

# Administrative data and monitoring of the SDG – strengthening the data coverage

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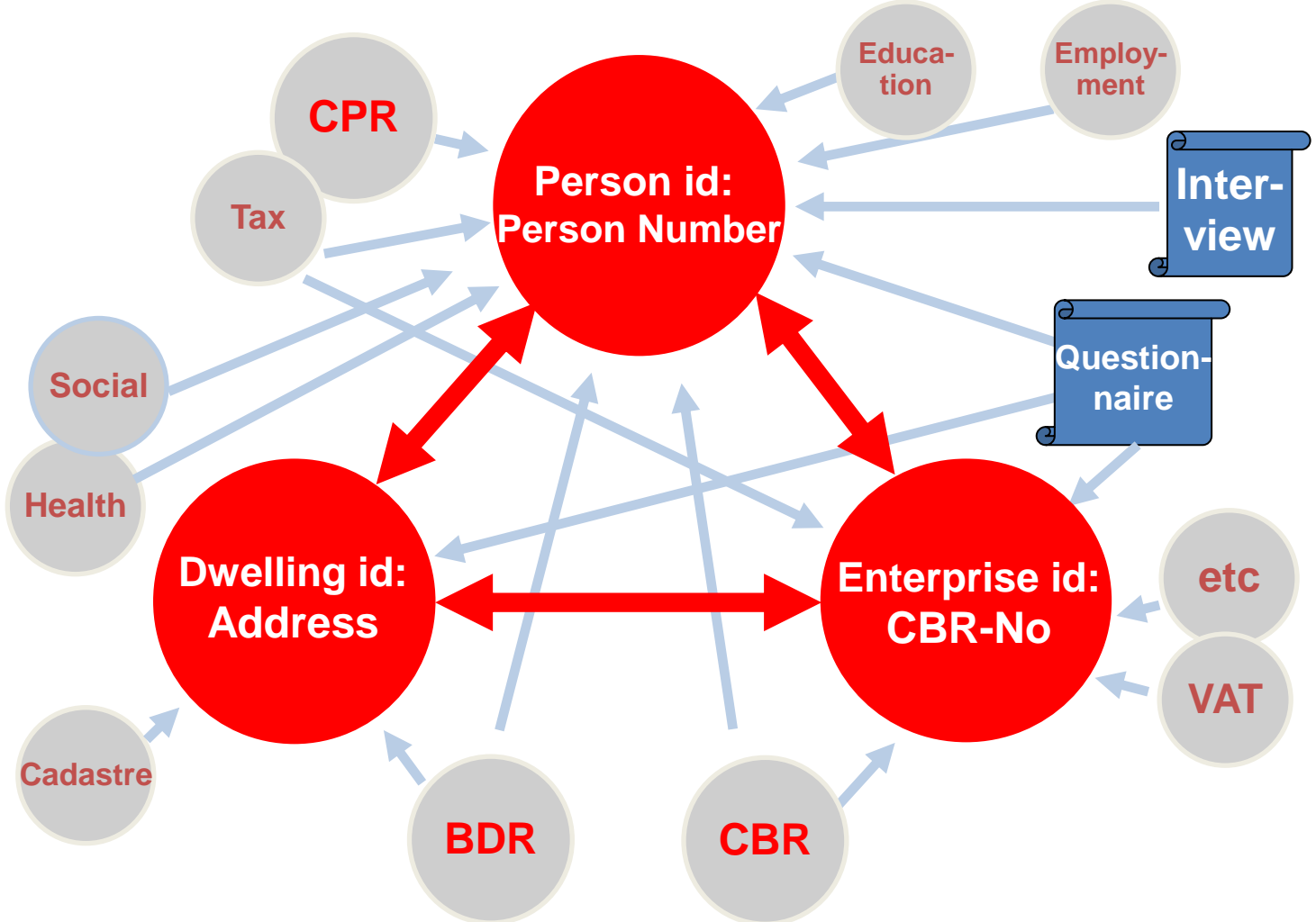
# Background

- SDG monitoring is a challenge to all countries
- We will approach it differently depending on our starting point: capacity, public attitudes, etc.
- My message: for some countries there is a big opportunity in more systematic use of administrative data
  - Cheap and reliable monitoring of (some of) the SDGs, with a high degree of granularity
  - Improved statistical capacity in general
  - Improved public administration
  - More scope for evidence-based policy



# How does it work ?

## The statistical information system in Denmark



# What are the prerequisites?

- Systematic use of unique identifiers in administrative procedures
- Ability, right and legal clearance for the statistical institution to use and combine administrative registers
- NOT sophisticated IT equipment and IT developers
  - The Danish system was launched in the 1960s and 70s, when IT capacity was miniscule compared with today and IT developers few and far between



# What are the benefits in general?

- Efficient public administration
  - This, not better statistics, was the main selling point in Denmark
- High quality statistics
  - The end of sampling uncertainty
  - Continuity, coherence and comparability of statistics
- Cheap statistics
  - Census in China – 10 million census workers
  - Census in USA – 0.5 million census workers
  - Census in Denmark – 2 census workers (and can be conducted on a daily basis)
- Research opportunities based on integrated, coherent, longitudinal data
  - Scope for improved policy design



# And the benefits in the SDG context?

- Allows monitoring of many goals
  - More on the human/social side than on the environmental side
- Granularity by age, gender, income, geography etc.
  - Easy to monitor 'leaving no one behind'
- Continuity allows monitoring of progress
- Responds to the objective of capacity building



# What are the downsides?

- Privacy concerns
  - The fear of Big Brother will turn away some countries
    - Different levels of trust are a fact
  - Risks associated with data security glitches
    - Breaches of confidentiality are bad in themselves and could jeopardise the whole "business model"
  - Political pressure for administrative use of statistical data
- Vulnerability to changes in administrative procedures



# How to bring it about?

- Convincing decision makers – investments in capacity-building
- Establishing a legal framework to ensure adequate data protection
- Ensuring cooperation and unity of approach across different governmental agencies
- Establishing a legal framework for access by statistical institutions to administrative data





# Summing up

- Administrative data can help monitor the SDG and strengthen national statistical systems in general
- Low costs, possibility for data disaggregation and a sound basis for evidence-based decision making are among the major benefits
- There are risks, but they can be overcome
- Administrative data provide a unique opportunity for capacity-building and ensuring national ownership of the process



# Thank you

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