

**Combination of register and  
survey data:  
The Norwegian Generations and  
Gender Survey**

Seminar on Registers in Statistics -  
methodology and quality

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# Comparative studies of the social and demographic situation in Europe

## Challenges

- Some countries employ interviews *only* to collect data
- Other countries rely on *administrative registers*
  - often in combination with surveys
- Are the data comparable?
- Example: Generations and Gender Programme



# Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)

- Initiated by UNECE, Population Activities Unit
- Consortium Board
- Working groups
  - incl. Administrative Records Group
- Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)
- Contextual Database



# Generations and Gender Programme

- Goal: to improve understanding of demographic and social development and of the factors that influence this
- Particular attention:
  - relationships between children and parents (generations)
  - relationships between partners (gender)
- Explain demographic choices in forming and dissolving partnerships and having children



# Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)

- Sample: men and women 18-79 years
- Panel study: 3 waves 3 years apart

# Domains covered by GGS

- Economic aspects of life: economic activity, income, and economic well-being
- Education
- Values and attitudes
- Intergenerational relationships
- Gender relationships
- Household composition and housing
- Residential mobility
- Social networks and private transfers
- Public transfers
- Health, incl. reproductive health

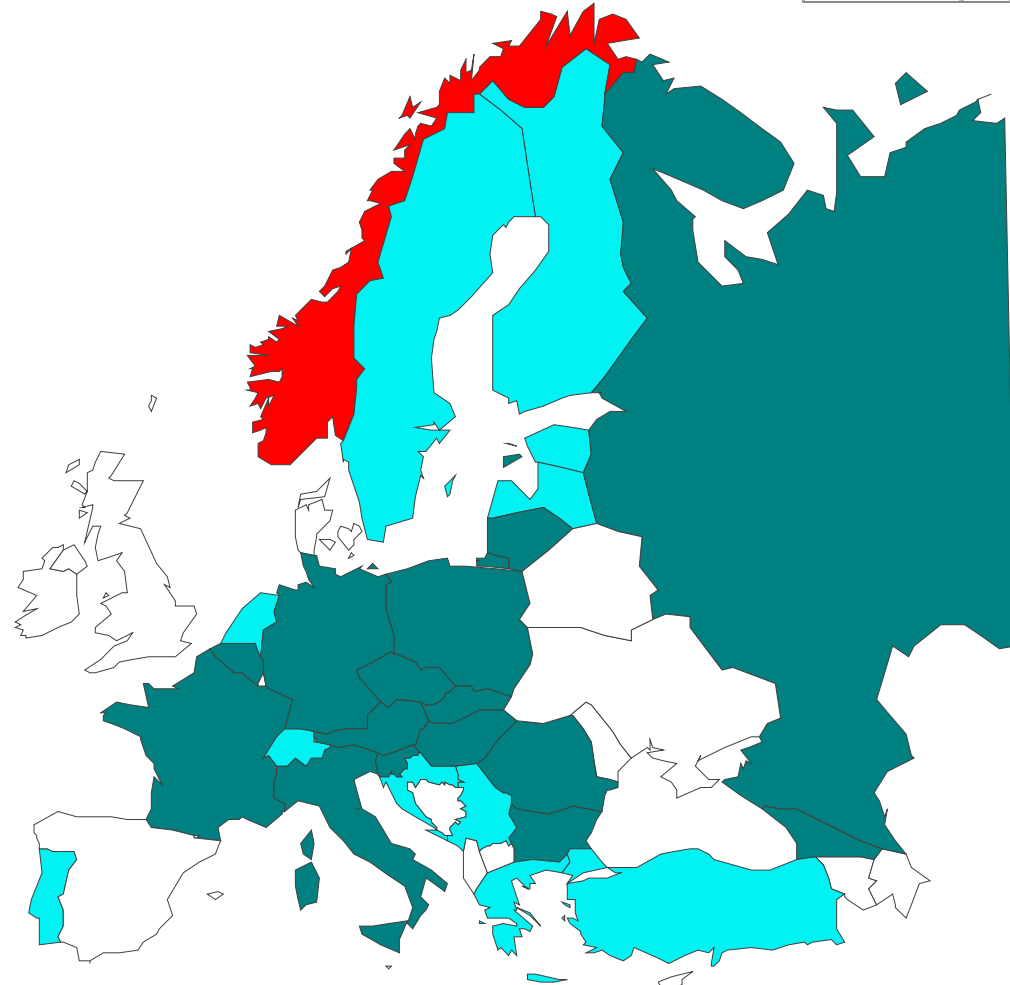
# GGP participating countries



Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Estonia  
Finland?  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Hungary  
Italy  
Latvia  
(Netherlands)  
Norway  
Poland  
Romania  
Russia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Czech Republic

## Outside Europe

Australia  
Japan  
Canada?



Also, some countries try to include GGS questions in other surveys

# Generations and Gender Programme in Norway (LOGG)

- Two surveys in one: GGS and norLAG
- Sample
  - National + NorLAG areas (30 municipalities/boroughs)
  - Men and women 18-79 years
  - Size: 26 000
- Data sources
  - Telephone interview (CATI)
  - Self-administered paper questionnaire
  - Administrative registers

**LOGG**  
LIVSLØP, GENERASJON OG KJØNN



# NorLAG

- Second half of life
- How do different life domains affect each other?
  - e.g. Family care may affect age at retirement
- Functional health
- Depression
- Personality
- Psychological well-being
- Basic Human Values



# Minimum requirements for using administrative data in a survey

- Unique identifier for the total resident population
  - Personal Identification Number (PIN)
- PIN included in survey for each respondent
- Availability of data sources with PIN for total population with additional variables
  - Administrative registers, esp. CPR (Central Population Register)
  - Censuses

# Main use of administrative records in surveys

- Draw sample population
- Collect data
- Construct variables
- Add longitudinal data

## Limitations of register data

- Registers have no data on *subjective* variables
  - e.g. preferences and intentions, time spent with children
- Questionable *validity* of some administrative data
  - e.g. disability
- Questionable *reliability* of some administrative data
  - e.g. age at leaving parental home
- Different *definitions* in GGS and registers
  - e.g. duration of partnership
- Register data sometimes *different* from survey information
  - e.g. income
- *Limited or no data* for older cohorts, especially those born before CPR was established
- Events *abroad* generally not registered
  - e.g. education
- In some cases *complicated and costly* to extract data from registers
- Some registers not yet good enough
  - e.g. dwelling register
- Time lag between availability of the administrative variable and interview
  - e.g. on income in the current year
- Time lag between date of extracting register information and day of the interview
  - e.g. household composition

# Adding register data *before* the survey

- PIN (Personal Identification Number)
- Name
- Address
- Relationship to respondent

## These variables are collected for

- Respondent
- Spouse (living in the same household or not)
- Children, including those who do not live with the respondent
- Parents (for respondents born after 1952)
- Siblings
- Grandchildren (for respondents born after 1935)
- Cohabitants (from the Dwelling Register)

# Adding register data *after* the survey

- Replacing survey questions with administrative records (also for family members) for:
  - Births
  - Marital history
  - Migration history
  - Parental leave: duration and income compensation
  - Income
  - Educational activity and attainment
  - Social insurance: disability, old age, social welfare, cash for care
- Adding longitudinal data backwards and forwards in time
- Constructing new variables from register information
  - Example: Distance between dwellings of family members identified in the CPR
  - Also travelling time

# Should all available administrative records be used?

- Letter to all respondents
  - Presentation of survey
  - Data from certain registers will be linked to data collected in interview
  - CPR, Income register etc
- What about Cause of Death Register and Register of Criminal Cases?

# Countries with comprehensive administrative registers: Plans for joining GGP

- **Nordic countries**
  - Norway: Interviewing Jan. 2007 – March 2008
  - Finland: Uncertain. Fundraising going on
  - Denmark, Iceland and Sweden: No plans
- **Other Western European countries**
  - Belgium: Data collection in 2007
  - Netherlands: No plan for GGS but NKPS overlaps with GGS
- **Central and Eastern European countries**
  - Slovenia: Some data from administrative registers may be used
  - Hungary: Two waves of GGS completed but it is illegal to use administrative data

# Norway's GGS

- 80 of 460 questions covered by administrative records



# Conclusions

- New technologies are used to achieve high response rates and good quality at low costs
- Need for more knowledge about possible instrument effects of the combination of alternative data collection methods

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright yellow-orange circle in the center of the sky, with its reflection creating a shimmering path on the water's surface. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter, hazy orange at the top. In the background, dark, silhouetted mountains rise against the horizon. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Questions or comments?**