

Frameworks needed to facilitate access to administrative sources

Regional Training

Producing Register-based Population Statistics in Developing Countries

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Statistical system based on aggregated data

- Many countries have a decentralized system for the production of statistics with several geographical levels
 - Municipal, County, Regional, National
- Method: produce statistics at each level and pass the results on to the next
 - Averages and number of observations (weights) from the regions
 - ♦ Average wages and the number of employees
- Most statisticians in the national office work on aggregated data

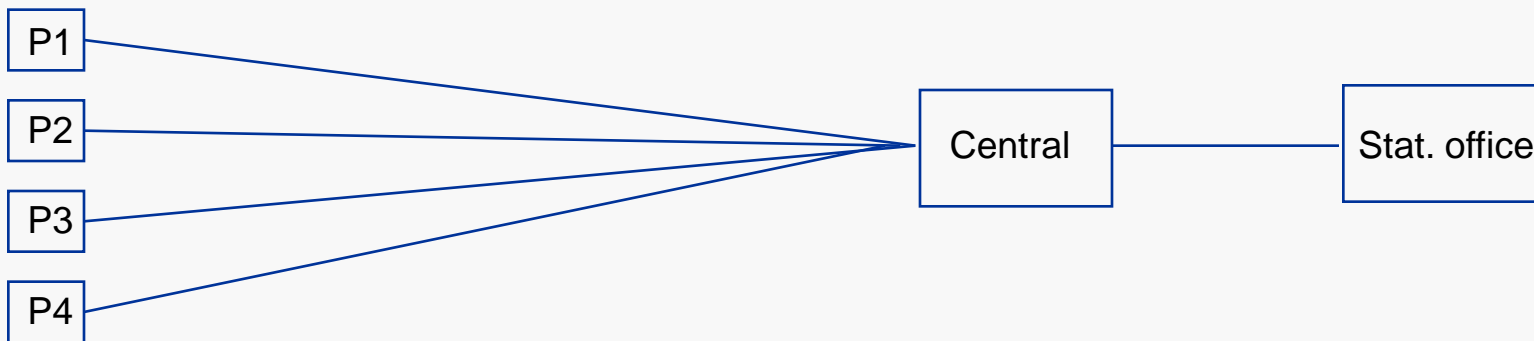
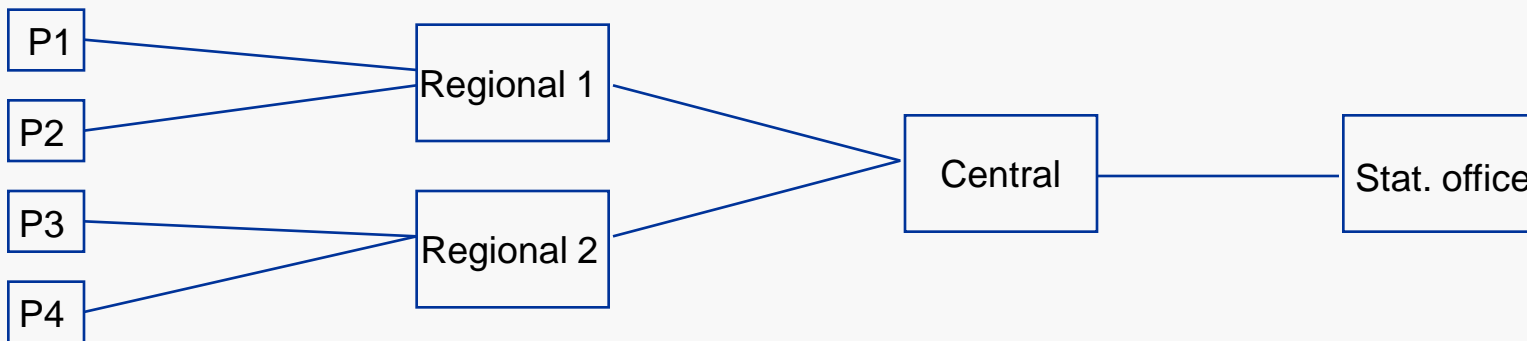
Statistical system based on individual data

- Individual data for the whole population
 - From administrative registers
- Most statisticians in the national statistical office work directly with individual data

Centralized or decentralized registers

Adm. registers

Stat. registers



Centralized register system – advantages

- Centralized system for ID-numbers
- No double counting (unique ID-numbers)
- More unified registration
- More efficient data collection
- More easy to link data from several registers

Frameworks at different levels

- Legal
- Policy
- Organization
- Technical

Preconditions for use of administrative sources in production of statistics

Most important for access to data

- Legal base
- Public approval
- Unified identification system
- Comprehensive and reliable register system
- Cooperation among authorities

Legal base

- Legislation provides a key foundation for use of administrative data for statistical purposes
- National legislation must reflect the idea of re-use of administrative data for statistical purposes
 - Good practice: Use data collected for other purposes rather than re-collect data
- Legislation must give the NSO
 - Access to administrative data on a unit level, including identification information
 - Right to link data from different administrative sources
- Legislation must be up to data
 - Statistics Act of Norway from 1989
 - Replacing the former act of 1907

Legislation on data protection

- Act of processing of personal data
- Legal rights of citizens must not be violated
- Data processed in NSO = Statistical data
 - Not for use at an individual level
- In Norway: Principle of “One way traffic”
- Administrative data for statistical purposes
- Statistical data for
 - Statistical purposes
 - Research purposes (regulated by Statistics Act)
 - **Never for administrative purposes**

Public approval

- Broad public approval is very important
 - Influence on political decisions (legal base)
- Attitudes may be different between countries concerning
 - Existence and linking of administrative registers in general
 - Linking of register data for statistical purposes:
 - ◆ Lack of privacy: NSO knows “everything” about “everybody” (Big Brother) or
 - ◆ Data security better taken care of in centralized system
- Citizens may be reluctant to report data to the NSO if they know that the same data have already been collected for administrative purposes
- Common Nordic experiences
 - Work of register authorities (and NSOs) should be open and transparent
 - Open discussion and public debate

Policy on data collection in NSO

Policy in Nordic countries

- NSO is obliged to examine the existence of register data before starting a direct data collection process
- Data collection must be cost effective and minimize response burden

Cooperation among authorities

Between different administrative authorities (registers owners)

Between NSO and the registers owners

- Cooperation at all levels of the organisations
 - From top management to daily exchange of information
- Norway: National forum of register owners and users
- The NSO needs a lot of information about the registers
 - Laws, regulations and practices in register keeping
 - Contents
- Register owners must inform the NSO about all kind of changes
 - In Norway regulated in the Statistics Act
- The NSO should inform the register owners about quality problems
 - But normally not on an individual level

Organizational aspects

- Statistics Norway and register owners have signed contracts on delivery on data from administrative registers
 - What registers covered
 - Units and variables covered
 - Frequency for updating/delivery
- Organization within NSO
 - Good practice: One unit in NSO responsible for contact with each register owner (coordinating unit)
 - In some countries: Specialized data collection units

Technical frameworks

- The NSO must have the capacity to handle large amounts of data
- Solutions for transfer of data from register owner to NSO
 - In principle: Only changes will be reported
 - Frequency of updates (daily, weekly, monthly, annually?) may have an influence on technical framework

Problems reported from different countries

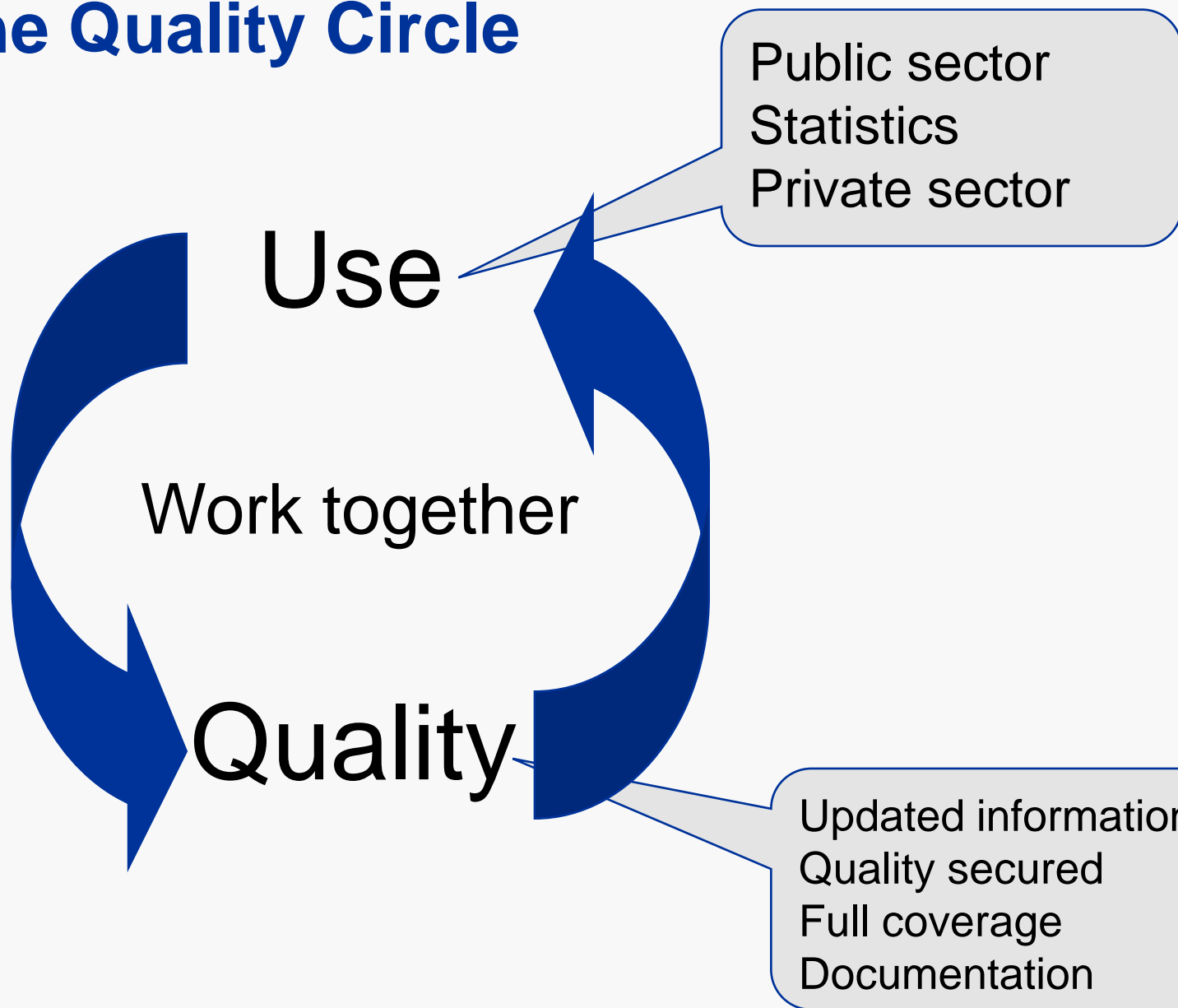
- Legal restrictions
- No public approval
- Not enough knowledge on statistical needs by administrative agencies
- Lack of coordination between agencies
- Lack of cooperation between administrative agencies and NSO
- Capacity problems in NSO (technical, human)
 - For negotiating with administrative agencies
 - For data processing

Possible solutions

Proposals reported by different countries

- Improve legislation
- Harmonization of administrative sources
- Cooperation administrative authorities – NSO
- More knowledge in NSO
- Learning from other countries

The Quality Circle



Thank you for your attention!