

# Registers in Statistics: some concluding remarks for future work

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## Looking at the past, what can we say about the future?

- 25 years ago, we under-estimated the developments in the use of register-based data for statistical purposes
- Today, we are again under-estimating what will happen in the next 25 years

## The culture of register-based statistics in the EU... 25 years ago

- The Nordic approach.....was the exception
- The Nordic countries vs (=against) everyone else!
- Lengthy debates in Working Groups about 'who is correct and who is wrong'.
- No serious efforts to bridge the gaps and make best use of both surveys and registers

## The culture of register-based statistics in the EU... today

- Wider acceptance by users and producers
- Scientific recognition
- Supported (*even promoted*) by international organisations
- Benefits from the rapid technological change
- Systematic recognition --on an equal basis as any other approach--in EU statistical legislation

## Some examples.....

- About 20 countries in the ECE region are planning to use registers in the next round of population and housing censuses (23 countries will use the traditional approach)
- Combining LFS with monthly registered unemployment
- EU SILC: 7 countries use registers for data on income at detailed component level, but also for housing, education and other variables
- EU **SILC**- an interesting detail: **Statistics** on Income and Living Conditions: in the initial proposal the letter 'S' meant something different; **S = Survey**

## The European Statistics Code of Practice makes explicit reference to admin. sources

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=2273,61904978&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2273,61904978&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

- Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection;  
Indicator 2.1:

*The statistical authority is allowed by national legislation to use administrative records for statistical purposes*

*Suggested reading of the Peer Review Reports by Country:*

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=2273,61904978  
&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2273,61904978&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

## Future developments should be anticipated better

- The speed and scope in using registers will increase enormously in future
- Need to design the framework (of the future) today in order to be able to use it efficiently
- So, part of the research should be devoted into the analysis of possible future scenarios for registered-based statistics
- Proposal: Include a specific item on the Agenda on this issue at the next meeting of this group