Implementation of selective editing methods at Statistics Finland using innovative and efficient team work methods

Saara Oinonen

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing
Budapest, Hungary, 14-16 September 2015
Implementation of selective editing methods at Statistics Finland using innovative and efficient team work methods

- Implementation of EG EDIT to 8 statistics
- Scrum and sprints
- Experiences of agile team work methods in NSI
- Results and future work
Implementation of EG EDIT

- EG EDIT: SAS EG system including SELEKT and BANFF macros
- Built and tested on previous project
- 8 statistics were chosen to implementation phase
  - Implementing selective editing methods would be most beneficial in these statistics
  - Situation on these statistics was favourable, e.g. no other major processes are on, resources were available etc.
- Implementation project started on September 2014
Scrum and sprints

- [http://scrummethodology.com/](http://scrummethodology.com/)
- Agile (software) development method
- Consists of recurring *sprints*, which have clear tasks to accomplish
  - During a sprint sessions, developers have no other responsibilities but can fully focus on sprint tasks
  - After one sprint (typically 2 weeks) tasks should be all finished
  - New sprint with new tasks begin
    - if sprint fails, loss in only 2 weeks work → developers can react on changing demands
- Our team work method was based on sprint-idea: During two weeks developers from methodology and data collection units and ’clients’ from statistics focus only on implementation tasks
- After a sprint EG EDIT is ready to be embedded in statistics own production system
Implementation & sprint session (2 weeks)

1. Data preparations

- Review discussions
  2. Analysing the current editing procedures of the statistics
  3. Defining the special features of statistics and statistics requirements for selective editing

Preparation of the EG EDIT

- 4. Defining the criteria and parameters of selective editing
- 5. Testing the criteria and parameters of selective editing

Conclusions and follow-up

- 6. Choosing the final EG EDIT version to be taken to the production
- 7. Launching EG EDIT in the production of statistics

8. Reporting

Before the sprint:

- Educative seminar for participants
- Instructions for data preparations available
- Advance information form for statistics to fill out
- EG EDIT wiki and terminology bank available all the time
Experiences of agile team work methods

- Team work efficiency is high: Almost all statistics have had completed EG EDIT versions after a sprint
- Commitment to the sprint sessions and implementation of new editing methods is very good
  - New project methods are refreshing
  - ’It is nice to have someone to be so dedicated to and interested in our statistics’

BUT

- Time managing can be challenging (’other work’)
- Sprints are consuming
Results and future work

- 6/8 sprints have been finished
  - rest 2 by the end of year 2015
- 4 statistics have EG EDIT as a part of their production system and data collection is on or starting
- 1 will be finalized during September
- 1 statistics has been questioned to be suitable for selective editing methods
- For first data collection rounds methodological support will be available
- In future: More statistics to be implemented, improving EG EDIT program, improving other editing methods…? Planning is on.
References

Thank you!

Saara Oinonen
saara.oinonen@stat.fi

Trust Data. Grab Statistics.
Statistics Finland 150 years