PC-Axis Family Software
A Consortium for Dissemination of Statistics

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PC-Axis is a suite of software created to serve as a platform for coherent, efficient, and user-friendly dissemination of official statistics. It is ideal for national statistical offices and other organizations engaged in dissemination of social and economic statistics. The suite supports the whole spectre of dissemination products: Comprehensive on-line databases, off-line electronic products like CD-ROM's, and publications on paper or on the web.

PC-Axis was developed for the 1990 Swedish Population Census, to be used by the main users of the results from the Population Census. The PC-Axis file format is very metadata rich and is a file format in plain ASCII that mirrors the ideas used in the Axis system and its successor, the PX macro meta model. The PC-Axis file format has the extension PX, which explains the names of some of the products in the PC-Axis family.

Keywords to describe the PC-Axis family are (with relevant piece of software mentioned within parentheses):
- Dissemination of statistics online (PX-Web or PX-Web components) and off line (PC-Axis Main module).
- Dynamic tables – pivot function (PX-Web and PC-Axis Main module).
- Conversion to different file formats (PX-Web and PC-Axis) i.e. Excel, Lotus, txt, etc. and for PC-Axis only Gesmes/TS and XML.
- Output database (PC-Axis database and/or SQL database).
- Many dimensional Matrices/Cubicles/Boxes (PC-Axis files and SQL database).
- Metadata rich data model in SQL and in the PC-Axis file format.
- Windows (PC-Axis) and Internet (PX-Web).
- PC-Axis files in a catalogue structure forms a PC-Axis database and is accessed without using SQL (PC-Axis Main module and PX-Web).
- SQL-extension (Sybase/Oracle/MS-SQL-Server) for a SQL database structured according to the common macrometa data model (PC-Axis SQL and in some cases PX-Web components and PC-Axis/PX-Batch components in Internet User Interface to a macro database).
- Grouping facilities (PC-Axis and PX-Web).
- Graphs (PX-iGraph).
- Maps (PX-Map and PX-iMap).
- Production of PC-Axis files from different sources (PC-Axis SQL, PX-Batch, PX-Make, PX-Edit and the Australian SuperStar/SuperCross).
- Tables direct from a SQL or a PC-Axis database inserted into MS-Word or MS-Excel (PX-Publ).

The programs in the family are the following: PC-Axis Main module, PC-Axis SQL Macro, PC-Axis SQL Micro, PX-Batch, PX-Web, PX-Check, PX-Publ, PX-Publ Macros, PX-Make, PX-iGraph, PX-Map, PX-iMap and PX-Edit.

Users of the PC-Axis family software **are Algeria, Basque country, Bolivia, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, UN/ECE, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Namibia, Norway, Philippines, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden(10 sites) and Uganda. Discussions are going on with Tanzania, Slovakia and the OECD.**

The presentation will also inform on the structure of the "Consortium" and show how the software is used in some developing countries

Possible transfer of the software to other organizations for dissemination of statistics. The following programs are possible to transfer if a license is agreed with Statistics Sweden: PC-Axis Main module, PX-Web, PX-Make, PX-Edit, PX-Map, PX-iMap. Under specific circumstances, the SQL-related programs PC-Axis SQL, PX-Batch and PX-Publ also can be transferred. For more information and references visit the website http://www.pc-axis.scb.se/

Questions on the PC-Axis software family and the license conditions for the use of the software for dissemination of statistics can be put to lars.nordback@scb.se