Assessment and improving quality of registers

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Registers in Statistics Norway

– About 100 registers used in the statistical production

– Statistics Act gives SSB right to access register, but also to influence registers

   *Statistics Norway shall be informed when important new administrative data processing systems are to be established or when there are plans to establish or change such systems*

– SN has taken several measures to professionalise and develop the cooperation with data owners
Rather then repairing, errors should be avoided in the source

– Cooperation between SN and the register owners
  – SN reports errors
  – The register owner makes corrections in the source

– Single source approach: Feed-back at micro level
  – Errors within the source can be reported
  – SN make a complaint on the data quality
Multiple source approach: Agreements on data processing

- Errors which appear after linking two sources
  - General rule: aggregated reporting
- An agreement on data processing allows reporting at micro level from SN to the register owner, provided that the register owner can use both registers for administrative reasons
  - E.g. population registration uses information from the Cadastre to improve quality in the CPR
  - SN can do these checks “in batch” on behalf of the register owner
Agreements on cooperation

– Coordination in SN
  – Involves the Director of the Division for Method Development and Data Collection, SN’s legal adviser, experts on quality (CoP, methodology), statistical departments and the Department for Business Surveys
  – Drafted an agreement (template)
  – Developed quality reports (template)
– SN invites major register owners into an agreement
  – Very positive receipt by the register owners
  – A win-win situation
– The agreement is supported by a quality report
  – Based on the quality indicators from the Blue-ets WP 4
  – A descriptive approach, highlighting the problem areas
Quality reports for administrative registers

- About 100 reports linked to agreements with 29 owners of registers
- Follow quality criteria:
  - Technical checks
  - Accuracy
  - Completeness
  - Time
  - Integrability
Conclusion

– Extensive use of the data improves data quality
– NSI’s can highlight quality issues
– Communication on quality issues improves data quality
  – In Statistics Norway
  – Between Statistics Norway and the register owners
  – Among register owners
– There will always be a need for methodological solutions to bridge the gap between good quality register data and good quality register based statistics
Thank you!