

# Accrual accounting in the Netherlands



**Ids Tijsseling**  
**MoF, the Netherlands**





# Do we have accrual accounting?

- Local governments (> 500 local governments)
- Quango's (>300 quango's)
- Agencies (40 agencies, 60-70% of central government)

**All public goods and services are produced here!**

## What else do we have?

- A lot of our investments are financed out of funds (for example a Infrastructure Fund and a Fund for Structural Economic Development).
- The rest is cash- and-commitment accounting (policy makers at the ministries, about 30 %)





## Accrual accounting for the whole government?

- Discussion for more than 20 years.
- In 2001 “full implementation project” => cancelled



## Why not?

- **Already a very solid and stable financial management system**
- **Investments in funds**
- **Good insight into obligations and assets**
- **Still need cash information**
- **Focus on agencies**
- **Changing information systems**
- **Developing accounting standards**
- **Risk of loosing stability of the system**
- **Changing regulations and little expertise**



## Change of plans...

- In 2004 house of commons asked to investigate our options
- Pilot at the ministry of Agriculture (ministerial annual report 2007)
- Evaluation in 2008: go or no go?





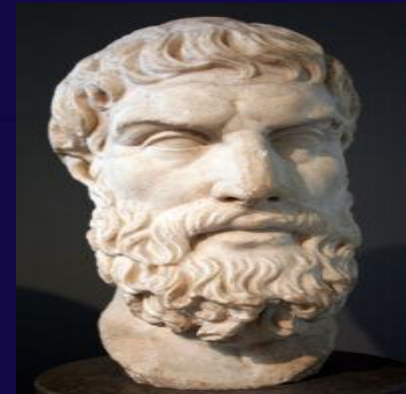
## The pilot

- **IPSAS-based**
- **fair value (no historical value)**
- **only for the ministry of Agriculture**
- **only for the annual report**
- **two administrations**
- **MoF and MoA are working together**



***Skillful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempest.***

***(Epicurus)***



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