

Seminar on Registers in Statistics Methodology and Quality

21-23 May 2007



Use of administrative register data in social statistics

- Good examples of successful and systematic work in the area of population censuses
- countries in different phases in taking register material into use
- the target in several countries register-based census 2011
- in many cases register-based solution may be complemented with other sources and methods (for instance sample survey)
- quality problems, missing links, missing units -> combined solutions

Cont.

- Innovative new solutions
- Mobility, diversity, multicultural, multinational phenomena cause conceptual problems (not especially connected with register-based statistics only)
- Preconditions
 - legal basis
 - key foundation for the use of administrative data sources
 - access to administrative data sources
 - data protection

Cont.

- public approval
 - open and transparent information policy about the benefits
 - cost efficiency
 - reduced response burden
 - avoidance of overlap in data collection
 - new possibilities (flow statistics, GIS)
- unified identification code systems
- comprehensive register systems developed for administrative needs

Cont.

- Cooperation among administrative authorities
 - commitment from the highest possible level
 - close contacts with register authorities
 - right to influence
 - influence by cooperation
- Preconditions different between countries

Future work

- to learn from each other of existing solutions
- need to develop methods to measure and document the quality of administrative data as a source for official statistics
 - quality criteria, quality indicators
- quality assurance programme of census statistics
- mixed methods

Social surveys

- Coherent register-based statistical systems improve also quality of sample surveys
 - besides additional data from registers, also
 - improved and standardised sampling frames, frame populations
 - auxiliary information may be used in pre-stratification and in reweighting/calibration of sampling weights to register data

Cont.

- Coordination of core variables at EU level with regard to regulations
- across-countries comparability of register-based core variables and interview-based social core variables

Use of administrative data in business statistics

- More countries use admin data also in business statistics
- More effective use of taxation data
- national improvements of administrative data files
- Integrating survey data and administrative data
 - for instance total survey of large enterprises, sample of medium size enterprises, smallest enterprises administrative data
- response burden is a big issue
- availability of personal resources

Cont.

- metadata needed
- quality reports needed
- rising demand of data describing entrepreneurship
- Countries in different phases also in business statistics
 - experiences of more experienced countries

General methodology

- More cost efficient and coherent statistics
- Integration of administrative data to create base statistical registers
- These should cover standardised information on statistical units and their main characteristics
- This information should be available for all statistical systems, from sample surveys to National Accounts
- Standardised (output harmonised) core variables (social and/or economic) for standardised populations and units (base statistical registers for persons, businesses, buildings)

Cont.

- core variables: main characteristics of the statistical units
- maybe more work to be done in economic statistics; more standardisation already achieved in statistics on persons
- e.g. statistical units and coverage of business register (relationship to farm register)

Fears and worries

- Dependence of administrative authorities
- lack of control to the data sources
- breaks in time series
- quality problems
- disappearance of administrative sources

Conclusions

- International cooperation needed
- other methodological development also important
- there is no perfect system, continued assessment and improvement needed
- data collection from administrative registers and direct data collection from households and enterprises are both needed, they complement each other