

Facilitating the transition to a register-based census

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Facilitating the transition



What pre-conditions must be met?

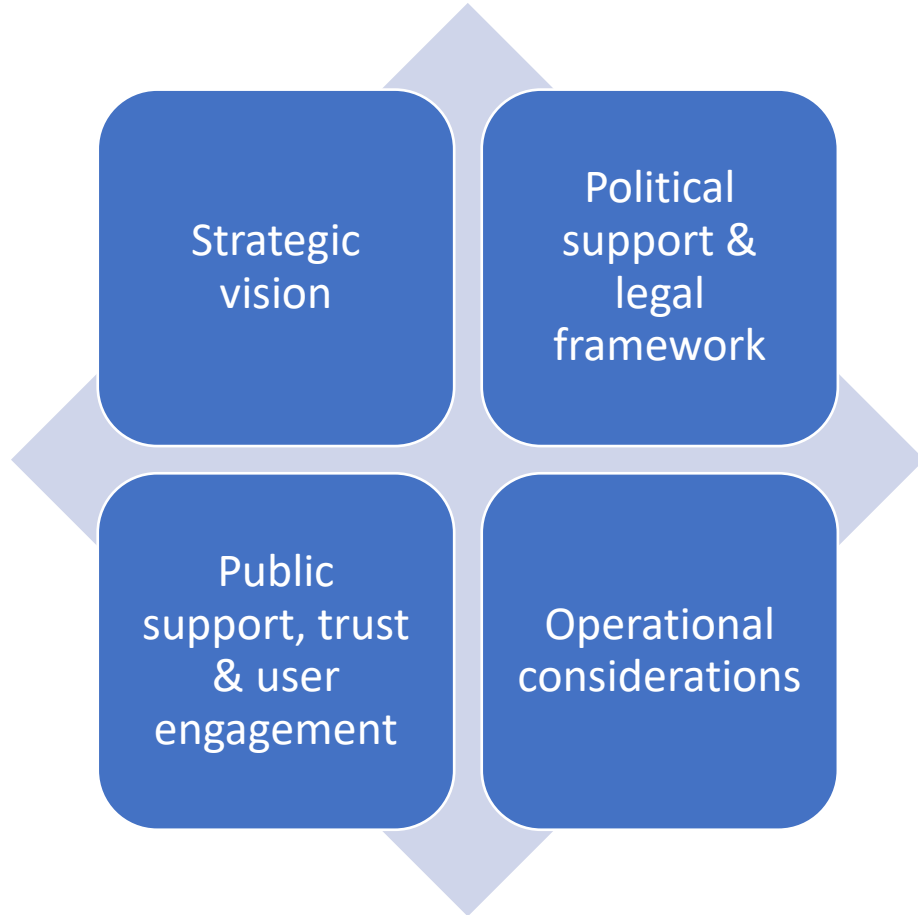
What challenges might be faced during the transition?

What pitfalls should we look out for?

What opportunities could be harnessed during the transition?

Preconditions

for a successful transition



4 overarching headings

At least 8 preconditions...

Precondition 1:

Legal base



- Access
- Cost
- Format & content
- Relationship between NSO & data holder
- Rights around creation/revision/deletion
- Confidentiality, security, specific exceptions

Precondition 2:

Public approval



- Fear of ‘Big Brother’
- Perception that accessing & linking is intrusive
- Sense of risk; linked to lack of trust in government & institutions
- Turn it around: less response burden, less duplication, less cost to taxpayer
- Communicate proactively about FPOS
- Have transparent answers at the ready on privacy, confidentiality, security
- Lack of reaction ≠ approval!



Precondition 3:

Stakeholder approval



- Meeting expectations of regular data users, e.g. time series
- Communications strategy
 - Consult widely
 - Make consultation known: sense of inclusion & involvement
 - Explain reasoning
 - Promote advantages
 - Reassure about confidentiality & security
 - Give advance warning of change
 - Consider potential impacts of change (e.g. financial)

Precondition 4:

Cooperative partnerships



- More than just legal obligation
- Contracts or SLAs
- Positive relationship – not power struggle, not favours, masters, clients...
- Mutual benefits & shared responsibility for risk
- Private data holders: new questions



Precondition 5:

Comprehensive & reliable statistical register system



- Accurate, timely, stable
- Quality of *statistical* registers is what counts for census
- NSO's responsibility to maintain quality of statistical register system, e.g. through
 - Constant contact (account managers?)
 - 2-way interaction: informing about changes in data, reiterating importance of data
 - Promoting use – the more users, the greater the support for enhancing quality

Precondition 6:

Unified identification system



- Ideally:
 - unique ID numbers at record level
 - common across all registers
- At least possibility to link



Precondition 7:

Knowledge of administrative sources



- Wide-ranging & detailed
- Country-specific
- Institutionalized knowledge
- Learn from others but don't try to replicate

Precondition 8:

Transparency



- Ideas, plans & decisions
- Test results (even if not successful)
- Sources
- Methods



Potential challenges and opportunities

of combined and register-based censuses



Lower per capita costs



Quicker



Reduced burden & non-response



Possibilities for increased frequency or continuous census



Improved internal coordination



Frees time & resources for innovation



(Potentially) increases flexibility & agility



Dependency on data providers



Discrepancies in concepts, definitions & classifications



Timeliness



Reference period



Privacy & security concerns (real or perceived)



Hard-to-reach groups



Maintaining up-to-date knowledge & tools



Maintaining support & interest

Opportunities



“This approach permits the production of census data at a greatly reduced cost and with relatively limited [human effort], *once a good quality system of statistical registers has been established*”

Thank you!

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