

Vital Statistics System (VSS)

**Second Regional Workshop on Production and Use of Vital Statistics:
From vital data to statistical tabulations**
December 2-6, 2013, Daejeon, Republic of Korea

Labor statistics

System of
national
accounts

Vital statistics
system

- Organized
- Purposeful structure
- Interrelated, interacting, independent components
- Integrating a whole

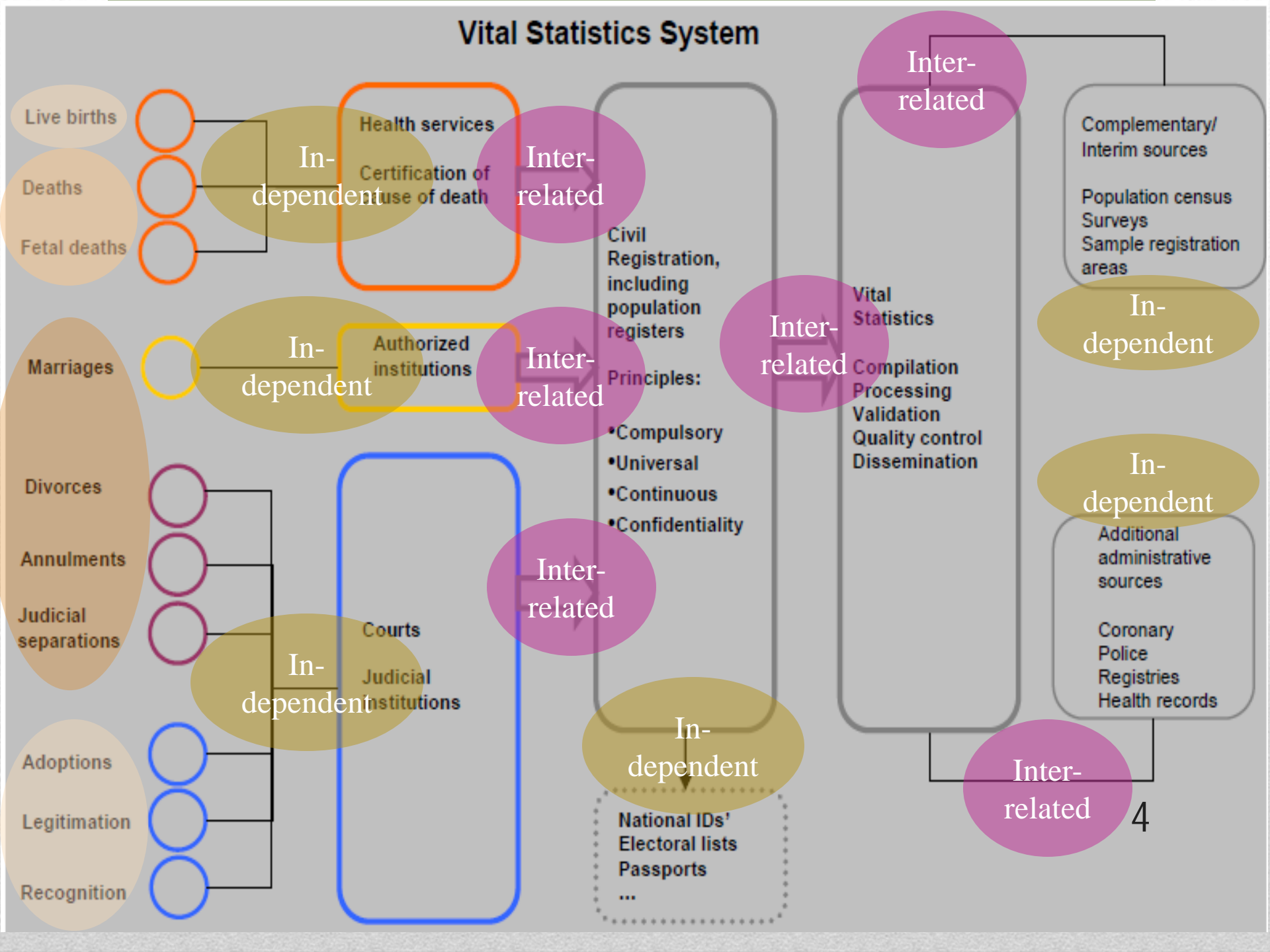
Why call it a System?

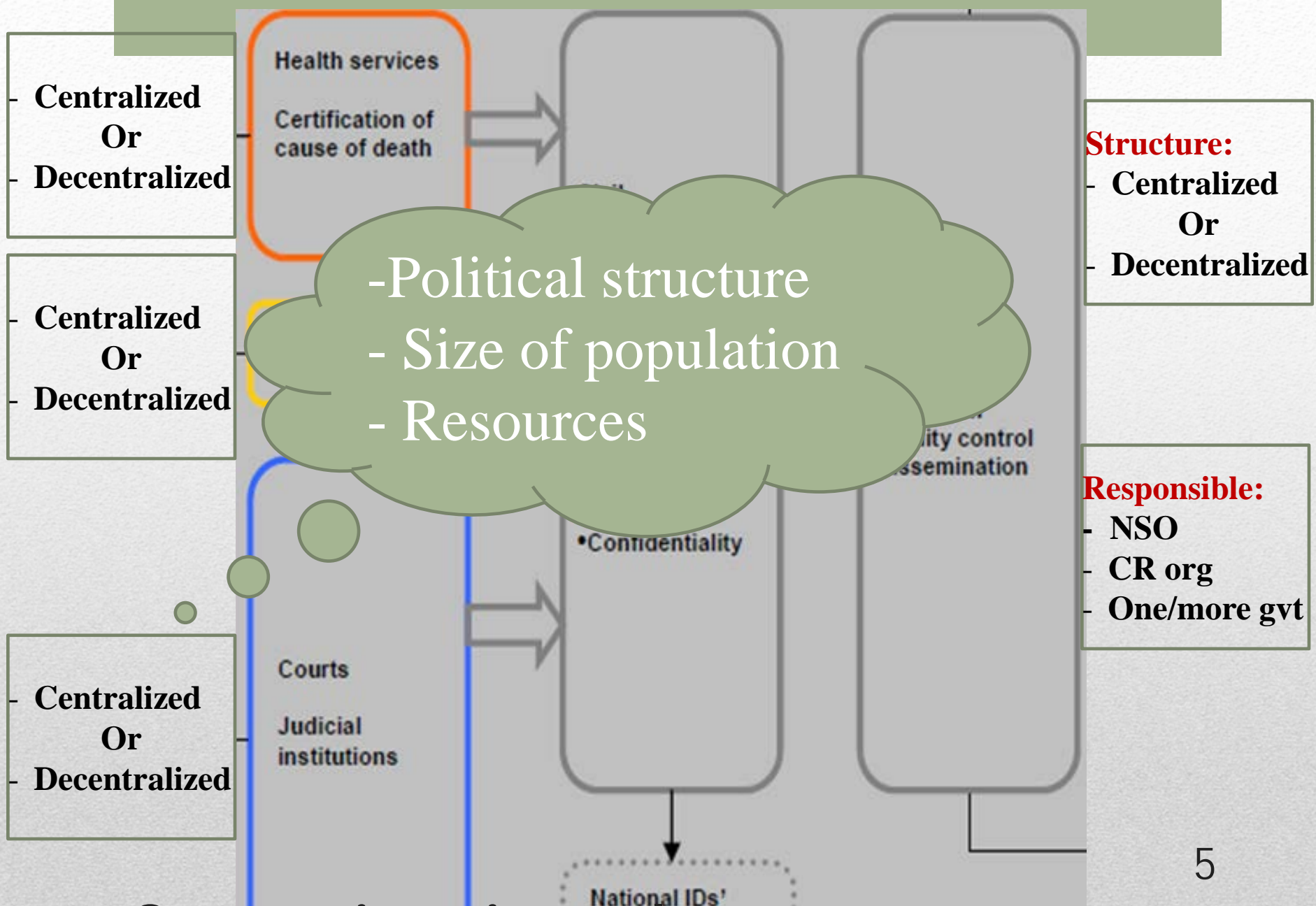
Vital statistics system's components are:

- (a) legal registration,
- (b) statistical reporting of, and
- (c) collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics pertaining to **vital events**

Definition: VSS

Vital Statistics System





Organizational structure

• NSO?

- Focus on statistical aspects, may be more extensive and exhaustive, all events receive same treatment, uniform methodology and dissemination policy, adequate statistical capacity, better access to complementary sources
- No control over data collection (timeliness, accuracy, comparability), lack of understanding of legal problems affecting interpretation on VS, may not get priority attention (census is the most important activity),

Who is responsible? (1)

- **CR organization?**

- Direct control over data collection, ready access to original data
- Statistical component may be neglected

- **One/more gvt agencies?**

- High priority and attention to the vital event
- Lack of control over data collection

Who is responsible? (2)

- A law is essential for efficient management, operation and maintenance of system and ensuring:
 - Completeness of registration & improving accuracy of information
 - Obligatory registration
 - Confidentiality of personal information
 - Continuity, consistency, correctness and comprehensiveness
 - Persuade local authorities to promote registration by means of incentives and penalties
 - Delivery of human rights

Need for legislations

Outdated and incomplete legislation

- Modern technology not introduced
- Transfer (paper- to computer –based) a bottleneck

Multiple Laws

- Inconsistent or even contradictory approached

Discriminatory Laws

- Against certain population groups; e.g. children born out of wedlock, or born to refugees

Common Challenges (1)

Inadequate protection of confidentiality

- Absence of law: public mistrust (they could lose some basic rights)
- Conflicting laws: data sharing may fail

Lack of recognition of statistical function of CR

- Confused responsibilities
- Cooperation may fail

Lack of legal requirement for medical death certification

- Cause of death becomes dominated by ill-defined causes

Lack of clear definitions

- Unreliable calculation of indicators (specially mortality)
- Comparability and consistency

Common Challenges (3)

Lack of clear definition of populations covered

- Who is covered? National citizens? Citizens living in the country? All residents?
- Calculation of reliable indicators become impossible

For the purpose of planning and allocation of resources, all people residing in a country should be registered, including *refugees*.