

# Doing Business in the European Union 2021: Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands



*Comparing Business Regulation for  
Domestic Firms in 24 Cities in Austria,  
Belgium and the Netherlands with  
Other European Union Member States*





# Doing Business in the European Union 2021: Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands

## THE NETHERLANDS

Julien Vilquin, Subnational Doing Business, World Bank Group

*September 2, 2021*



# Doing Business in the European Union 2021: Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands



## AGENDA

- **Scope of the study**
- **Main findings**
- **Findings per topic**
- **Potential for improvement by adopting local good practices**

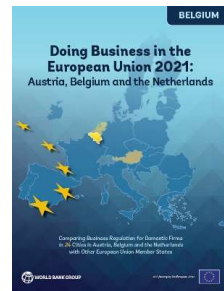
## AGENDA

- **Scope of the study**
- Main findings
- Findings per topic
- Potential for improvement by adopting local good practices

## “Global” and “Subnational” *Doing Business*: what are the differences?

- Demand driven
- Go beyond the largest city
- Selected indicators
- Local good practices
- City stories

*Subnational  
Doing  
Business*

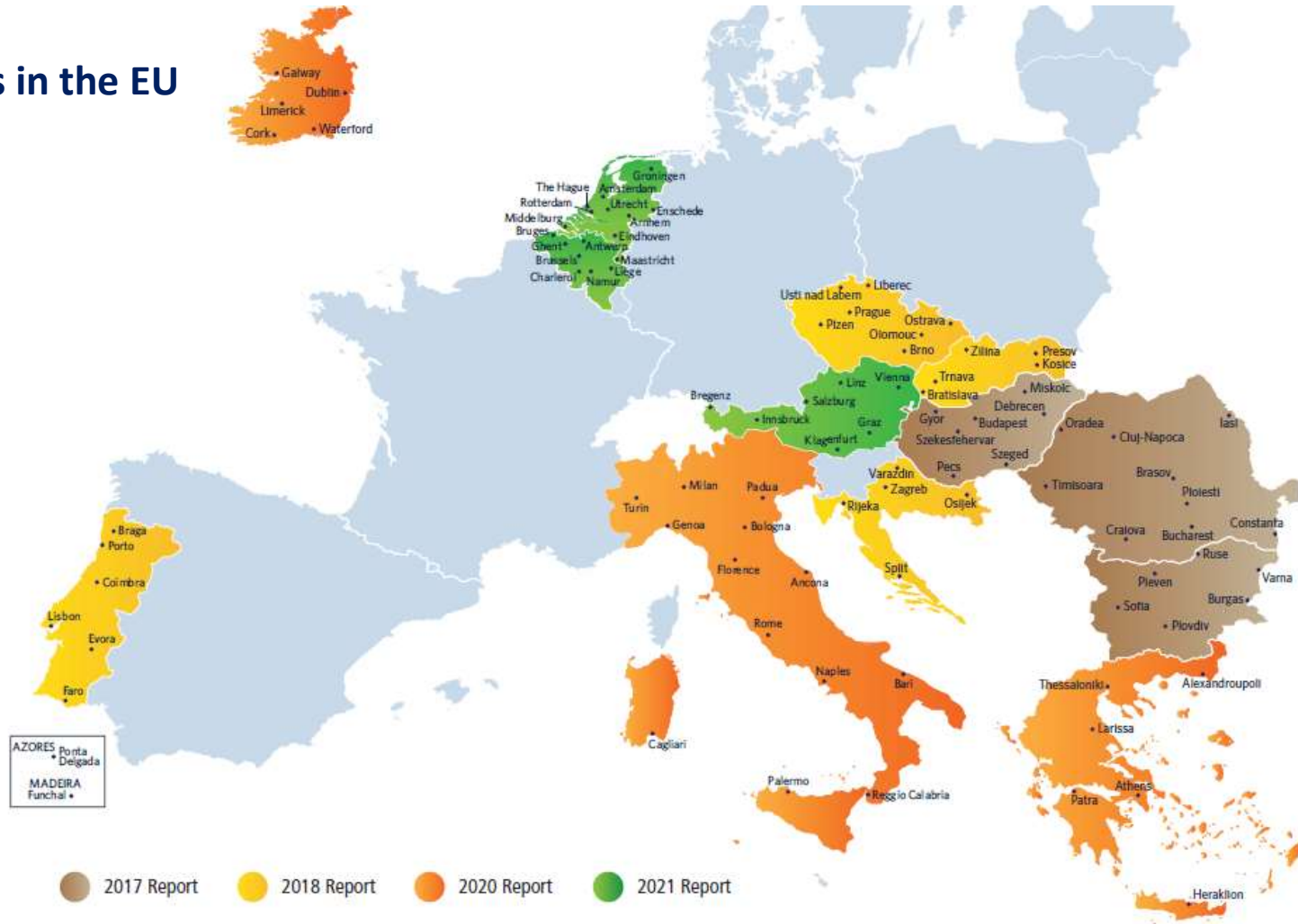


*Global  
Doing  
Business*

- WBG flagship
- Largest business city used as proxy
- 10 indicators
- International good practices
- Country stories

## Subnational Doing Business in the EU

- Three studies published, covering 71 cities across **10 EU member states**.
- Current study includes **24 cities from 3 EU member states**.
- Next study will cover cities in **Denmark, Finland and Sweden**.



## Five regulatory areas and ten cities measured across the Netherlands



### Starting a business

Procedures, time, cost and paid-in minimum capital to open a business



### Dealing with construction permits

Procedures, time and cost to comply with formalities to build a warehouse + Quality of building regulation



### Getting Electricity

Procedures, time and cost to obtain an electricity connection + Reliability of supply and transparency of tariffs



### Registering property

Procedures, time and cost to transfer property between two local companies + Quality of land administration



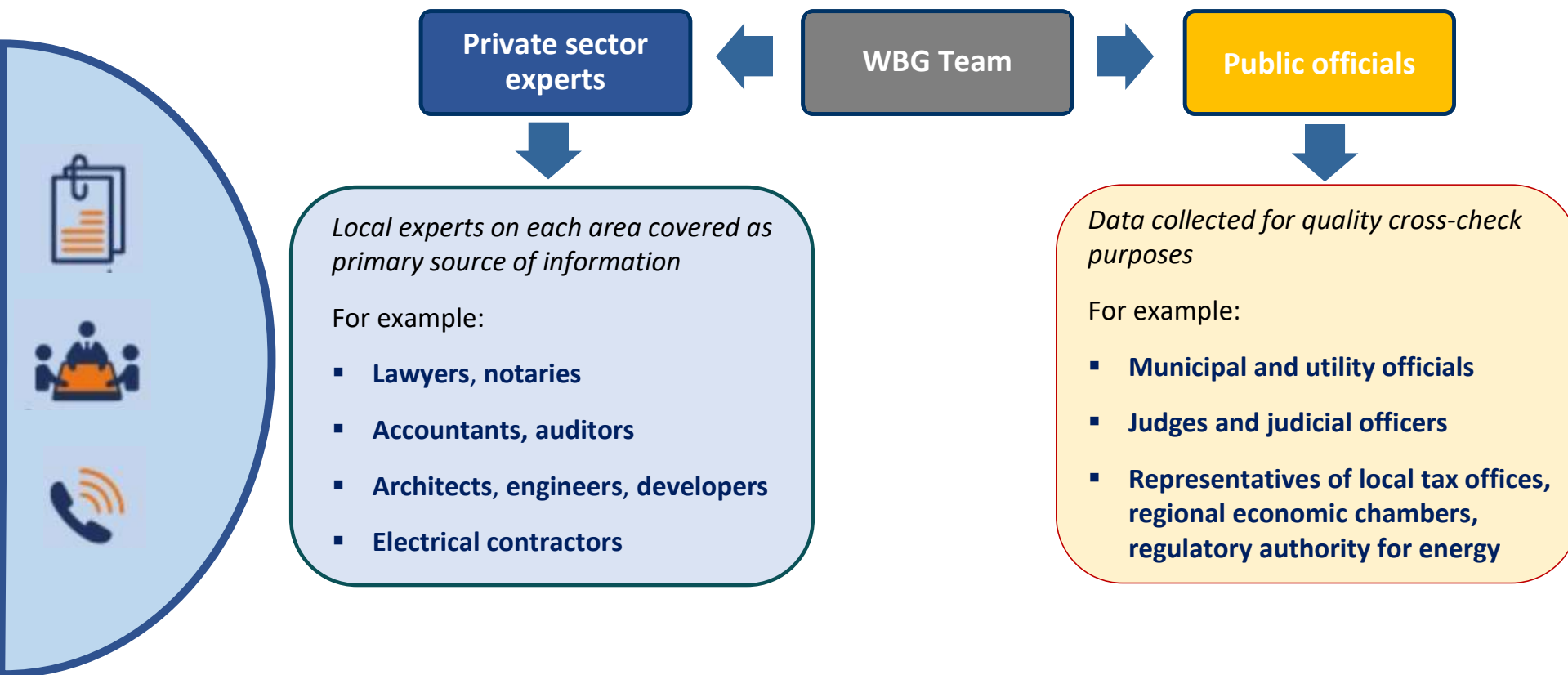
### Enforcing contracts

Time and cost to resolve a commercial dispute + Quality of judicial processes

#### THE CITIES

- Amsterdam
- Arnhem
- Eindhoven
- Enschede
- Groningen
- The Hague
- Maastricht
- Middelburg
- Rotterdam
- Utrecht

## How we collected the data





## AGENDA

- Scope of the study
- **Main findings**
- Findings per topic
- Potential for improvement by adopting local good practices

## Main findings

- Strong performance in one area coexists with weak performance in another
- Subnational score variations are most significant in the ease of construction permitting and getting electricity.
- Dutch cities perform almost homogenously in starting a business and registering property.
- Time is the main source of variation among the performances of the Dutch cities benchmarked.
- Good practices identified in some of the cities could be replicated in others, especially in dealing with construction permits and getting electricity.

## Six different cities top the ranking in at least one of the five areas measured

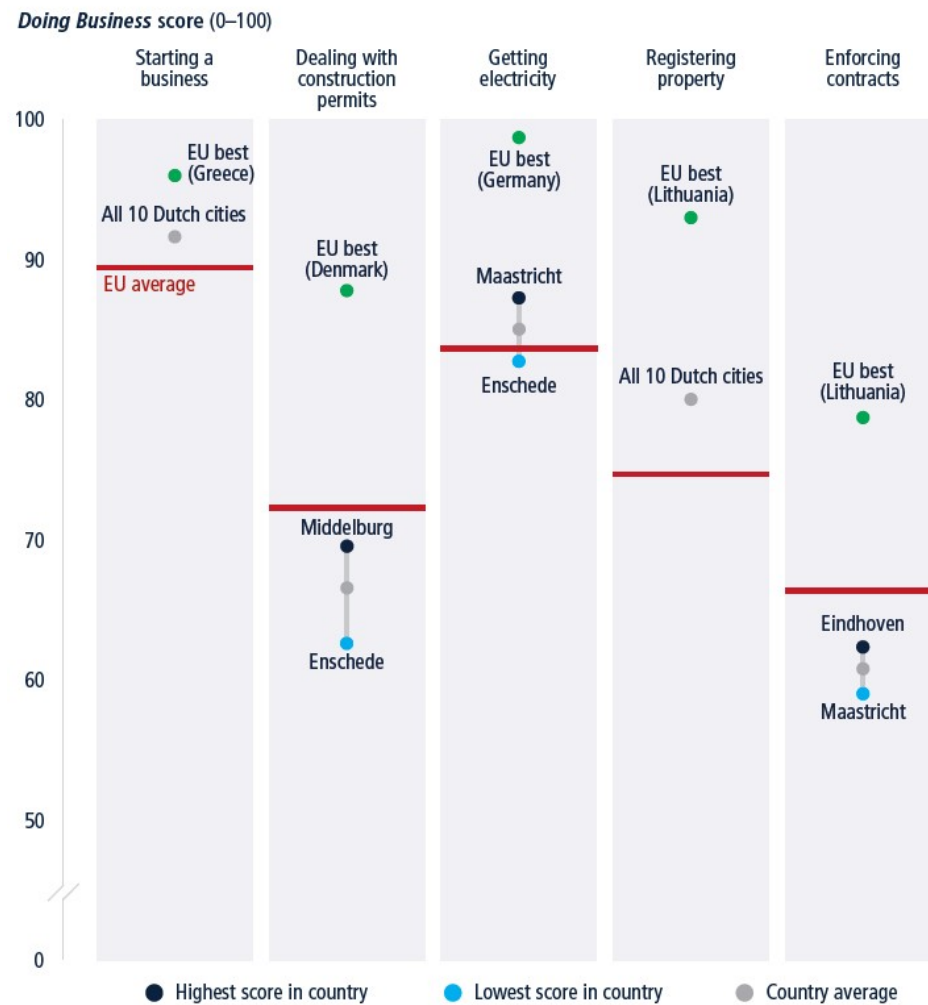
*Eindhoven and Middelburg place consistently in the top five across indicator areas.*

City	Starting a business		Dealing with construction permits		Getting electricity		Registering property		Enforcing contracts	
	Rank (1–10)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–10)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–10)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–10)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–10)	Score (0–100)
Amsterdam	7	91.50	4	66.92	4	86.63	7	80.01	8	59.94
Arnhem	1	91.70	7	65.85	6	84.24	5	80.06	6	60.46
Eindhoven	5	91.57	2	68.89	2	87.08	1	80.10	1	62.24
Enschede	1	91.70	10	62.75	10	82.73	5	80.06	3	61.62
Groningen	1	91.70	5	66.88	9	82.95	1	80.10	5	61.49
The Hague	7	91.50	9	65.11	5	85.43	7	80.01	7	59.99
Maastricht	5	91.57	6	65.95	1	87.19	1	80.10	10	59.09
Middelburg	1	91.70	1	69.47	3	86.63	1	80.10	2	61.87
Rotterdam	7	91.50	3	68.32	7	84.24	7	80.01	4	61.61
Utrecht	7	91.50	8	65.60	8	83.37	7	80.01	9	59.89

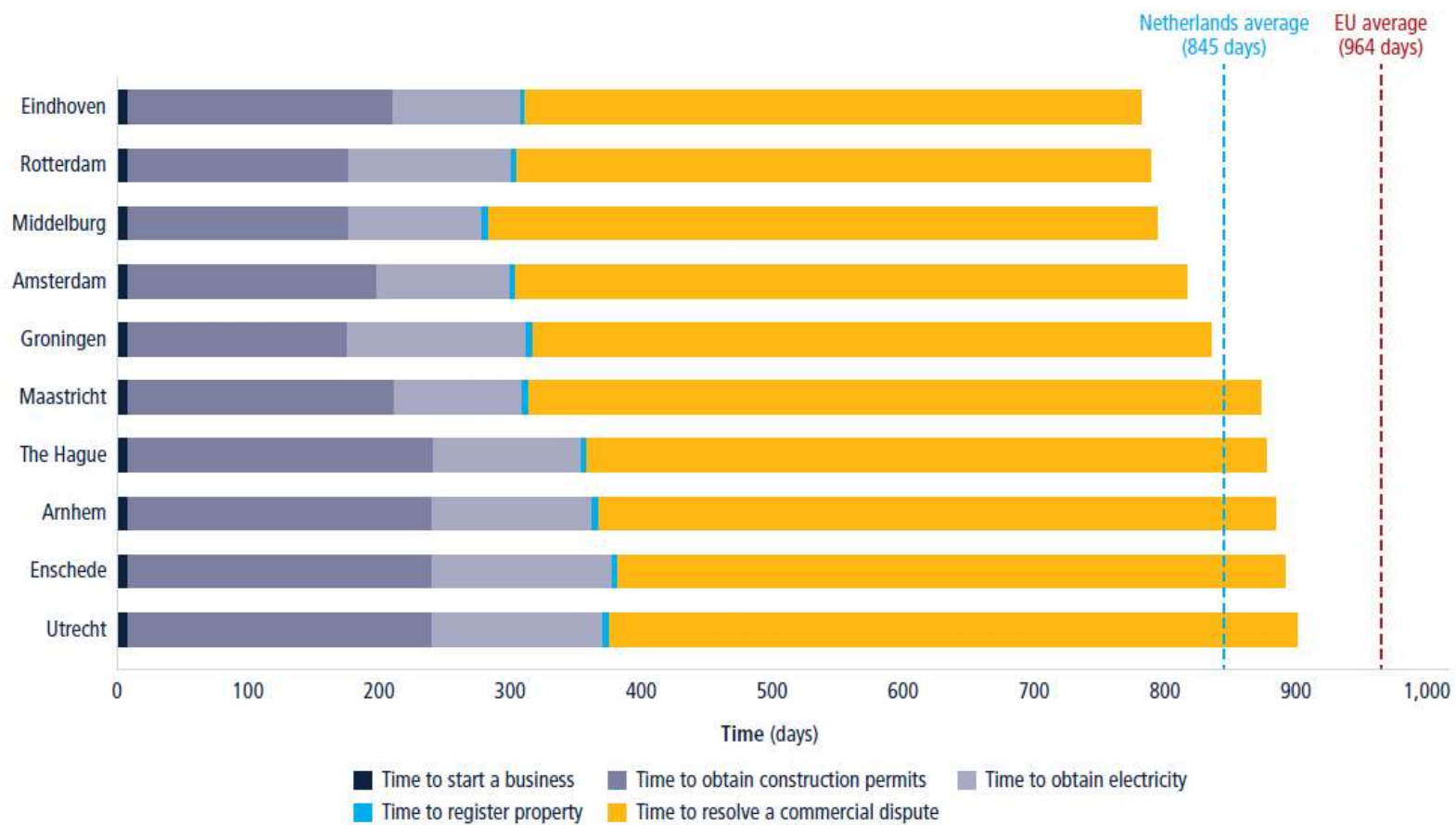
Source: Subnational Doing Business and Doing Business databases.

## Variation in regulatory performance shows that Dutch cities have opportunities to learn from each other

*On average, Dutch cities outperform their EU peers in starting a business, getting electricity and registering property, but not in dealing with construction permits and enforcing contracts*



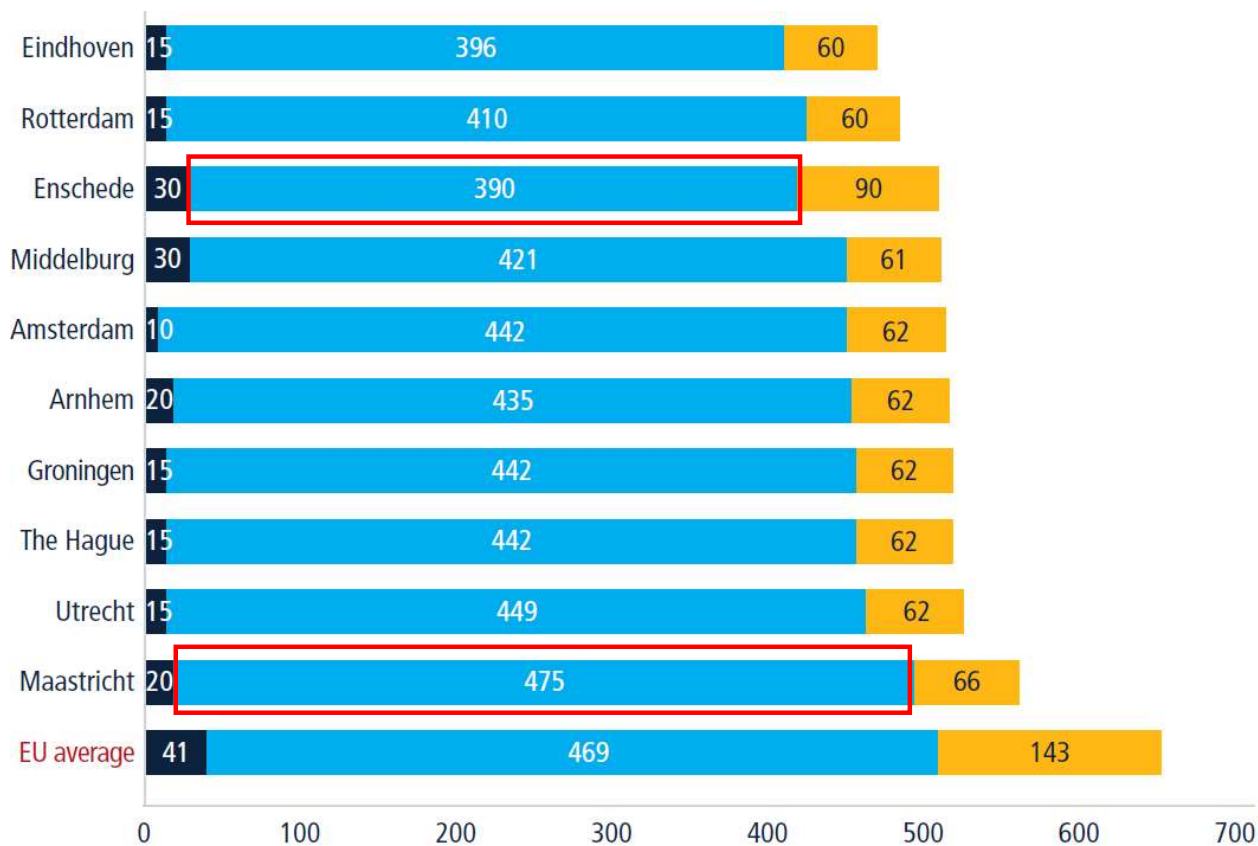
## Eindhoven has the fastest turnaround times overall



## AGENDA

- Scope of the study
- Main findings
- **Findings per topic**
- Potential for improvement by adopting local good practices

## Enforcing Contracts: trial and judgment time in Enschede is almost three months shorter than in Maastricht



**Costs also vary considerably**

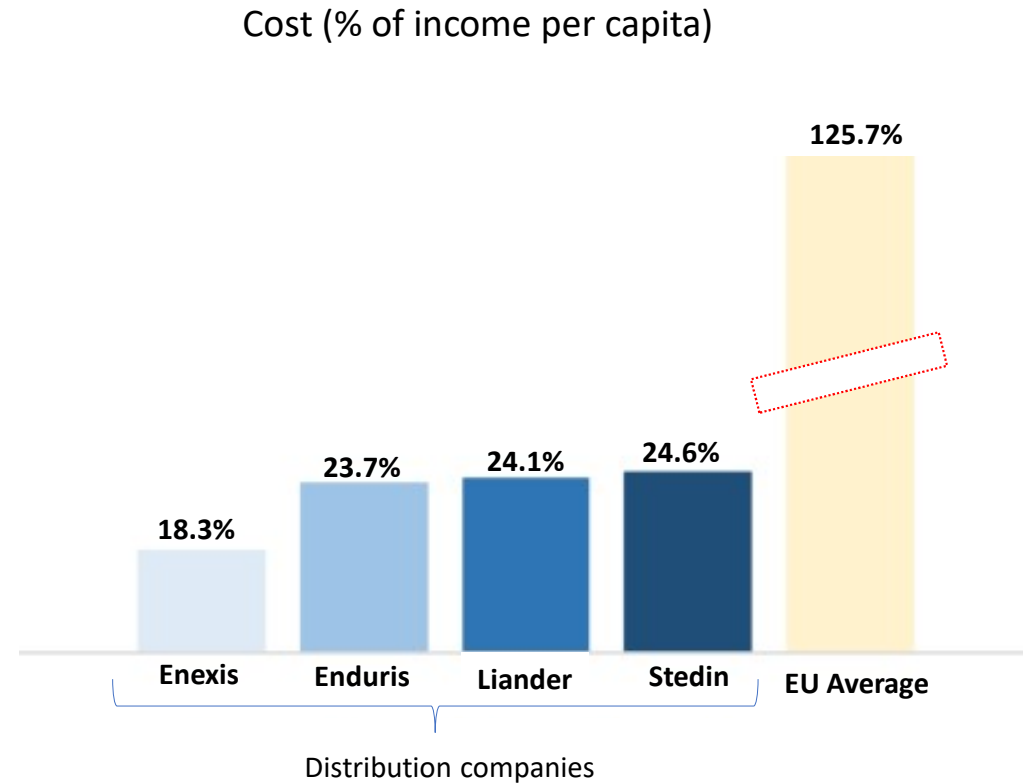
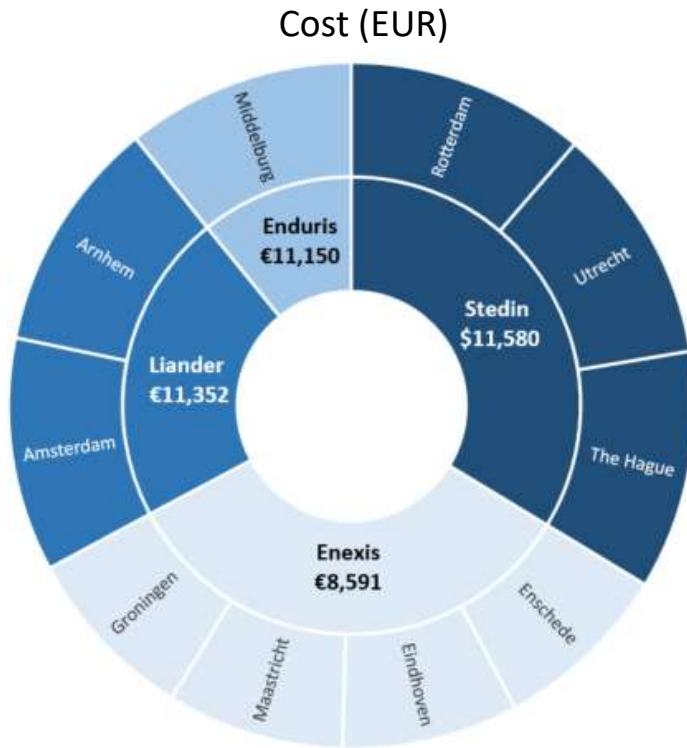
(% of claim):

Middelburg : 18.9%

Amsterdam: 23.9%

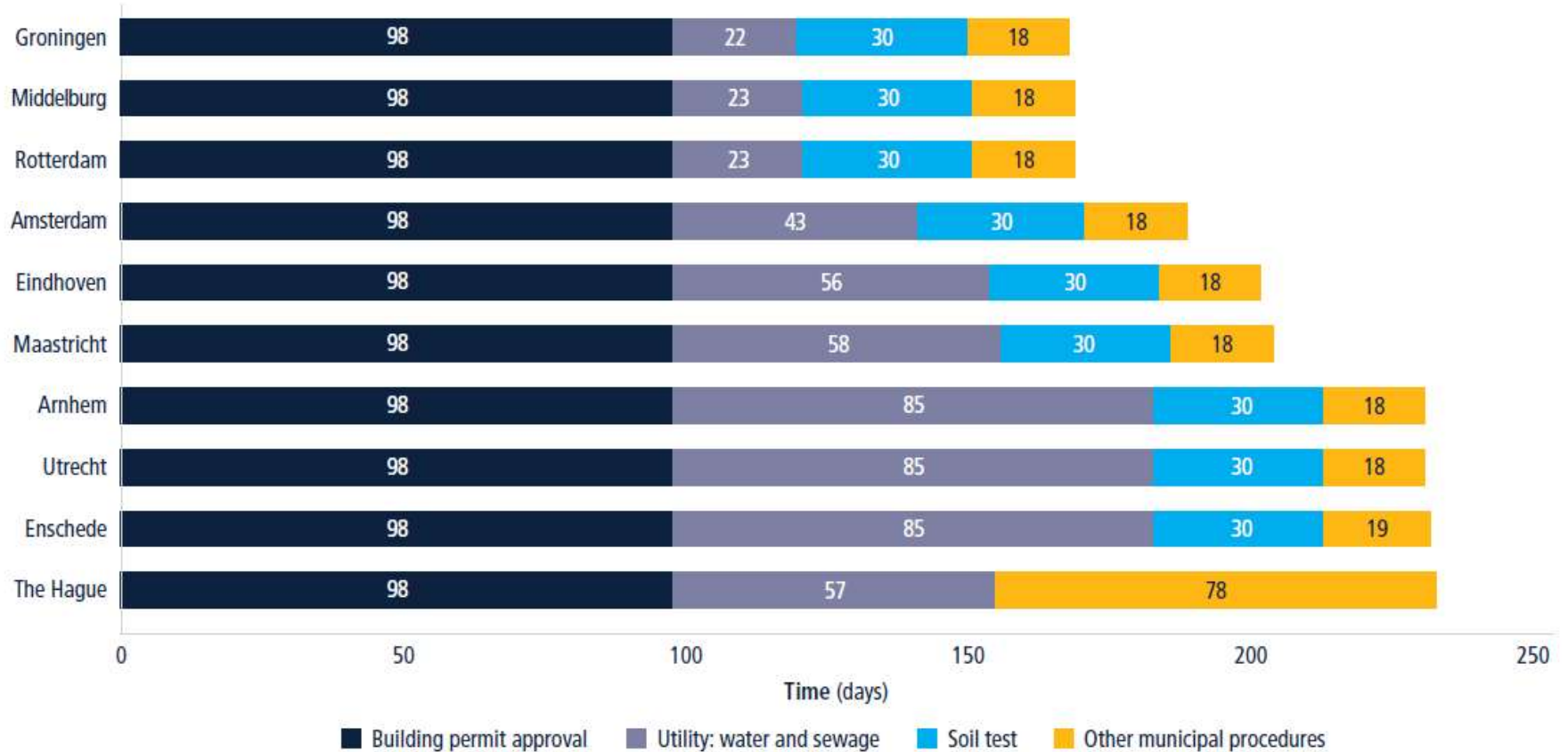
- Filing and service
- Trial and judgment
- Enforcement of judgment

## Getting electricity: Same four procedures but variation in the cost to obtain electricity



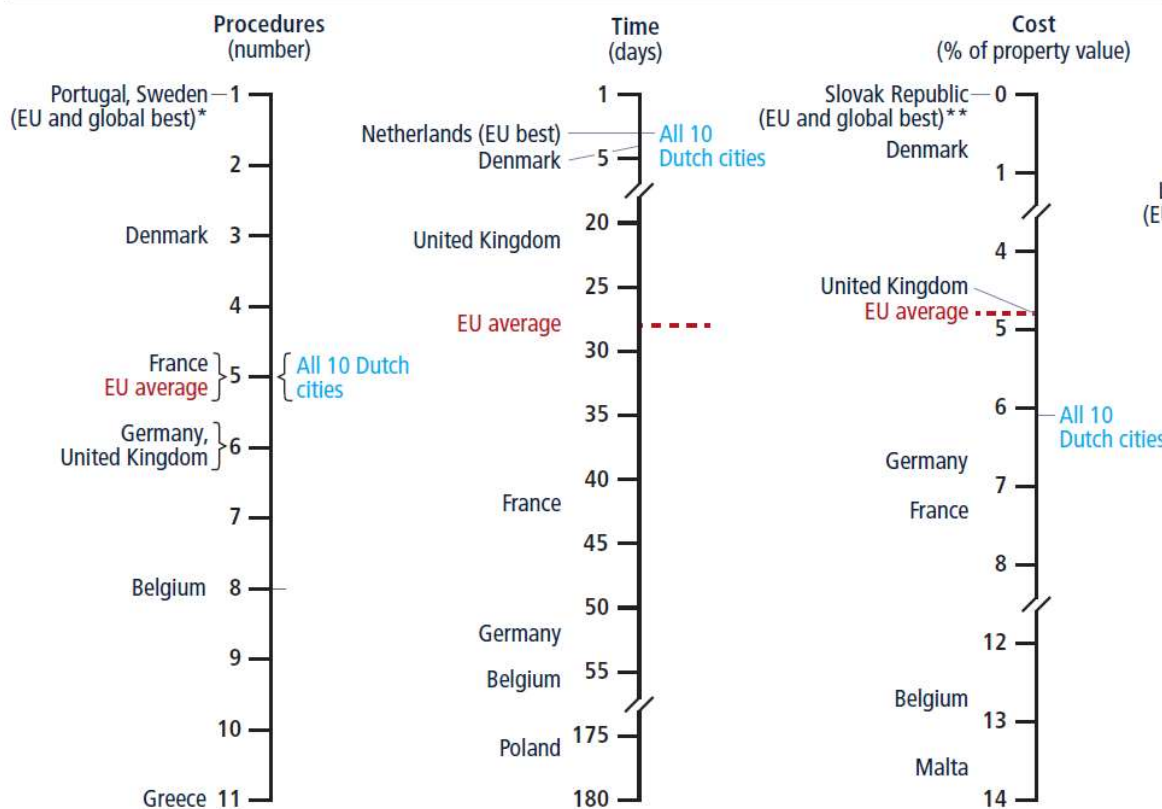


## Water and sewage connection times show the most subnational variation in dealing with construction permits



# Registering property is homogenous, with a high level of quality for the land administration framework

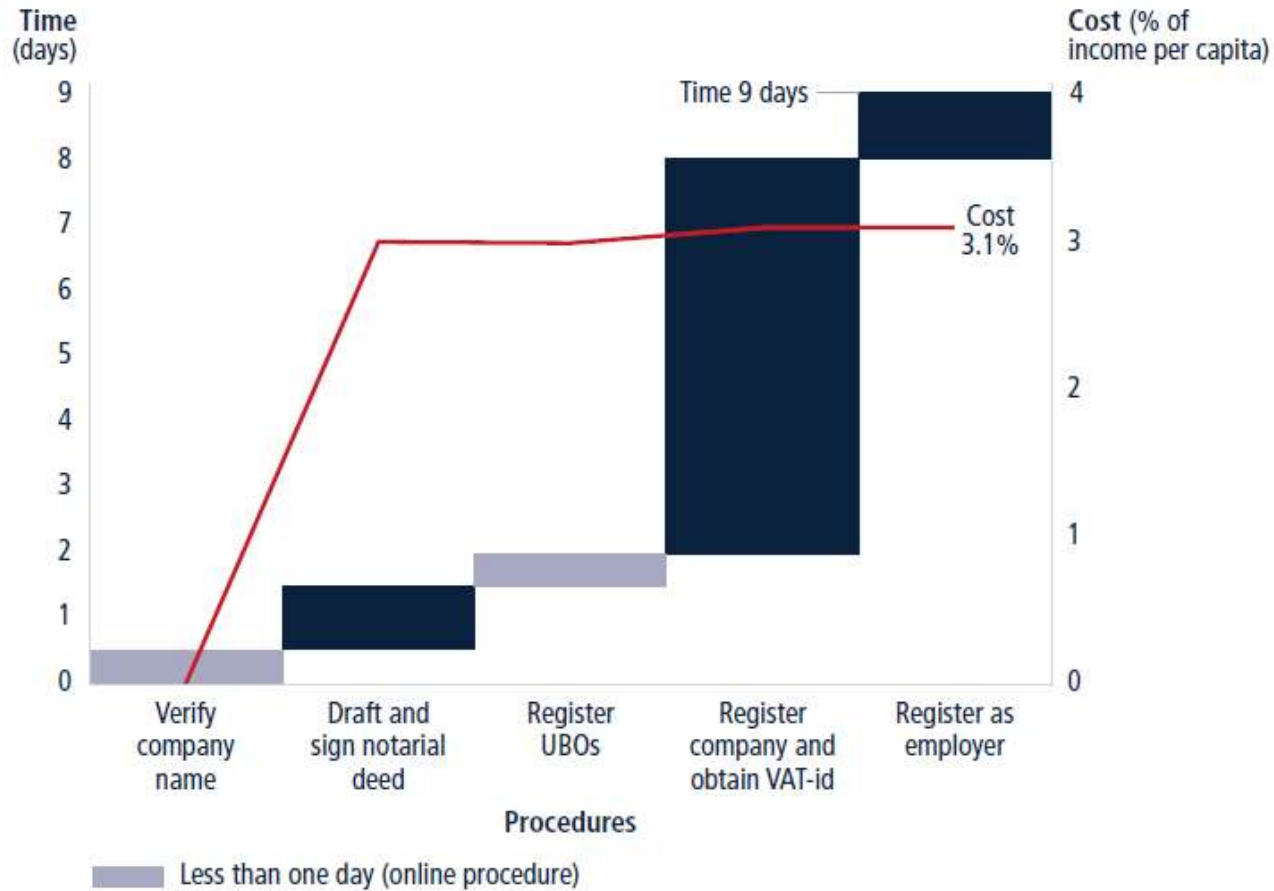
EFFICIENCY OF PROPERTY REGISTRATION



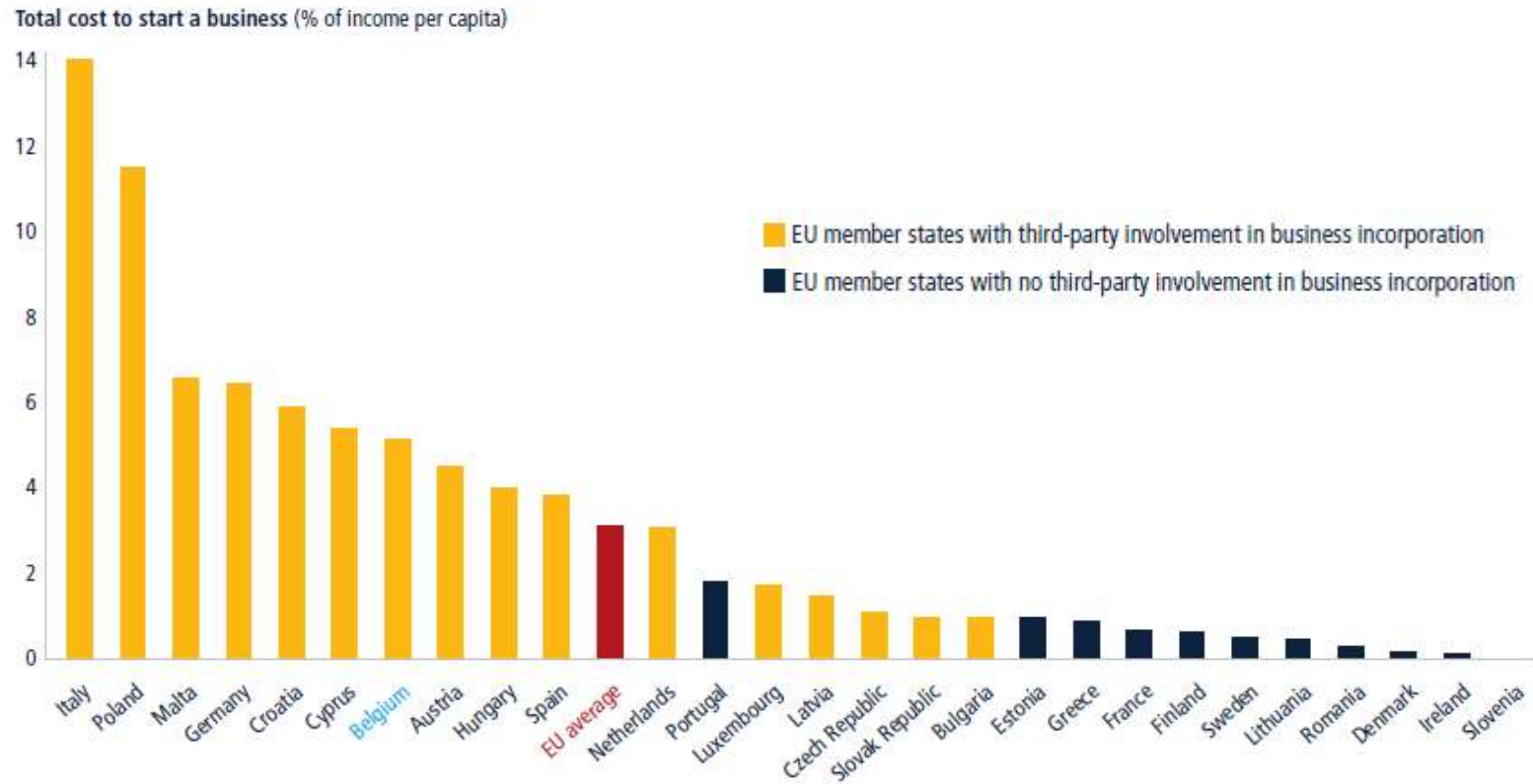
QUALITY OF LAND ADMINISTRATION



## Starting a business takes just over a week anywhere in the Netherlands



## Starting a business costs more in economies with third-party involvement

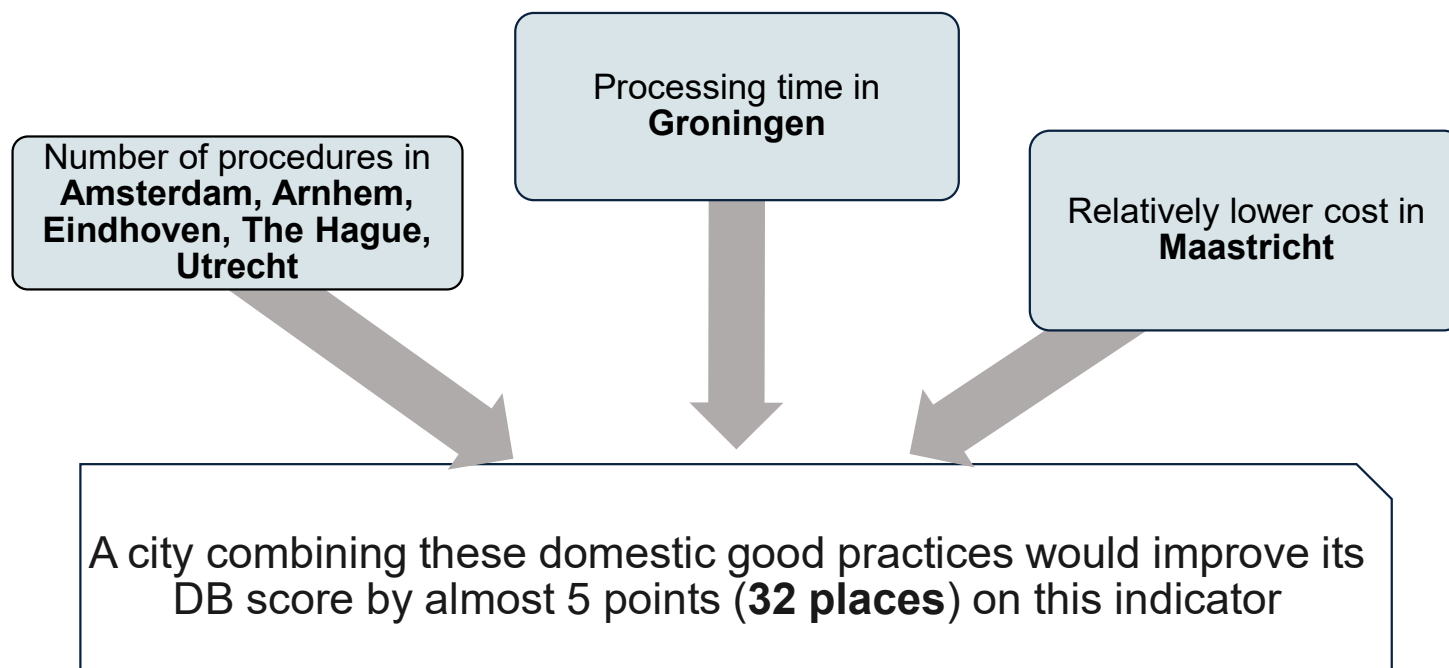


## AGENDA

- Scope of the study
- Main findings
- Findings per topic
- **Potential for improvement by adopting local good practices**

## How to improve? Emulation of good local practices

*An example from the construction permitting process*



**THANK YOU!**

Visit us at [www.doingbusiness.org/EU](http://www.doingbusiness.org/EU)

## Doing Business in the European Union

Doing Business in the European Union is a series of reports being produced by the World Bank Group at the request of and funded by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.

[www.doingbusiness.org/netherlands](http://www.doingbusiness.org/netherlands)