

PRE-CONDITIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE/REGISTER CENSUS

Session 5

Population and Housing Censuses; Registers of Population, Dwelling, and Buildings

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1. Legal base

- **STRONG legal base** is ESSENTIAL. Legislation provides a key foundation for use of administrative data for statistical purposes.
- The legislation should provide the NSO with the right of access to administrative data at a unit level including identification information and the right to link data from different administrative sources for statistical purposes.
- The legislation directing NSO to conduct a census, as well as to maintain the confidentiality of census record.
- The legislation should also put in place privacy safeguards, allowing the statistical agency to use the data only for statistical purposes.
- In case there is no population register, legislation have to provide the creation of a population register.

2. Public approval

- A **positive public** attitude is essential. The degree of public acceptance is a key determinant of whether a register-based statistical system is feasible or not.
- People might have possible negative reaction to “NSO know everything about every citizen”. People might be **reluctant** to report the same data for the statistical purposes when they know that the same data is already collected for administrative purposes (for instance tax purposes).
- Public should know that the individual data collected for **statistical purposes** and will **not be passed** on to other government authorities.
- NSO is dependent on the trust and goodwill of the public. In outlining the general benefits and risks of the use of administrative data, public should inform about the **confidentiality** of personal microdata.

3. Unified identification system

- A common unique identifier is made to ease the linkage of population register and other administrative registers.
- A common unique identifier across different systems is for efficiency reasons and the greater accuracy of the linkages.
- The use of a unique identifier is essential in order to link information successfully. Example: national personal identification number.
- If it does not exist, or exists with poor quality, it can be artificially created for statistical purposes. A statistical linkage key can be built from unchanging variables for persons, such as family name, first name, date of birth, sex, place of birth.

4. Existing of suitable administrative data sources

- A register-based statistical system cannot exist without the administrative registers.
- Population registers has two main functions. The first is to register an 'official domicile' in some sense, either as a resident of the country or resident of a local authority area, which may then be used for taxation or other government functions. The second is for personal identification.
- The Population Information System issues personal identity codes. People need a personal identity code to be able to apply for pensions and other benefits. It is also needed for the payment of wages, salaries, and fees and is essential in bank transactions.
- A dwelling register, or some kind of real-estate or address register that identifies individual dwellings, is also a fundamental component of a register-based system. The dwelling register links people to where they live, allows the system to provide outputs by small geographic areas.

5. Cooperation

- ❖ A joint effort of register census requires commitment at the highest political level, as well as close collaboration among relevant authorities.
- ❖ Cooperation between different administrative authorities (registers owners).
- ❖ Cooperation between NSO and the registers owners
 - ❖ The NSO needs a lot of information about the registers, laws, regulations and practices in register keeping, etc.
 - ❖ Register owners must inform the NSO about all kind of changes.
 - ❖ NSO should inform the register owners about quality problems.

References

1. United Nations (2011): Using Administrative and Secondary Sources for Official Statistics: A Handbook of Principles and Practices.
2. United Nations (2007): Register-based Statistics in the Nordic countries .
3. Wallgren, A. and Wallgren, B. (2007), *Register-based Statistics: Administrative Data for Statistical Purposes*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, UK.

THANK YOU

