

# **Register-based Population and Housing Census**

Seminar on Registers in Statistics

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Kirsten Wismer



DANMARKS  
STATISTIK

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- ***Usage of registers data in censuses by Ene-Margit Tiit, Estonia***
  - ***Opportunities and Challenges of a Register-Based Census of Population and Housing – the case of Slovenia by Apolonija Oblak Flander***

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- ***The National Register of Buildings and Dwellings in Switzerland and its role in the future housing census by Fritz Gebhard***
  - ***Some experience in using population register data for control needs in population censuses by Lucyna Nowak***
  - ***The first register-based Census in Norway in 2011: How to comply with international recommendations? By Espen Andersen and Harald Utne***



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- ***Modern, based on administrative data, resource saving population and housing census in Latvia by Peteris Vegis and Uldis Usakis***
  - ***Summarising the progress with the EU census legislation with particular focus to the issues related to register-based censuses by Michael Skaliotis***



# Discussion

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- Why a census?
- What is a census?
- Why is there a move from traditional census to register based census?
- What are the necessary preconditions for using register data for a census?

## Why a census?

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- Long history
- Important instrument for international cooperation
  
- But is it a statistical framework like National Accounts?
- Or is it only a data collection tool?

# What is a census?

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Register based or traditional?

Essential features for a census:

- Individual enumeration
- Simultaneity
- Universality
- Small area data
- Defined periodicity

# A Statistical Framework?

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- It gives a moments picture of inhabitants in a country
- Basis for international comparisons
- But it is not enough:
  - Data every 10 years is not enough
  - More complex society – family/living arrangements etc.?
  - Focus on changes
- Need for a new framework for social statistics?

## Census – a data collection tool?

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- An expensive but important data collection for countries without a continuous statistical system
- When decided and organized – a flexible tool – easy to add new items
- Core questions
- Non core questions

# Why a move from traditional to register based census?

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- Census is an expensive and difficult operation
  - A census only based on register data requires a statistical system, that are maintained every year – not only every 10 years
- Response burden
- Need for more timely information

# Preconditions?

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- Legal basis
- Public approval – and support from politicians
- Conceptual conditions – unified identification codes
- Coverage – both in population and in dimensions
- Quality – good cooperation with the administrative authorities

## Remember!!

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- Administrative registers >< statistical registers
- Confidentiality
- Long time project