

International Co-operation

EU co-operation

Statistics Denmark actively participates in international statistical activities. Co-operation within the framework of the European Union is particularly important and Denmark takes part in the joint European statistical programme.

Binding agreements

As a member of the EU Denmark participates in a binding agreement on the compilation, preparation and dissemination of statistics.



(Photo: Peter Dahlerup)

Over the past decade, the ever closer collaboration within the EU gives rise to an increasing demand for statistics in many areas - firstly with the establishment of the European Single Market, secondly with the Maastricht Treaty on the European Union and finally with the Amsterdam Treaty. As a result of these decisions, efforts to create a common European Statistical System have been intensified. There is a steadily increasing demand for more detailed statistics and for statistics to be processed by commonly defined methods in a way that makes comparison between countries possible.

Describing the Union

Statistical co-operation within the framework of the EU aims at compiling comparable European statistics that can be used to describe the development of the Union and the member states. These statistics provide vital background information for political decisions made on EU co-operation.

The production of comparable statistics is also an essential factor in understanding the influences of EU membership on the current development in Denmark.

The impact made on Statistics Denmark by the requirements of the European Statistical System is considerable. Although the requirements on statistical output to a certain extent coincide with Denmark's national needs, considerable resources are devoted to the fulfilment of the Danish EU obligations.

Objectives for future EU commitment

The development in EU co-operation makes it likely to assume that EU requirements on the statistical production of member countries will also increase over the coming years. It is Statistics Denmark's intention to take active part in fulfilling these requirements and to influence future European statistical initiatives. The efforts to fulfil this objective will be based on the following five objectives:

- Overall statistical comparability is a substantial improvement in data quality, and deserves consequently to be supported. This will allow comparisons between developments in Denmark and other countries.
- The harmonisation of the European statistical systems should be in accordance with the general harmonisation of systems at international level, and should in no way impair the quality of Danish statistics.
- The needs of statistical users should be weighed against the response burden imposed on trade and industry as well as on the population in general and should be minimized.
- The costs to Denmark, and to Statistics Denmark, with reference to the European statistical programme should be minimized, taking into account the purpose of the statistics.
- To the greatest possible extent, Statistics Denmark will use information from public registers in the production of statistics in order to keep the response burden and costs to a minimum.

Other international co-operation

Statistics Denmark is also actively involved in other international activities. The most notable co-operation is with the Nordic countries, as well as with the UN and UN organisations. Especially the UN's Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and its Conference for European Statisticians (CES) play an important part in Statistics Denmark's participation in the UN's statistical system. Moreover Statistics Denmark participates in statistical co-operation within other international organisations such as the OECD, IMF, ILO etc.

In many cases the above-mentioned international organisations have agreed the essential guidelines for statistical statements which Denmark adheres to. In other cases, organisations have the function to supervise the production of statistics and disseminate the information.

The Danish point of view

Statistics Denmark is working with statistical activities within international organisations along the following lines:

- The harmonisation of statistics at international level needs to be encouraged as this is vital to improve the quality of statistics.
- Co-operation with other countries and international organisations allows exchange of experience to the benefit of all involved. The division of work within the statistical field needs to be strengthened so that development work are not pioneered simultaneously in several countries.



Technical co-operation

An excellent platform...

The strive to perfect our production of statistics through more than 150 years has provided Statistics Denmark with an excellent platform to share knowledge of statistical production and development of statistical systems with sister agencies in other countries.

... for technical co-operation

The International consulting unit in Statistics Denmark co-ordinates the technical co-operation with other countries. The unit initially focused its activities on transition countries in central and eastern Europe, but has gradually widened the range of countries in the world with which it is involved. It is still the objective for Statistics Denmark to facilitate e.g. the central and eastern European countries in their efforts to be integrated into European statistical activities.

Statistics Denmark is interested in participating in the development of sound and efficient statistical production. The engagements can vary in time but the achievement of sustainable results will often require several years of commitment. The technical co-operation in an international environment also provides benefits for our own staff such as language skills and flexibility.

Information Technology

Data processing is the core business of any central statistical office, as the gathering, production, and dissemination of statistics are all about processing information. For this reason, a brief account of the present IT strategy of Statistics Denmark is in place here.



LAN - the heart of the system

Statistics Denmark's IT system is centred around a Local Area Network of 625 work stations, all running MS Windows NT. All staff members perform their duties using a LAN-based personal computer.

