

## **Balsam: A Collaborative Platform to Support ML and ML-Ops initiatives**

Jakob Engdahl (Statistics Sweden)

[jakob.engdahl@scb.se](mailto:jakob.engdahl@scb.se)

### ***Abstract***

As machine learning (ML) gains momentum in statistical organizations, the non-machine learning-specific challenges associated with ML projects have become increasingly evident. Statistics Sweden, in collaboration with AI Sweden and Örebro University, is developing a platform called Balsam to overcome these challenges and support ML initiatives.

Balsam addresses both the technical and the non-technical challenges of ML projects, such as project templates, guidelines, data catalogues, reproducibility, versioning of data and code, and security mechanisms. The platform also enables collaboration between organizations and enables the pragmatic solutions necessary to ensure the success and sustainability of ML projects.

Many of the features that the platform includes to support ML initiatives are features that regular statistical production can benefit from. The platform therefore aims at supporting both regular statistical production as well as ML initiatives using the same features. This helps statistical organisations bridge the gap between statistical production and ML-ops.

This presentation will provide an overview of Balsam and highlight how the platform can support statistical organizations in their transformation towards ML-ops while also enabling increased collaboration within the statistical community and beyond.