Population registers as source of vital statistics
Recommended reading

- 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
Population registers

- **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
United Nations Sub-regional workshop on applying *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* for implementing the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia

15-18 September 2015, Istanbul, Turkey

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<th>Institutions/Services</th>
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<td>Health services</td>
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<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Certification of cause of death</td>
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<td>Fetal deaths</td>
<td>Authorized institutions</td>
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**Civil Registration, including population registers**

**Principles:**
1. Compulsory
2. Universal
3. Continuous
4. Confidentiality

**Vital Statistics**

**Compilation**

**Processing**

**Validation**

**Quality control**

**Dissemination**

**Complementary/Interim sources**
- Population census
- Surveys
- Sample registration areas

**Additional administrative sources**
- Coronary
- Police
- Registries
- Health records
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.