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# Population registers as source of vital statistics

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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



## Recommended reading

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- ❑ **Population registers**  
*Principles and Recommendations, para 452-484*



## Population registers

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### **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

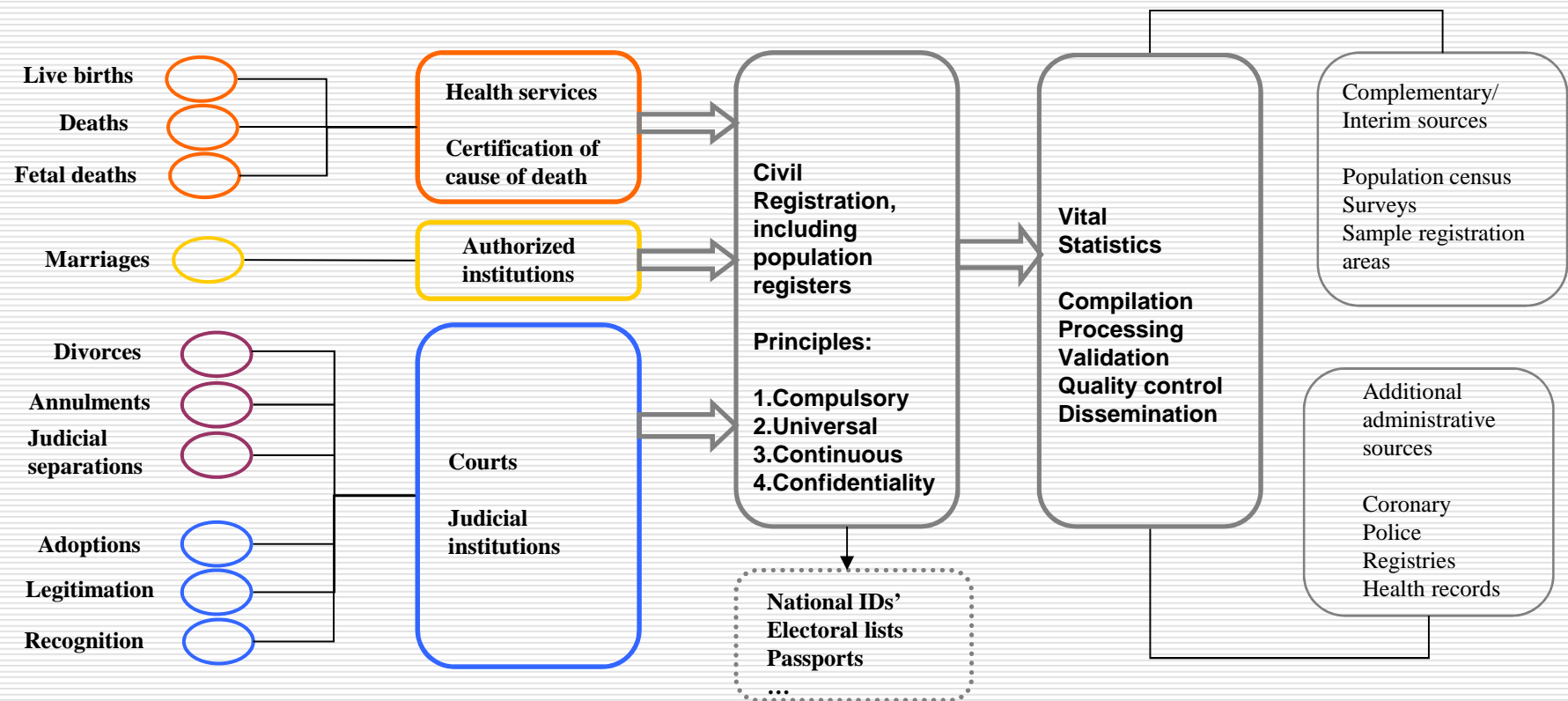
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### **Primary function – non-statistical**

- 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





## Population registers

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### **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

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### **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
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## Population registers

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- ❑ **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

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- ❑ 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