Policy regarding use of administrative data and cooperation with data providers

ICBS seminar with data providers 10 September 2014

Lars Thygesen and Søren Schiønning Andersen, Statistics Denmark

Outline

- Background and strategic approach
- Drivers
- Preconditions
- Typical challenges
- Mutual interests between NSI and data providers
- A practical example - Tax
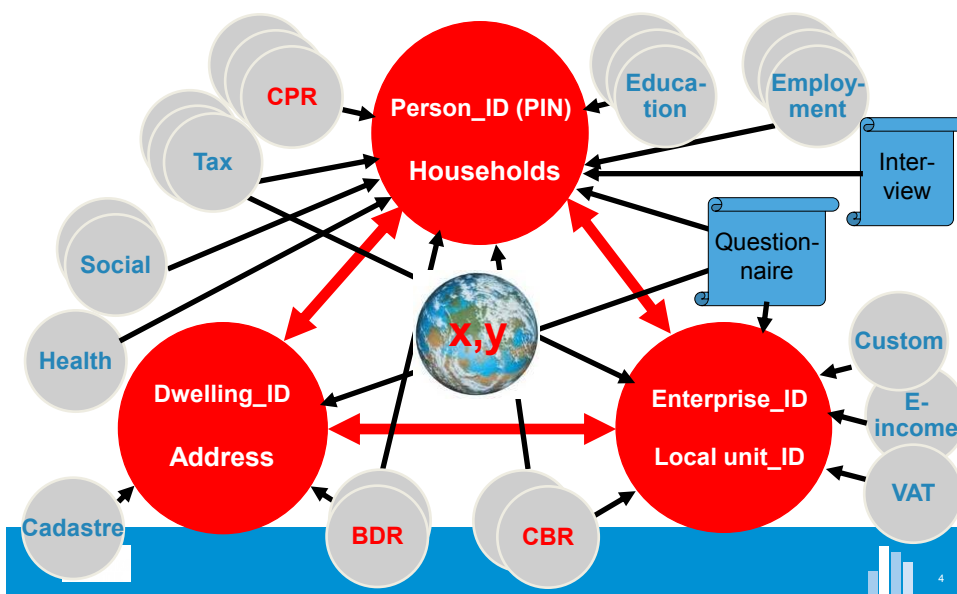- Practical cooperation
- Data supplier policy

- The largest enterprises – key accounts

2

DANMARKS STATISTIK

Background and strategic approach

- Vision for register based statistical system formulated by Mr Svein Norrbotten (NO) in 1960
- Use of admin data foreseen in Law on SD from 1966
- Practical work started in early 1970's – still evolving
- Standing strategic objective for SD to maximise re-use of admin data – successfully pursued
- Confidentiality prevails
- Maximum coverage and flexibility for statistics production
- Cost-efficiency, including low burden
- Close cooperation with admin. authorities / data providers

Basic registers and admin. registers

DANMARKS STATISTIK

Drivers

- Mission and strategic vision
  - Enhanced statistical service to society

- Users' expectations
  - Re-use all relevant information already available

- Political pressure
  - Reduce response burden ~ "one time, one place"
  - Digitalisation of public management

- Requirement for increased productivity
  - Improve cost-effectiveness by avoiding surveying

5

Preconditions

- Good quality administrative systems …
- … with data on individual level and unique identifiers

- Legislation on access: Law on Statistics Denmark

- Interaction between NSI and administrative authorities in a cooperative spirit
- At managerial and practical level
- Preferably, from the very start of the registers (the legislative phase) and/or when systems are altered

- Public trust due to clear confidentiality provisions …
- … and because we have avoided leaks and misuse

6

DANMARKS STATISTIK

Typical challenges

- Quality effects: Conceptual definitions of units and variables may differ from our needs
- Timeliness – but this can go both ways
- No control of administrative changes
- Dependence
- Metadata from admin. authority
- Difficult to measure the final quality of the statistics
- Not all data are available from admin. sources - some additional data collection may still be needed

7

Mutual interests

- Maximum use of public pool of data / knowledge
- Well founded definitions of variables and classifications
  - OBS: Statistics has a lot to offer here!
- Correct (and preferably avoid) errors at the source
- Measuring and improving data quality
  - OBS: Statistics has a lot to offer here!
- Reduction of burden
- Credible use of tax payers' money

8

DANMARKS STATISTIK

A practical example - Tax

- Income, salaries etc. (many types)
- Personal taxes and corporate tax
- Real estate data (several types)
- VAT
- Business register
- Charges
- Customs
- Accounts data
- Motor vehicles

A total of 29 current data deliveries to SD

9

Practical cooperation

- Written bilateral agreement (MoU, SLA or contract):
  - Purpose of delivery
  - Data content (units, variables, format, metadata etc.)
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Technical matters
  - Communication about errors
  - Contact persons
  - Conditions

- Steering group and/or practical working groups

- Complication: Role of private IT service providers

10

DANMARKS STATISTIK

SDs data provider policy in brief

1. SD collects data according to the Law on Statistics Denmark and as point of departure reply is mandatory
2. SD puts special emphasis on being service-minded toward the reporting enterprises
3. SD treats all data on businesses and individuals confidentially
4. SD strives to make reporting as easy as possible
5. SD strives to collect as much data as possible through digital solutions
6. SD involves selected businesses in the development and test of all paper and electronic questionnaires
7. SD treats all businesses who are participating in a survey equally and applies a uniform and consistent reminder procedure
8. SD checks reported data. If there are errors or missing data, the enterprise is, in certain cases, contacted again
9. Businesses with less than 10 employees may report to max. 3 different statistics annually
10. SD continually works to reduce the number of businesses in samples while maintaining the quality of the statistics

Policy re checking of admin data

- Data from admin. registers are to be understood as data which are collected for use by other authorities and passed on to SD

- SD only corrects errors in their own copy of these data

- SD does not pass on data to the relevant admin. authority

- SD corrects the errors that can be corrected without contacting others. If a correction requires that an enterprise or person is identified, SD will contact the enterprise

- When SD contacts an enterprise, it is made clear that SD does not make corrections to the admin. authorities' registers

- In the case of errors that can be corrected without identification of the enterprise or person, SD may contact the admin. authority

DANMARKS STATISTIK

The largest enterprises – 'key accounts'

- Relatively few, but large enterprises account for a high percentage of economic activity
- They are often complex in their structure and activities
- They participate to most/all surveys
- Their reports are critically important for the reliability
- We want figures about them to be coherent across domains – in relation to tabular statistics as well as in micro data
- We need to be able to validate data across domains
- This could be connected to "profiling work" in the SBR
- We would like to give them "VIC service" – e.g. via a "Key Account Manager" in the NSI

DANMARKS STATISTIK