

Why register-based census?

Regional Training

Producing Register-based Population Statistics in Developing countries

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What is a register-based census

- Totally register based-census
 - All data from registers
- Combination of data from registers and other sources
 - Registers and traditional census (data collected for total population)
 - Registers and sample surveys (data collected for sample)
 - Registers and existing sample surveys (no data collection for census)
- Traditional census
 - All data collected for total population

Data collection methods

Options

- Census/full coverage statistical survey
- Sample survey
- Administrative registers

Administrative data are collected for administrative purposes

- Register-based statistics is secondary use of existing data

Decision on data collection method is a compromise between

- Cost efficiency
- Response burden
- Product quality

Costs

Current situation in many countries

- The NSO have experienced budget cuts/restrictions
- Users demand new and more detailed statistics
- More efficient production of statistics

Administrative data

- Almost no costs for data collection (for the NSO)
- Use resources on improving existing data instead of collecting data for statistical purposes
 - Supplement and correct existing data
 - Most resources used in establishing register-based statistical systems
 - But: Systems must be maintained

Register-based statistics is not free of charge but normally less expensive than sample surveys and especially than traditional censuses

What to include in census costs?

- Administrative registers are established and maintained for other purposes than producing statistics
- Cost for establishing and updating administrative registers are not census costs

Response burden

Use of administrative data means no additional response burden

- For citizens
 - “The authorities should not ask for information that I have already given”
 - In some countries: Campaigns against (traditional) censuses
- For the NSO
 - Non-response in censuses a problem in some countries
 - Participation mandatory?
 - In general: High response rate in censuses

Data collection

Advantages

- Reducing response burden
- Reducing costs
 - Census using the same data as annual statistics
 - Specific census costs rather low
 - ♦ No need to hire and train a census staff every tenth year
 - Register-based statistics not totally “free of charge”

Disadvantage

- Census no longer a collection tool for emerging needs
 - Sample surveys may be used instead, but not for small area statistics

Output (census statistics)

Advantages

- Census statistics and subject matter statistics based on same sources
 - Comparability
- Possible to produce annual “census statistics”, even for small groups
- Longitudinal data
 - Registers give dates on changes and events with regular updates
 - Flow statistics
 - Longitudinal data for research purposes

Disadvantages

- Only variables available in/derived from registers included
- Some restrictions on definitions
 - Registered place of residence (CPR), not usual place of residence
 - Dwelling households, not housekeeping units

Complying with essential features of censuses

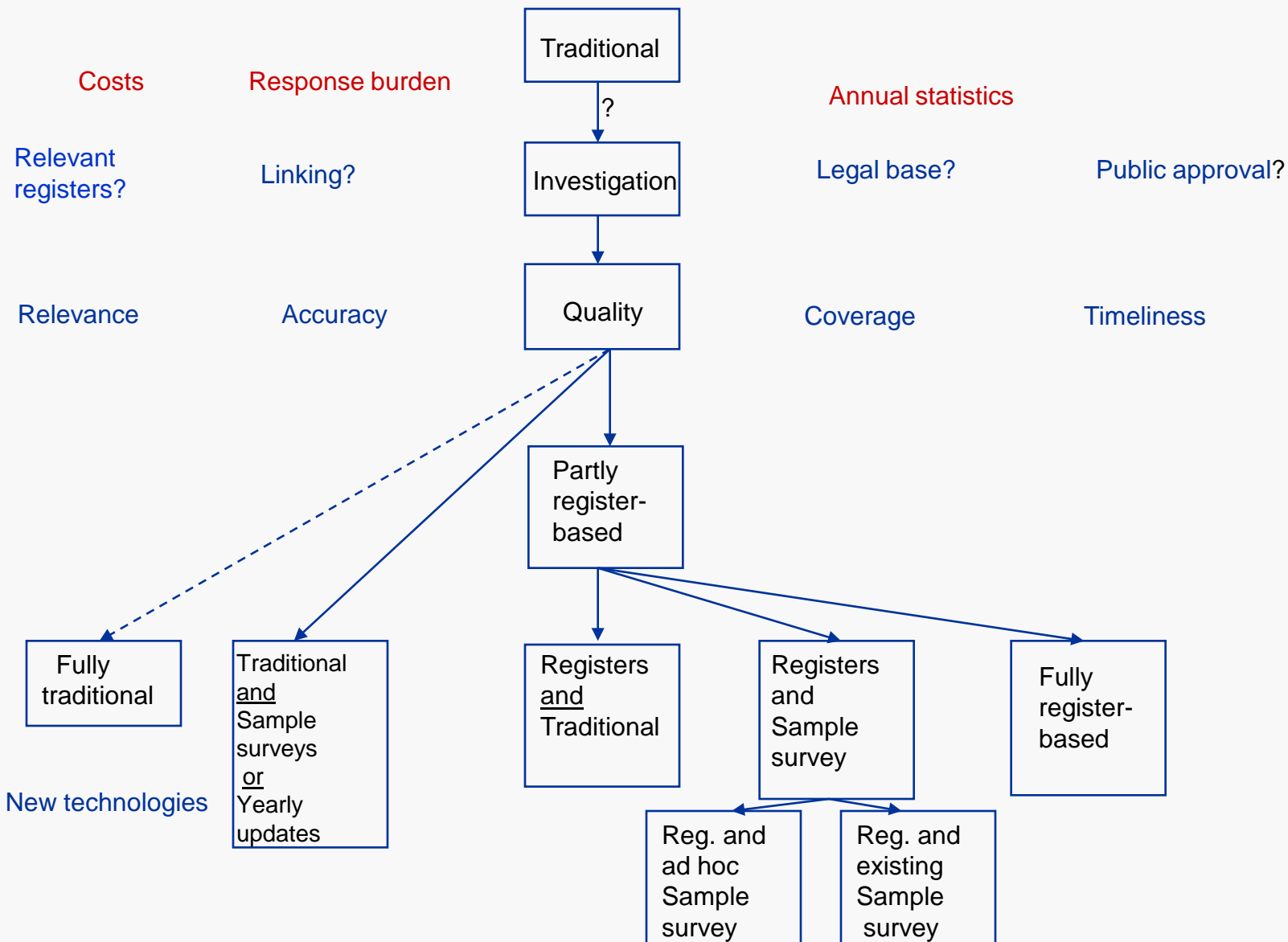
- Individual enumeration
 - A register is a systematic data collection on unit level
 - Estimation from samples for some variables
- Universality within a defined territory
 - Census Population = All persons registered as residents on census day
 - Possible coverage problems
 - Housing: Non-conventional dwellings may be a problem
- Simultaneity
 - Registers updated regularly
 - Possible deviations for some variables
- Small area data
 - Register well suited
- Defined periodicity
 - Annual updates are possible

Complying with international recommendations

Types of census information difficult to obtain from registers

- Data from recently established registers
 - Time elapsing from registers are established till good quality data are available differs between registers
 - Example: Dwelling register in Norway
- Data of minor importance for administrative purposes
 - Examples Norway : Duration of employment in taxation data, water supply system
- The never-ever problem
 - Lack of data describing the situation before the register was established
 - Example Norway: Immigration before CPR was established (1964)
- Data from events abroad
 - Example: Education taken abroad
- Data on topics not relevant for administrative registration
 - Topics on based on self declaration: Ethnicity
 - Topics on actual behaviour: Mode of transport to work

Register-based censuses – the process



Thank you for your attention!