



Cultural Heritage Agency  
*Ministry of Education, Culture and Science*

## Religious Heritage on the move

From awareness  
towards a  
National Agenda



Albert Reinstra  
Utrecht, 5-11-2013

# Secularization



# consequences

## Province Noord-Brabant (south, mainly Catholic)

Dioecese Den Bosch  
258 churches - 153 listed  
monuments  
72 will close for sure (24 listed)

Protestant churches  
167 churches - 84 listed  
monuments  
10-20 will close next years

Diocese Breda

	2002	2012
Parishes:	134	64
Churchgoers:	30.400	15.521

## Province Friesland (north, mainly Protestant)

551 churches in religious use  
whereof 227 listed monuments

25% churches  
less than 100 members

Serious financial problems:  
85 communities in less than 5 years  
219 communities in less than 10 years

74-117 churches  
abandoned over 10 years



Public initiative

Raise awareness

Topic political agenda

Share knowledge



2008 Jaar van het Religieus Erfgoed

[www.Reliwiki.nl](http://www.Reliwiki.nl)  
all the churches  
in The  
Netherlands

'Geloof in de  
toekomst'  
strategic document

National  
and  
local events

# 2008 successes



# and effects

- Policy documents
- Books and guidelines (movable and immovable)
- Communication and expert meetings
- New instruments, inventories
- New financial possibilities
- Awareness grown





2013



new reality

- Financial crisis
- Decrease State grants and private funding
- More abandoned heritage and real estate available
- Moveable heritage and church interiors at risk
- Political interest has weakened



GOUDA | GOUWEKERK MET PASTORIE | TE K  
📍 Gouda, Hoge Gouwe 39 | Provincie Zuid Holland

Vraagprijs:  
€ 3.500.000,00

[Meer Informatie](#)

Gouda town hall



before - after



- Meetings national key players and stakeholders
- Development of a National Agenda Religious Heritage
- Urgents themes: valuation and selection, financing, process improvement, communication etc.
- Themes elaborated in actions
- Action appointed to a key player

