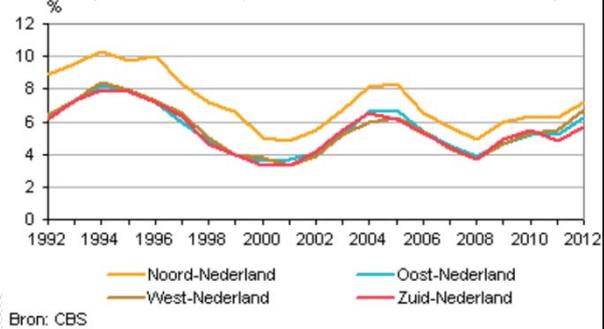
Employment rate 2010:
dark is better
(jobs per inhabitants 20-64 years)

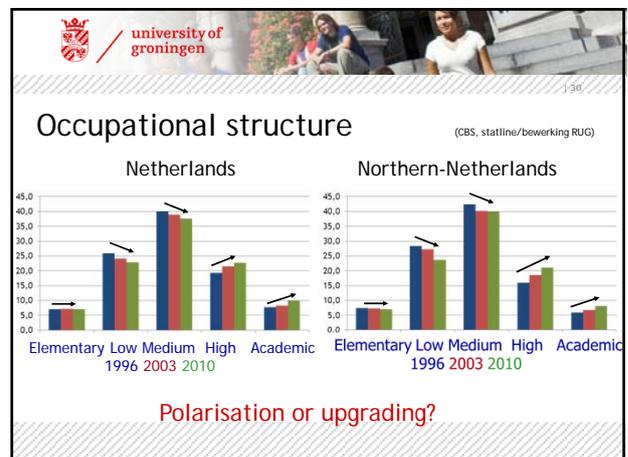
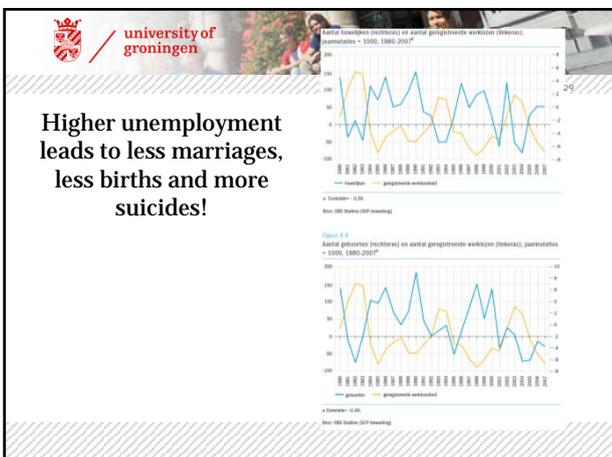
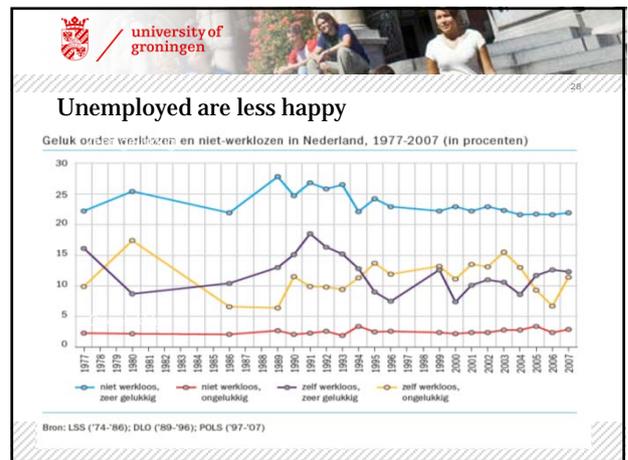
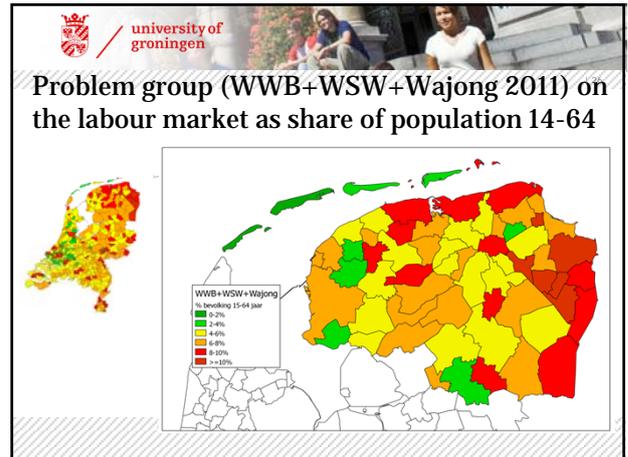
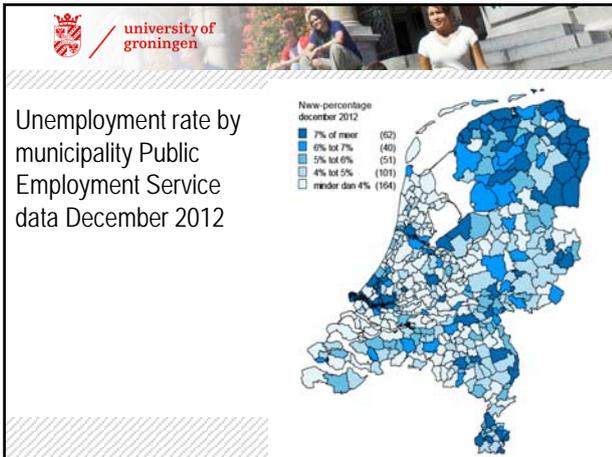


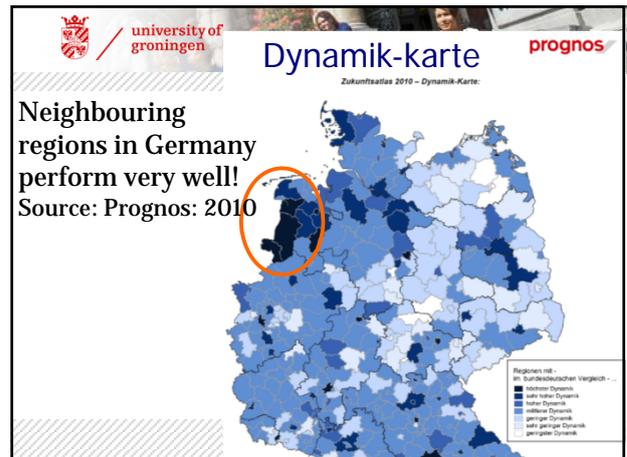
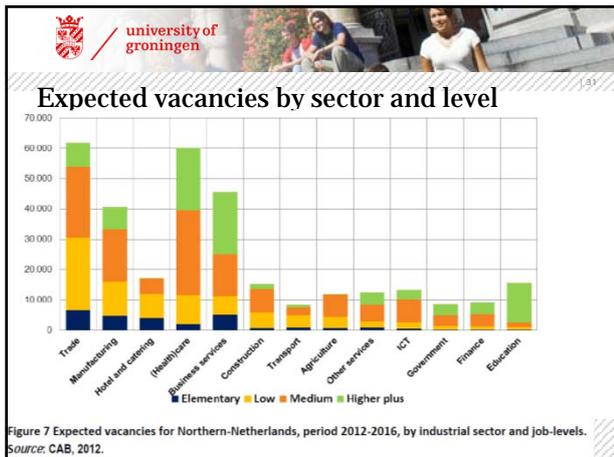
Changes in the employment rates 1973-1995 vs 1995-2010



Regional unemployment differences are narrowing







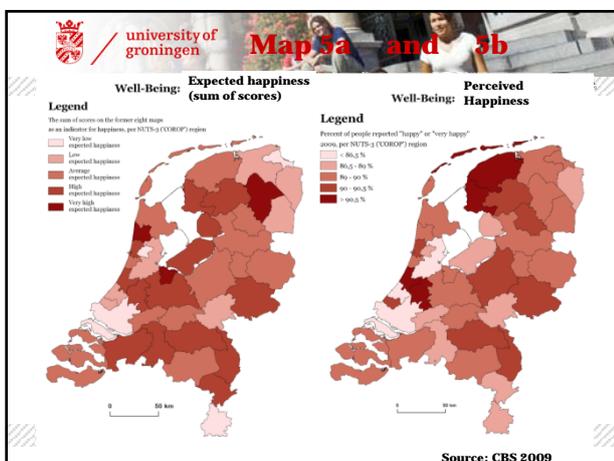
The **Netherlands Institute for Social Research** (Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau SCP) each year publishes a **'life situation index'** in which it describes 'life situation' as a combination of welfare and wellbeing, that can be described with an index based on **eight indicators** for a range of 'social domains', viz. **health, social participation, housing situation, ownership of consumer goods, mobility and holiday patterns**. The SCP publishes the results from its life situation monitor since 1974

Series of *The Netherlands in Maps* (Pellenberg & Van Steen, 2011)
The SCP life situation index is used to visualise the spatial variation in the conditions for wellbeing. We have grouped the eight life situation indicators that are used by the SCP in **four pairs of maps**:

- > **1a and b home ownership and income**
- > **2a and b mobility and social participation**
- > **3a and b health and sports**
- > **4a and b holidays and leisure activities**

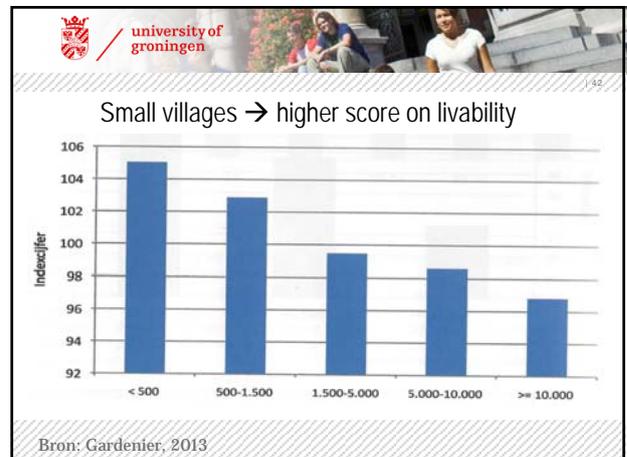
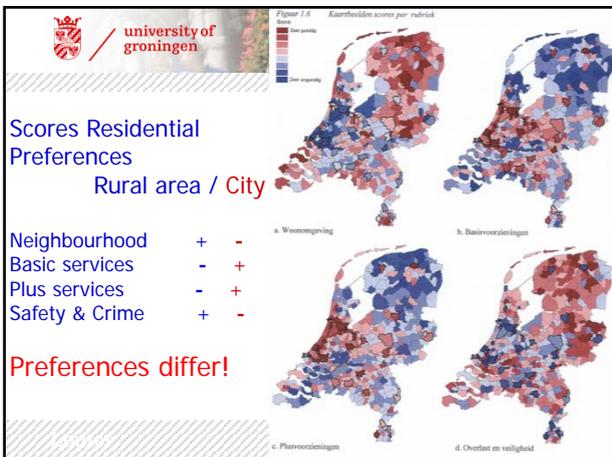
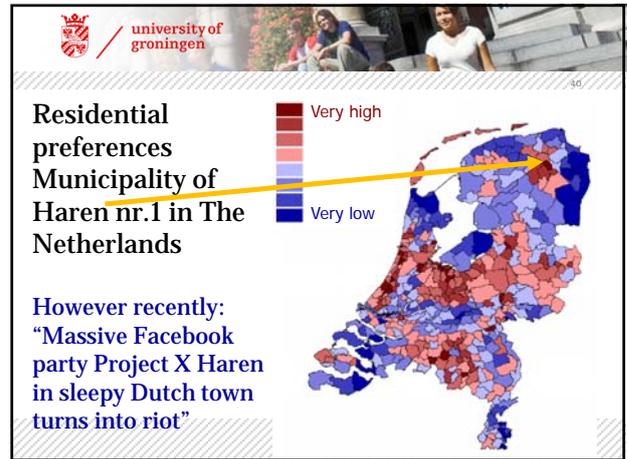
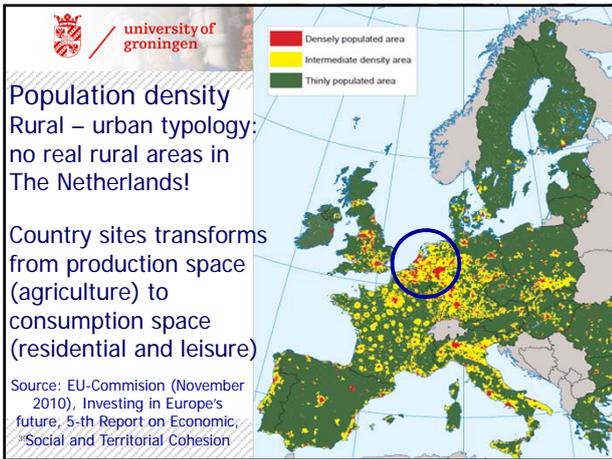
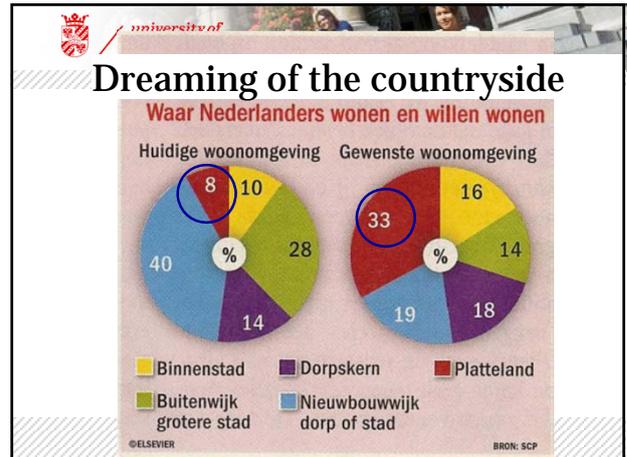
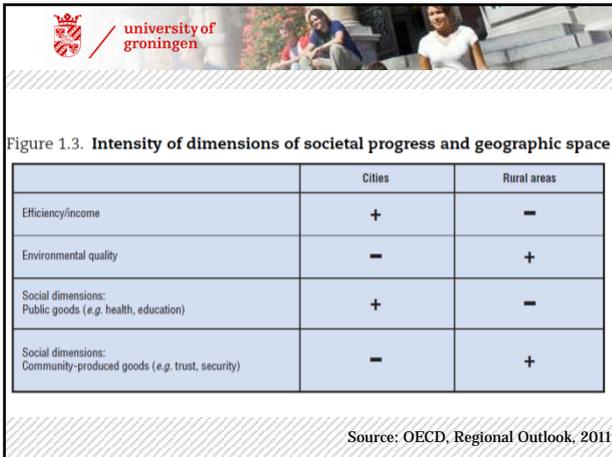
These factors are all assumed to contribute in a positive way to one's life situation. In a **fifth and final pair of maps** we will place next to each other two maps showing the spatial variation in

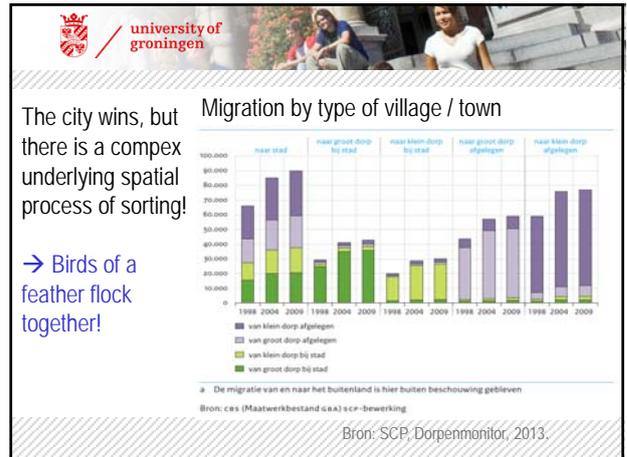
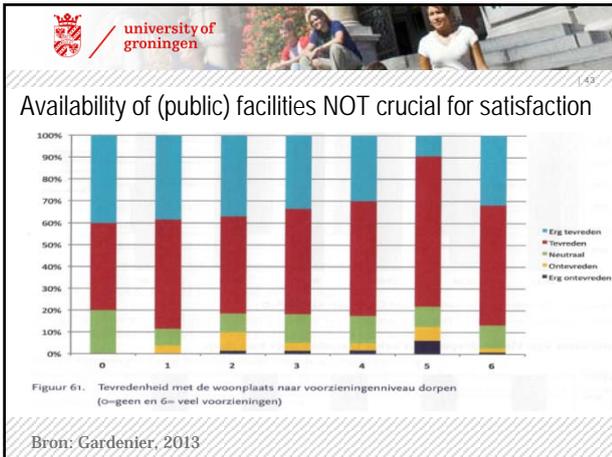
- > **5a the addition of all eight life situation determinants, and**
- > **5b the spatial variation in perceived wellbeing or 'happiness'**



Qualitative (visual) analysis of map similarities

- > **Larger urban regions** (especially Amsterdam and The Hague/Rotterdam) have a **low** score on both maps
- > The same is true for serious **population decline** regions (East Groningen, South Limburg)
- > **Higher** values for 'expected' and 'perceived' happiness appear for **rural regions** - but not typically the same ones on both maps!





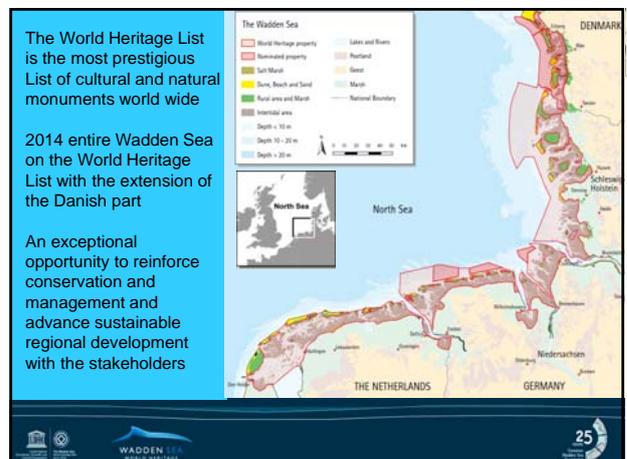
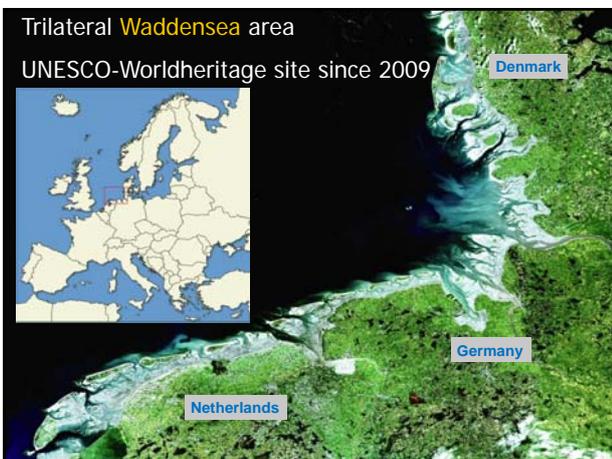
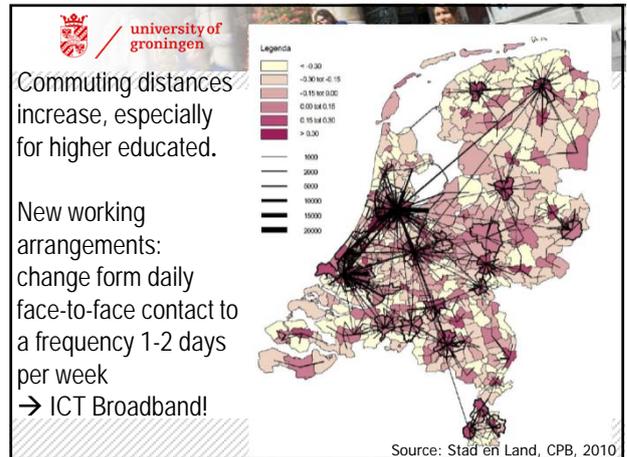
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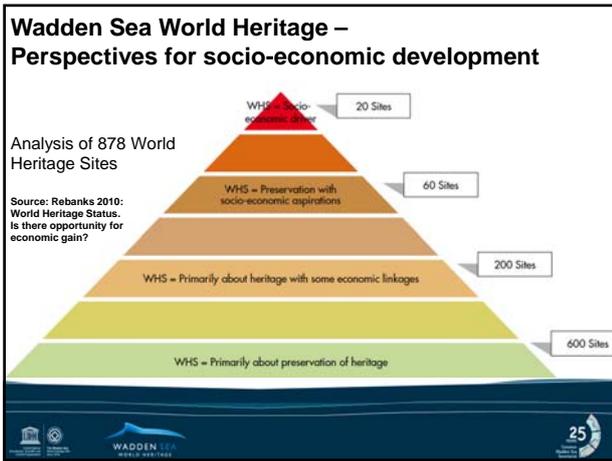
Migration to less popular rural areas

The characteristics, motivations and users' process of migrants

Rixt Bijker

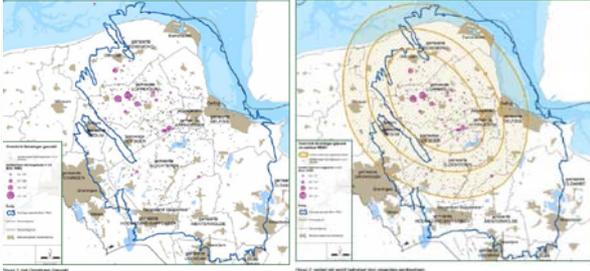
Dissertation Rixt Bijker (January 2013): There are also many migrants **to** the less popular rura areas!
Also important: **quick connections to nearby city + fast ICT Broadband access**







Groningen: gasextraction causes serious earthquakes



Conclusions

- > Job growth is close to the national level, but lower employment rates, higher unemployment, lower income
- > Stable population, but selective migration leading to towns in the region to centres with higher education leading to population decline in further away (border) areas where low educated immobile people remain – escalator model
- > Problem: housing market + earthquakes (trust governance)
- > Aging is a bigger labour market problem than population decline, problem is now hidden by the economic crisis
- > Problem: large group without a job concentrated in areas with low growth rates of jobs: skill mismatch, low mobility, social exclusion
- > New job creation mainly in central towns in innovative sectors requiring high skilled labour with flexible working arrangements also over space (ICT Broadband)



Press Release European Union, October 8, 2013: Groningen one of the cities with the highest quality of life

Dinsdag 8 oktober 2013. Het laatste nieuws het eerst op NU.nl

Geplaatst op: 8 oktober 2013 10:35
Laatste update: 8 oktober 2013 10:35

Deel:

Groningen lijkt gelukkigste stad van Europa

Groningen moet wel een van de gelukkigste steden van Europa zijn. In een dinsdag verschenen tevredenheidsonderzoek over welzijn in Europese steden scoort de stad buitengewoon hoog op allerlei vlakken, van groenvoorzieningen tot vertrouwen in medeburgers.



Foto: AWP

Voor het onderzoek naar de levenskwaliteit in Europese steden, dat de Europese Commissie dinsdag uitbracht, zijn 41.000 stedelingen uit 79 steden in de EU-lidstaten en IJsland, Noorwegen, Zwitserland en Turkije ondergevoerd.

Met name Groningen staat opvallend vaak bovenaan - hoger dan Amsterdam en Rotterdam, de andere Nederlandse steden uit het onderzoek. Groningen staat aan kop met tevredenheid over gezondheidszorg (95 procent), openbare ruimte (94 procent) en onderwijs (89 procent).



Thank you for your attention

