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Topic (iv): Integration of statistical (survey) data with registers (administrative) data

INTEGRATION OF STATISTICAL DATA WITH ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Submitted by Statistics Denmark ¹

INVITED PAPER

SUMMARY

1. There is a tendency in all or most ECE countries towards increasingly making use of administrative sources in order to reduce the burden on citizens and enterprises, and to save resources in the NSI. The increasing use of administrative sources confronts us with a number of opportunities and problems that are worth discussing. The opportunities have been discussed in a number of international meetings, and the perspective of a general register-based statistical system is outlined in e.g. (Statistics Denmark 1995). In this paper we shall focus particularly on some of the difficult problems, and we shall attempt to relate the discussion to practical examples.

2. In the paper the term “administrative data” is defined in a broad sense, comprising all kinds of data collected for administrative purposes by somebody whose interest is not the production of statistics. The

¹ Prepared by Lars Thygesen.

paper presents a typology of administrative sources for statistics, according to their origin. This typology is the basis of a discussion of the problems of statistics based on administrative data:

- ◆ Validity and relevance;
- ◆ Reliability and precision;
- ◆ Comparability over time;
- ◆ Can statisticians influence data?
- ◆ Timeliness;
- ◆ International comparability;
- ◆ Feasibility: Legislation and confidentiality;
- ◆ Are register-based statistics cheaper?

REFERENCES

Statistics Denmark 1995: Statistics on Persons in Denmark, A Register-Based Approach. Eurostat, Luxembourg 1995