



UN Statistics
Division



Organization of
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SESSION 6. POPULATION REGISTERS AS SOURCE OF VITAL STATISTICS

UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics
System, Revision 3 for Central American and Caribbean countries

Guatemala City, 30 August - 2 September 2016



Population registers

Principles and Recommendations, para 452-484



Population registers



Background

- Established in the XIX century
- Sole source of population statistics in several countries
- Recommended as reliable source of vital statistics as far back as 1875 – ISI Congress in St. Petersburg

Definition

- Population registers were first internationally defined in 1969
- Individual data system
- Mechanism of continuous recording and coordinated linkage of selected information pertaining to each member of the resident population of a country in such a way to provide the possibility of determining up-to-date information concerning the size and characteristics of that population at selected time intervals
- The population register is the product of a continuous process in which notification of certain events, which may have been recorded originally in different administrative systems, are automatically linked to it on a current basis
- Legal basis is critical

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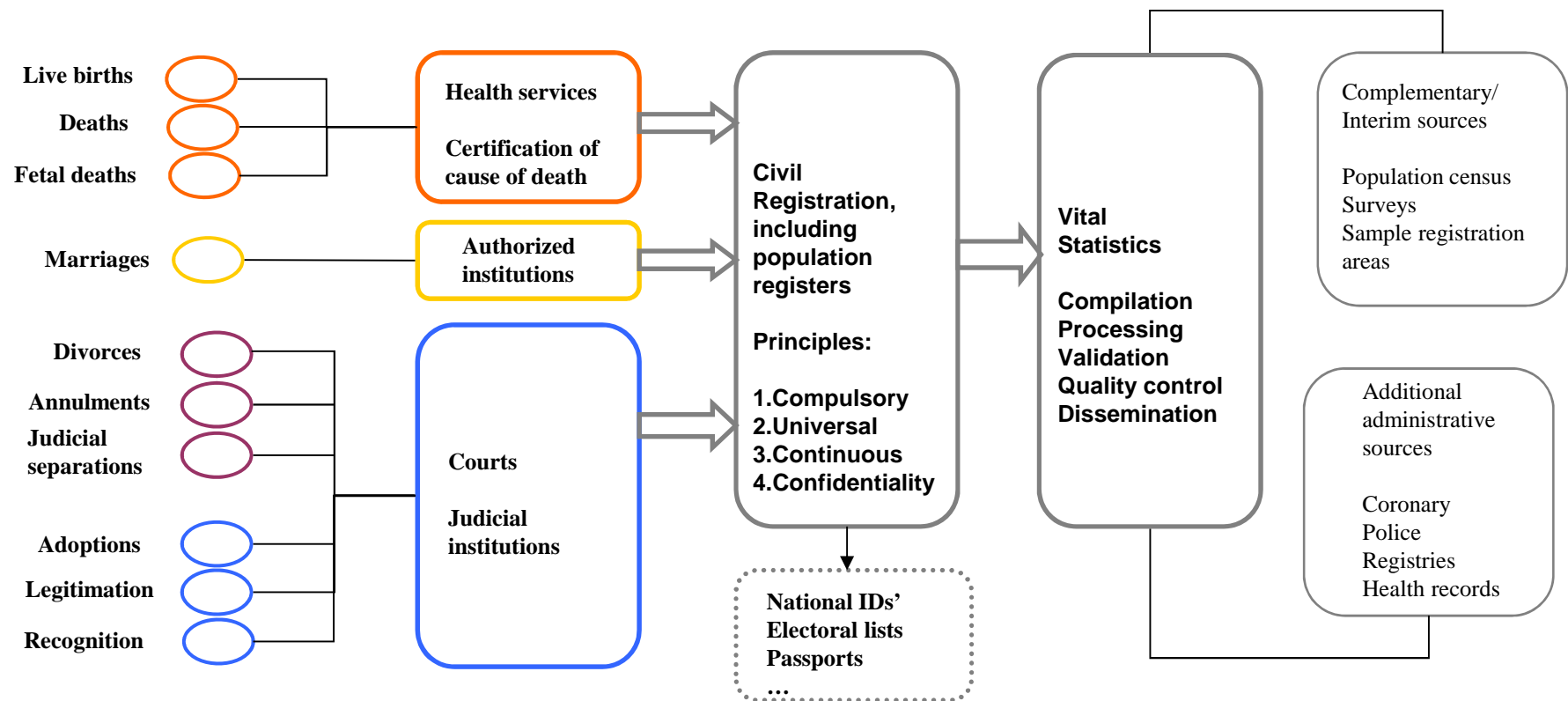


Primary function – non-statistical

- Administrative function
- Budgeting
- Taxation
- Programme planning
- Electoral lists
- Military conscription
- Social insurance
- Police and courts
- Driver licenses
- Personal documents ...

No elaboration on details

- Procedures
- Responsibilities
- Establishing



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Population registers



- ❑ **Not necessarily a physical list**
 - ❑ Preferably in electronic format
 - ❑ Network of local registers
 - ❑ Identification numbers
 - ❑ All individuals
 - ❑ Complete territory
 - ❑ Duplication
- ❑ **Who is included?**
 - ❑ Only usually resident population?
 - ❑ Definition of usual residence
 - ❑ Citizens temporarily abroad
 - ❑ Non-citizens temporarily in the country
 - ❑ Diplomats, international civil servants
 - ❑ Everybody?
 - ❑ Legal status



Population registers



Maintaining registers

- Input – civil registration
- Live births
- Deaths
 - Keeping the retired records separately?
- How far back to go?
 - For example, a person married abroad is still registered as single in the country, or
 - Births abroad of a woman may not be registered upon her return

Content of the population register

- Name
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Date of arrival/departure
- Citizenship
- Parents
- Spouse
- Children



Population registers



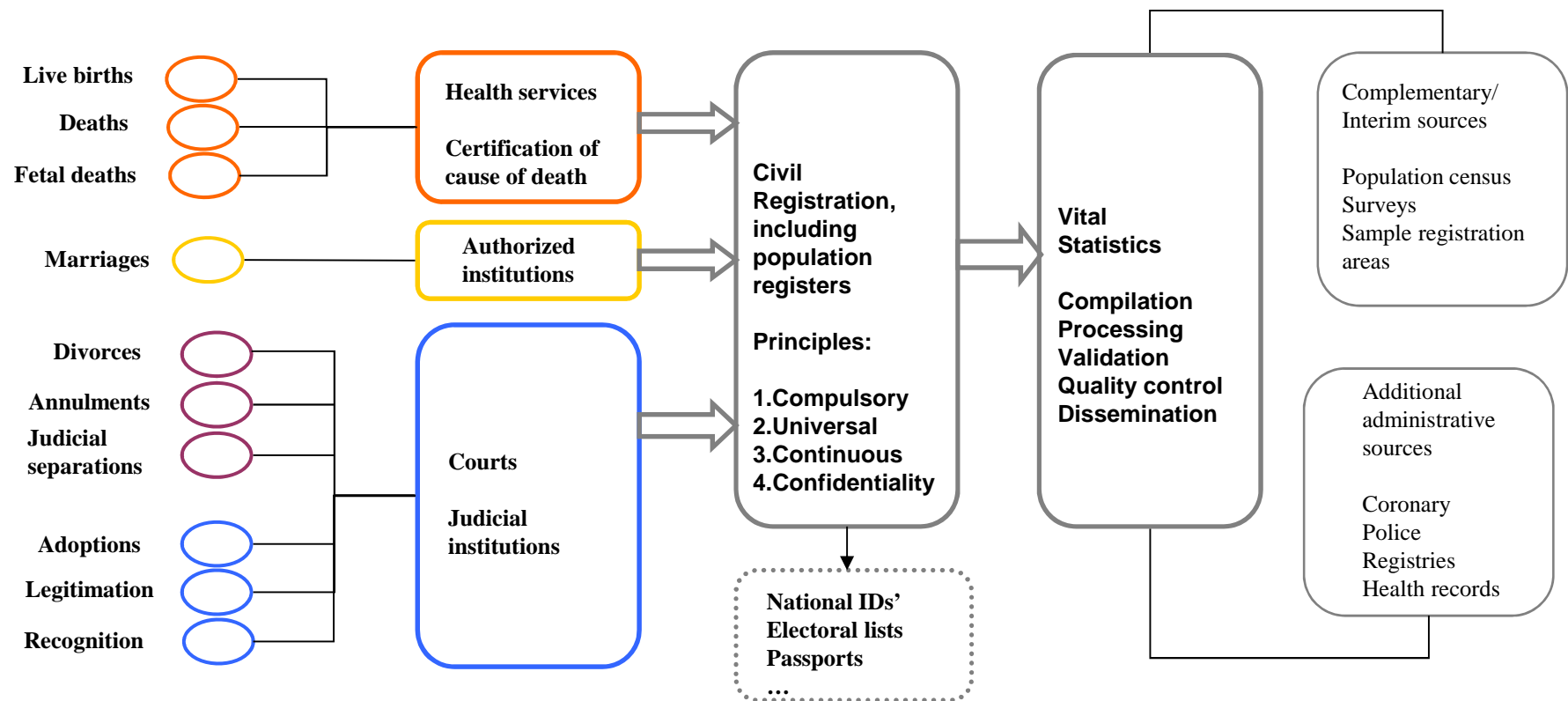
- ❑ **Population registers ↔ Civil registration**
 - ❑ Different agencies
 - ❑ Information on each vital event transferred to the register
 - ❑ One agency responsible for both
 - ❑ Confidentiality must be maintained
- ❑ **Population registers as source of vital statistics**
 - ❑ Small area statistics
 - ❑ Timely
 - ❑ Historical statistics
 - ❑ Longitudinal studies



Concluding remarks - population registers



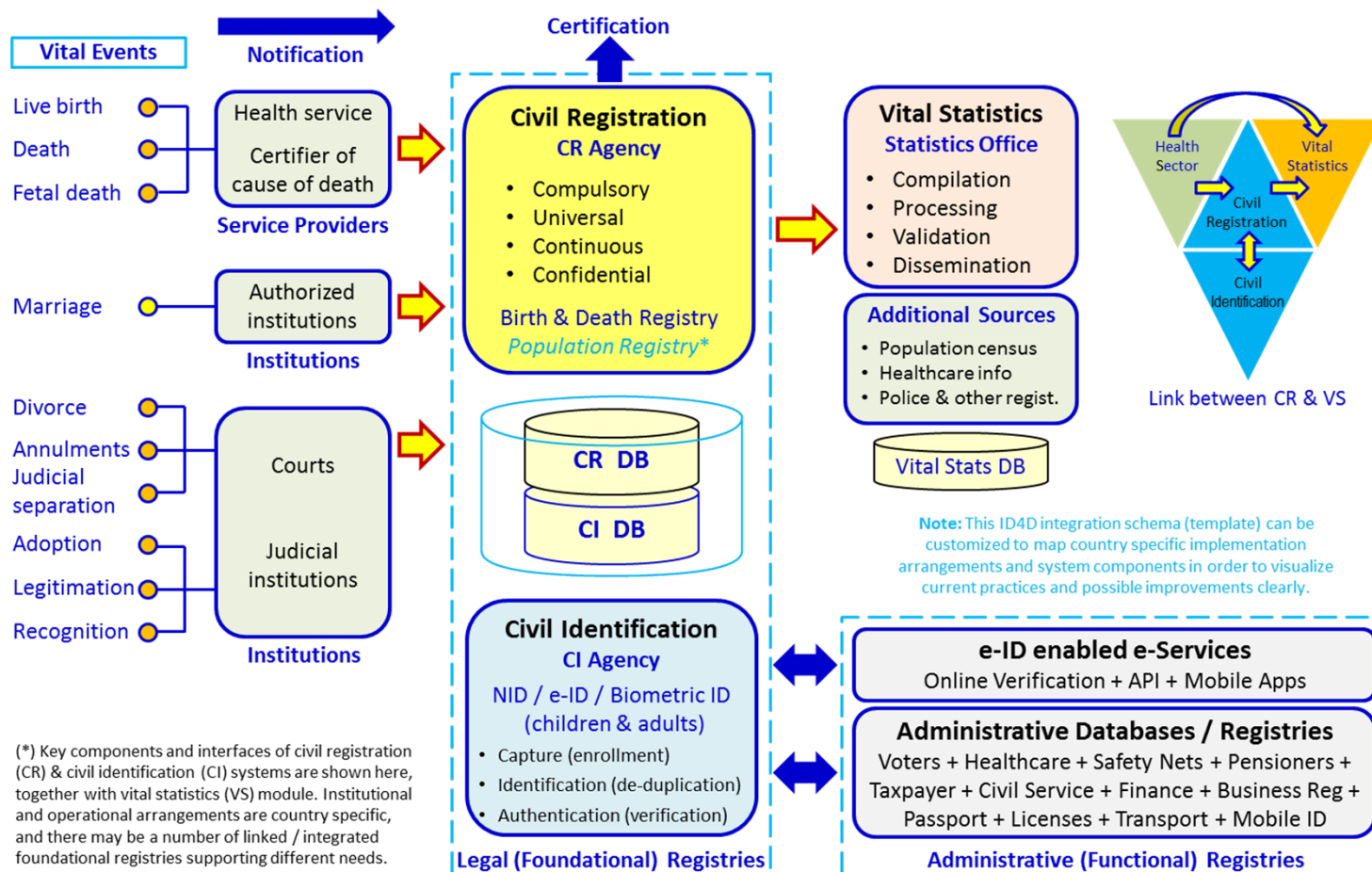
- ❑ Making the civil registration system a vital component of a computerized population registers is the most appropriate and advanced means of generating relevant, accurate, timely and comprehensive vital statistics



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Civil Registration & Identification



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