

Quality issues in using administrative data for Business Registers

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Definition of quality

"Quality is the degree to which a set of inherent characteristics fulfils requirements"

ISO standard 9000:2000



Quality criteria

- Relevance
- Accuracy
- Timeliness and punctuality
- Accessibility and clarity
- Comparability
- Coherence



Relevance

- Statistical business registers should be relevant to the needs of their users (units and characteristics)
- A business register can be considered complete if it contains all units and required characteristics of a required target population.



Accuracy

- Not only a question of reflecting reality but also of consistency and comparability over time.

Accuracy can be assessed through register quality surveys and by comparing existing businesses in geographical areas with those held in the register.



Timeliness and punctuality

- Need for constantly updated information in statistical business registers so as to reflect real world events.

However, this might conflict with needs for comparability and coherence!

Solution: Two versions of certain variables

- latest information
- frozen for a certain period of time



Accessibility and clarity

- How easy can users access the information held in the register?

Direct access to information on micro data often restricted.

Solution: Indirect access to non-disclosive data (aggregated, summary analysis).



Comparability

- Comparability through geographical space
- Comparability over time
- Comparability over statistical domains



Coherence

- **Internal coherence**
Consistent handling of data within the register (updating rules, profiling)
- **Coherence with other registers**
Unique identification numbers ease matching data from different sources.



Thanks for your attention!

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