

Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices

Regional Workshop for the CIS countries

Administrative data sources

Item 10

Peter LAIMER
UNWTO



UNWTO/UNSD WS Moldova, 29 June – 2 July 2010

UN Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics



Principle 5 – cost-effectiveness:

1. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or **administrative records**. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.
2. **Statistical offices** must be
 - cost-effective,
 - making the best choice of concepts, sources and methods by balancing quality, timeliness, costs and the reporting load of respondents.
3. **Agencies** should have policies
 - to minimize reporting burden,
 - and implement quality management and improvement programs to achieve the quality and timeliness required by uses of their statistics.

UN Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics



3. The overall **cost-effectiveness of an agency** is influenced by
 - organizational planning and operation,
 - the sound application of statistical methodology,
 - exploitation of information, and
 - communication technology, and
 - also access to **administrative records**.

4. **Co-ordination of statistical activities** across agencies is applied
 - to control the overall burden placed on respondents for information,
 - to help maintain co-operation and ensure the quality of data.

5. Special attention should be paid to **form design** so that forms in collections are easy for respondents to complete accurately and efficient to process.

Starting point



- The complexity of statistical development needs more sources, either from **census/survey** or from **administrative records**.
- The **administrative data** play important role in **completing** the statistical information and has to be one data source of official statistics.
- The use of registers and administrative data **reduces the respondents' burden**.
- Permanent **cooperation** between **NSI** and (governmental) **organisations/institutes** dealing with administrative data is a key point to guarantee continuity of the administrative product.

Measures related administrative data



1. Describing the **main uses** of the administrative data (i.e. statistical processes).
2. Describing the **primary purpose** of data collection by the administrative source (i.e. finding out whether data are relevant for the focused needs).
3. Describing the **concepts, definitions** and **classifications** of the administrative populations and variables (i.e. finding out, whether the source meets the requirements).
4. Describing **metadata** provided and not provided with the administrative source (i.e. highlighting the completeness and quality of metadata).
5. Describing administrative data **collection procedures** (i.e. mode and problems of data collection).
6. Describing the **format** in which the administrative data are available.

Measures related administrative data



7. Describing the **extent of coverage** of the administrative data and any known **coverage problems** (i.e. coverage error).
8. Describing the known **sources of error** in administrative data (i.e. non-response error, measurement error, coding error).
9. Identifying the proportion of administrative records (units) with **missing values** (i.e. estimating provides an indication of the quality of the administrative data) in general and by items.
10. Describing the timescale since **the last update of data** from the administrative source (i.e. indication whether the statistical product is timely enough to meet their needs).
11. Describing the common identifiers of **population units** in administrative data (i.e. matching records from two or more sources).

Weaknesses of administrative data



- **Statistical concepts and standards** are **less** or **not used**, and administrative data do not necessarily follow international standards
- **Authorities** providing administrative data
 - ✓ do (mostly) not have statistical awareness and capacities, and
 - ✓ and - if considering the statistical purposes - may disturb the mechanism of service delivery
- Disconnecting, incomparable and inconsistent data may occur during the change of management
- Data are mostly not collected through solid **sampling design**
- **Time coverage and completeness** may be questionable (i.e. informal/illegal activities data are not covered or underestimated)
- Administrative data may require comprehensive **plausibility checks**, furthermore a reconciliation process between different data sources is necessary (i.e. considering models, bridge tables)
- Administrative data may not have disaggregation to **sub-national levels**

Examples for administrative data



- **External trade** data may be considered as one of the oldest administrative data through customs controls.
- The flows of **inbound and outbound visitors** through the immigration authorities (i.e. through entry and departure cards) generates valuable information for the **tourism statistics**.
- **Population census** may be substituted by the population register, mainly under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior.
- **Tax statistics**, based on the information of the tax authorities.
- **Car registration statistics**, based on the information of the insurance companies.
- **Employment statistics**, based on the information of the social security authority.