

# Register-based population censuses

Side event

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# Introduction

Increasing interest in register-based censuses all over the world

## What is a register-based census?

- *Traditional census*: Data collected by enumerators in the field
- *Combined census*: Combination of administrative data and field data collection in a census or sample survey
- *Register-based census*: All data from registers, field work



## Why register-based censuses?

- Save costs
- Use data already collected
- Resources better spent on improving existing data
- Statistics based on administrative data also benefit *annual* statistics
- Total population covered
- Data collection without human contact



## Prerequisites for a register-based census

- Existence of
  - Good civil registration system
  - Reliable population register
- System for linking registers and data (Personal Identification Number, PIN)
- Registration of external and internal migration
- Existence of other relevant and reliable registers
- Registration of addresses if census statistics on localities
- Access to registers for statistical purposes
  - Legally
  - Practical solutions (institutional cooperation, IT, confidentiality ...)



## Challenges when transitioning to register-based censuses

- Requires a good administrative and statistical system
- May take a long time to develop
- Some topics not covered by administrative registers
  - Events before registers were established (e.g. immigration)
  - Events abroad (e.g. education)
  - Sensitive issues: Religion, language and ethnicity
  - Emotional issues, e.g. cohabitation without marriage
- Sample surveys may collect such data



# Recent Norwegian Censuses

- 1960: Last traditional census
- 1964:
  - Central Population Register (CPR) established from 1960 Census
  - Unique ID numbers introduced (UIN/PIN)
- 1970 – 1990 Censuses: Administrative data gradually introduced
- 2001 Census: Data on dwelling number collected for all persons
- 2011 Census: Fully based on administrative data
- No more future censuses!



# Registers/systems used in Norwegian Census 2011

- Population
  - Place of living, demography, migration, families, households
- Cadastre, addresses, buildings and dwellings
- Businesses
- Labour market
- Education
- National insurance: pensions
- Income
- Housing





# Thank you for our attention

I look forward to hearing the presentations from six different but very interesting countries