Joint communication

- On the difference between
  - projections
  - forecasts
  - predictions

- 'What-if' scenarios
Practical difficulties

- **Prospective questions: eg. Reg. No 249/2011 on LFS module on retirement**
  - Affected by non-response
  - 35% on average
  - 84% in RO
  - 95% in HR

- **General questions: where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

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<th>Plans to stop work</th>
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Talking about the future

- Several actors
- Mental models
- Family of words
- What-if
Families of words
Situational analysis
Prediction/ forecast/ projection?

• *Prediction*: An accident will occur
  • 2005 analogy of the Australian Productivity Commission

• *Forecast*:

• *Projection*:
Prediction/ forecast/ projection?

- **Prediction:** An accident will occur

- **Forecast:** We forecast an accident
  - This is what producers identify as the most probable development

- **Projection:**
Prediction/ forecast/ projection?

- **Prediction:** An accident will occur
- **Forecast:** We forecast an accident
  - This is what producers identify as the most probable / expected development
- **Projection:** If poor visibility and unexperienced train driver, accident would occur
  - What-if
  - If speed.. then breaking distance..
Analyis

The Economist (@TheEconomist) tweeted at 9:00 am on Mon, Nov 18, 2019:

'By the year 2100 it's projected that 1/3 of all people will live in Africa'

The world's population has more than doubled since the 1970s. But in some places populations are in decline
Terms used

• *It's projected that*..

• *Is set to overtake; become*

• *Is forecast to shrink*..
• *Is likely there will be*..

• *Future tense: will have; will change; will be*
• *Present tense: simple and continuous*
To sum up:

• Communication is challenging
• Care with words, but some flexibility needed
• Better to explain what population projections are:
  • 'What-if' scenarios (more than one scenario)
  • Assumptions
  • Calculation precision is not forecasting precision
• Awareness of the users' needs and practices
Talking about the future

- Work in progress
- Several actors
- Mental models
- Recent example
- Family of words
- Quiz
- What-if
Work in progress

Collective work

ESS: Working Group on Population Projections

Thank you for your attention!