Statistics on international migration: Norwegian experiences

Kåre Vassenden, Statistics Norway
UNECE Workshop on Migration Statistics
Chișinău, 8-9 September 2014
Does Statistics Norway really have any experiences?

(Limited to my life time and the field of population statistics)

No, because …

• Only **one source** of migration events
• -> No problems with inconsistency or linking
• This source defines the events officially for the Norwegian society
• Never **estimation** of the size of migration
• Never **imputation** of migration events
• No use of population **censuses** in the production of migration statistics
A long history

• Population registers (including migration) in all municipalities since 1946
• Full-covering statistics on international migration since 1951
• Country of last/next residence since 1958
• Central Population Register established and the National identity number introduced in 1964
  – 50 years old on 1 October 2014!
• Electronic data for migration statistics since 1967
• Inter-Nordic migration certificate was introduced in 1969
• The present Act of population registration is from 1970
• The present CPR version is from 1995
What does it look like below the surface?

Migration statistics
Isolated peaks - or one mountain
"Migration statistics" – only a part of a bigger picture

- Immigration and emigration
- "Migration"
- Population

"The close CPR family"

The register society
A strong connection between flow and stock data

• Event and stock data derives from the same source: the transactions received from the CPR
• The extraction rules for event statistics data and data for updating the stock are the same
• High consistency between flow and stock statistics can be expected
• Not really meaningful to discuss flow and stock statistics as interdependent statistics
How relevant is the population census?

- The CPR considered the true reflection of the stock since 1980
- Unlucky that the international statistical society links stock statistics to population censuses only
More experiences

- Receiving a consistent, integrated package of data
- Migration statistics is more “data processing”, “law” and “public administration” than “mathematical statistics”
- Migration is not an aggregate, but a number of single events
- A clear distinction between the events as such and possible variables characterising them or the persons conducting them
The Population Data and Statistics System

- Collection of transactions
- Adaption to our own needs
- Production of statistics

Existing population data

CPR

CPR copy

UDB
Characteristics of the Norwegian Population Registration System

• Centralized authority
• Population registration is seen as ‘public administration’ – not ‘IT’
• An advanced system for distribution of data from the CPR system to the users
• Serving a society totally dependant on the Population register
A concept of usual residence

• Norway has an *established* concept of usual residence with a central position in the society

• In Norwegian population registration there is a strong *legal* component

• i.e. the registries make decisions (exercise authority)

• One set of rules: Migration = change of usual residence
Being a user of population register data

• Statistics Norway has no choice but to support the population registration system. We play on the same team

• The importance of feedback for data quality

• Keeping a distinction between the CPR copy data and the NSO’s own adding of value
The division of labour between Public administration and Statistics

If Administration does a good job, the work load for Statistics is reduced

This situation

or this?
Thank you!

Kåre Vassenden
Statistics Norway
Division for Population Statistics
kva@ssb.no
+47 62 88 52 94
Principles of data supply to the direct recipients

• An initial stock file is supplied only once
• Current updating by transactions
• The transactions are standard for all recipients
• The recipients receive “all” the data in the CPR – not less, not more
The direct recipients

CPR

Taxation registers

National Service Administration

Norwegian Directorate of Immigration

Statistics Norway

Directorate for Customs and Excise

National Insurance Administration

EDB Business Partner

The distributor serves most of the N. society
From the local population registries to the direct recipients
The Nordic agreement on population registration

• The Nordic countries constitute one population registration area

• i.e. each person has only one place of usual residence within this area

• The receiving country makes the decision about immigration

• Then the country of emigration is informed and "automatically" emigrates the person

• Covers 30-40 per cent of the emigration from Norway