Country Report Denmark

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A. Key data sources and responsible institutions

Statistics in Denmark is highly centralized and Statistics Denmark is the institution responsible for almost all kind of statistics on persons.

A.1. Statistical registers made from administrative data

The main source for statistics on migration and integration is the Statistical Population Register. Every person in the Danish population has a record in this register and the register includes information about the person’s ancestry, country of origin, immigration or emigration dates and many other variables. The data are individual data and the data is collected by Statistics Denmark from administrative data not specifically designed for statistical purposes.

All the basic information used in the Statistical Population Register comes from the CPR (Central Personal Register). The CPR is an institution in the Ministry of Welfare which is responsible for the register called CPR. Basically all population changes are registered locally at the municipal level. All of the 98 municipalities in Denmark have a department called the People Register (“Folkeregisteret) which is a part of the CPR. When a change is registered in a local People Register the change happens simultaneously in the CPR.

From July 2007 a direct link between the CPR and Statistics Denmark has been established, which means that the Statistical Population Register can be updated on a daily basis. The role of Statistics Denmark concerning the collection data for the population register is therefore very simple.

The CPR is the main source for data about migrants and migration. However information about the purpose for immigrants stay in Denmark is not included in the CPR. These data are collected by the Ministry of Integration (more specifically the institution “Udlændingeservice”) and subsequently delivered to Statistics Denmark.

In all administrative data in Denmark a person can be uniquely identified by his or hers cpr-number. If the cpr-number is obtained from one source there are numerous possibilities to get personalized data from other sources, where the cpr-number also is a variable. Data collected from the CPR and Ministry of Integration can therefore be merged.

The data used to make the Statistical Population Register is thus originally collected by the CPR and the Ministry of Integration. The role of Statistics Denmark is to provide a register from the raw administrative data collected, which can be used for statistical purposes. This work also includes creation of new variables. The variable about ancestry is for example made in Statistics Denmark.

Almost all of the major registers made from administrative sources are made in Statistics Denmark. The raw data which the registers are based on are usually collected for administrative purposes by the authorities and made available for Statistics Denmark. The data collection task for Statistics Denmark is mainly to
collect administrative data which already exist from the authorities. The collected data is then corrected, edited and combined and finally used to make statistics.

The Register of Patients is different. This statistical register is made in the Ministry of Health from their own administrative data. The Register of Patients is however made available for Statistics Denmark. As all the other registers based on the administrative sources the Register of Patients also include the cpr-number and can therefore be linked with all the other registers based on administrative data.

A.2. Asylum seekers and residence

The Ministry of Integration (more specifically "Udlændingesser vice") is the institution that handles the applications for asylum and for all kind of residence permits. From the administrative registers statistics on asylum seekers and residence permits are produced and published by the Ministry of Integration. Asylum seekers do not have a cpr-number and it is therefore not possible to combine these data with other sources.

A.3. Labour Force Survey

The labour force survey (LFS) is another source for statistics on data on migrants and migration. It should already be said here that the LFS is not a good source for this kind of statistics. In section 6 the problems with the LFS as a source for statistics on migrants and migration will be described.

While the population register is a total count and includes the entire population the LFS is a survey. Until January 2007 Statistics Denmark conducted telephone interviews and sent out postal questionnaires to the respondents. From January 2007 the data collection task in the LFS has been outsourced to a private company. It is of course still Statistics Denmark that decides which questions should be asked and the design of the questionnaire.

The private company who was given the task to collect data for the LFS now does all the interviewing. This includes interviews by phone as the main source. If a person cannot be contacted by phone it is tried to conduct the interview face to face by paying a visit to the person’s residence. This task is also done by the private company. The private company delivers the raw data to Statistics Denmark. From this data all LFS statistics is created. This includes the data delivered to Eurostat every three months.

Data from registers based on administrative sources are also included in the LFS. This is possible because of the cpr-number which is included in both the sample and the administrative registers. Administrative data are used in two ways. Firstly it is used to guide the interviews so that questions are not asked if the answers already exist in administrative data. Secondly administrative data are also partly used in the final LFS data. For example data on education in the LFS both includes information derived from interviews and from the education register. In the LFS the information about a person’s nationality comes from the Population Register and not from interviews.
As mentioned the LFS is not a good source for statistics on migrants and migration. Even if it was the only source its use in this area would be problematic. In the case of Denmark the registers based on administrative data is far superior in every way regarding migrants and migration and from a researcher’s point of view it is practically the only solution. The LFS will therefore only be mentioned in this section and in section 6 and 8 about quality and recommendations.

A.4. Census

Since 1981 the Danish census has been totally based on data from administrative registers. The last conventional census in Denmark was in 1970.

B. Historical evolution of the national data collection system/ data collection practices and policies on data collection

Population register

Data from the Population Register are available from 1980 and onwards with comparable data on all the important variables in the area of migrants and migration.

Information about the purpose of immigrants stay in Denmark has only been available since 1997. There is only registered a code for a person’s purpose to stay in Denmark for immigrants who have immigrated after 1996 or have had a renewal of their residence permit in 1997 or later. There are however some problems with the registration and a relatively large number of immigrants do not have a code for purpose to stay in Denmark even if they are immigrated after 1996. The problem is particularly serious for immigrants from new EU countries and it has increased since the enlargement of the EU in 2004. The Ministry of Integration collects the data from different sources and the problem relates to the data that is collected locally in one of the five regions of Denmark. It is not possible to predict when the problem will be solved and there are no measures that Statistics Denmark can undertake to solve the problem.

In July 2007 a small change was made concerning migrants and the time of their migration. Until July 2007 a migration was related to the date the migration was registered in CPR. For example if a migration that took place in November 2005 was registered in March 2006, it was included in the annual statistics on migration for 2006. However the actual date of the migration has been registered, so it is possible in 2007 to make an extract of migrants in 2005 where this migration is included. From July 2007 it is the actual time of the migration and not the time of the registration that decides the time of the migration in the statistics. In the example mentioned the migration of November 2005 would thus be a migration in the year 2005 even though it was first registered in March 2006. Even though the new method seems more correct it does create some possible break in data. The problem is especially relevant for emigrations, which are often first registered long after the emigration has taken place. With the new method the number of emigrations would therefore be lower, while immigrations are only affected in a very small degree.
The CPR which is a part of the Ministry of Welfare is the single most important source to the population register’s data about migrants and migration. They can therefore be considered a very important stakeholder as far as data collection practise is concerned. CPR is really made for administrative purposes and changes in the contents of the CPR have to have an administrative purpose. It is of course recognized that Statistics Denmark has an important interest in contents of the CPR, but the CPR is under the authority of the Ministry of Welfare and Statistics Denmark cannot decide any changes in collection practices without the complete consent of the CPR.

The Ministry of Integration can be considered an important stakeholder for two reasons. Firstly they are responsible for delivering the data on immigrants’ purpose to stay in Denmark and the collection of these data is something that Statistics Denmark can only influence in an indirect way. Secondly the Ministry of Integration is the main government user of statistics on migrants, migrations and integration. It is therefore very likely that changes in these statistics and in some cases changes in data collection practises are launched on their initiative.

C. Coordination and linking

*Statistical Population Register*

The issues coordination and linking have already been addressed in section 1. The main source for the population register is as already mentioned the CPR – an institution in the Ministry of Welfare. Data are collected locally by the municipalities. The CPR is responsible for coordinating the data collection, while Statistics Denmark only is a user of the data.

Some data in the population register are collected by the Ministry of Integration. More specifically the Ministry of Integration collects data on immigrants’ status in Denmark (purpose of stay). In some cases data are not collected by the Ministry of Integration directly, but it is the responsibility of the Ministry to coordinate the data collection and subsequently to make the data available for Statistics Denmark.

The possibilities to link datasets with individual data based on administrative data are very good. If a dataset contains the variable cpr-number it can be linked with any other dataset containing that variable. The cpr-number is a unique identifier of every person in Denmark. Scientific datasets can be created in Statistics Denmark by the Research office in accordance with the demands of the user. The possibilities are many as every register with individual data based on data from administrative sources contains the cpr-number. The cpr-number itself is highly confidential and will never be included in a scientific dataset. Instead of the cpr-number scientific datasets will have a number created by Statistics Denmark with no administrative significance.
D. Concepts and definitions

D.1. Rules for registration of international migrants

Under the Danish Act on the Civil Registration System the citizens are obliged to notify the municipality registration offices of changes of address when moving within the country's boundaries and when moving to or returning from another country.

Categories of international migration registered:
All international migration events of both Danish citizens and aliens should be recorded. Migration from Greenland and Faeroe Islands is counted similarly with international migration from Nordic countries.

Conditions to be registered as immigrant: Persons immigrating from a Nordic country or an EU/EEA country or Switzerland are obliged to report immigration if they intend to stay for more than six months. Persons who immigrate from any other foreign country are obliged to report immigration if they intend to stay for more than three months. Citizens of Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) have the right to enter, reside and work in Denmark without possession of a passport, a residence permit or a work permit. However, citizen of a Nordic country must be able to identify him- or herself if necessary in Denmark. For citizens of non-Nordic countries, registration of immigration from abroad requires residence permit or entry clearance in order to have right to be registered in CPR and be issued a cpr-number.

Conditions to be registered as emigrant: With a few exceptions, anyone moving abroad for more than six months will be reported as moved abroad. If a person stays abroad for six months or less and the former dwelling is maintained at full availability, he or she has the right to remain as resident there. If the former dwelling is not maintained at full availability, the municipality shall make a concrete evaluation of whether or not a move abroad is involved. Due to international agreement with Nordic countries, emigrants to Nordic countries are only recorded as emigrants in the CPR when the country of immigration notifies that the person must be registered as having immigrated to that country. If a citizen of a non-Nordic country leaves and wants to come back to the country that is allowed within 6 months for temporary residence permit holders or within one year for permanent residence permit holders.

Person must report the immigration to the municipality of residence no later than five days after having residence or fixed abode in Denmark. Immigration date recorded shall be the date of arrival. If residence permit has been issued after arrival the immigration date will be the date the residence permit was issued. Residence shall mean the place (dwelling) where a person regularly sleeps when not temporarily absent owing to holiday, business travel, illness or suchlike, and where the person has his property and belongings.

There may be some persons who do not want to register their emigration because the deregistration brings along the loss of advantages such as access to the health system, etc. On the other hand there might also be some advantages of being registered as moved abroad (e.g. buy a car tax-free, return with a foreign spouse).

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1 This section is taken from the THESIM report on Denmark (Herm 2006)
D.2. Procedure for registration or de-registration in the Civil Registration System

Registration takes place via the municipal registration offices, which via link to the CPR forward the information received from citizens and the relevant authorities registering basic data.

A person must report to the local municipality about his arrival in the country. Reports include the information that is needed to record aliens' personal data. Danish civil registry number (CPR-number) will be allocated for the person when he first time notifies immigration to Denmark. Information about residence permit and its validity, previous asylum seekers status, passport or driving licence will not be recorded in the CPR.

When reporting immigration from another Nordic country a person (regardless of citizenship) must submit inter-Nordic relocation papers “Inter-Nordic Migration Certificate” in order to be registered in the CPR. Information about immigration to Denmark will be transferred to the municipality of origin (in the future electronically) in the country of emigration.

If a removal is not self-declared, the CPR has the possibility to register or deregister people after investigation. If it is not possible to establish the whereabouts of a person, and it is not possible to establish for sure, that person has emigrated, the person has to be registered as “disappeared” rather than emigrated.

D.3. Purpose of stay

Purpose of stay is not recorded by the municipality. Immigrants from EU countries, EEA countries and Switzerland who intend to stay in Denmark for more than six months should contact the Government Administration for one of the five regions in Denmark in order to be issued a proof of residence. This should happen prior to registration in the municipality. When the immigrant subsequently contacts the municipality the purpose of stay from the proof of residence is registered along with other basic information and a cpr-number is assigned to the immigrant. Immigrants from the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland) are not required to have a residence permit to stay in Denmark and no purpose of stay are recorded anywhere for immigrants with Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish or Icelandic citizenship.

Immigrants from other countries who intend to stay in Denmark for more than three months should contact The Ministry of Integration (more specifically the institution “Udlandingservice”) to obtain a residence permit. When they have their residence permit which also contains information about purpose of stay they should contact the municipality for registration and assignment of a cpr-number. The connection between purpose of stay and cpr-number is established in the municipality and the data with this connection is collected by The Ministry of Integration and later delivered to Statistics Denmark. The purpose of stay is a variable which has some quality problems.

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2 This section is taken from the THESIM report on Denmark (Herm 2006)
D.4. Statistical concepts

D.4.a Ancestry

Immigrants and descendants are statistical concepts created by using specific rules in connection with information on family relations, citizenship and country of birth.

Immigrant, Descendant and Danish origin are the three categories in the variable ancestry which is widely used in all kinds of statistics on integration in Denmark. In order to create this variable information about country of birth and citizenship for both the person in question and his or her parents are necessary. This information is available in the CPR.

An immigrant is defined as a person born abroad whose parents are both (or one of them if there is no available information on the other parent) foreign citizens or were both born abroad. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person was born abroad, the person is also defined as an immigrant.

A descendant is defined as a person born in Denmark whose parents (or one of them if there is no information on the other parent) are either immigrants or descendants with foreign citizenship. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person in question is a foreign citizen, the person is also defined as a descendant.

A person who has at least one parent who is born in Denmark and Danish citizen is defined as a person with Danish origin no matter where he or she is born.

D.4.b Country of origin

- If none of the parents are known, the country of origin is defined from the information on the person in question. If the person is an immigrant the country of origin is the same as the country of birth. If the person is a descendant, the country of origin is the same as the country of citizenship.

- If only one of the parents is known, the country of origin is defined by the known parent’s country of birth. In case the country of birth is Denmark, the parent’s citizenship will decide the country of origin.

- If both parents are known and none of them are born in Denmark and has Danish citizenship, the country of origin is defined by the country of birth of the mother. If the country of birth of the mother is Denmark, the country of origin will be decided by her citizenship.

It is possible to combine ancestry and country of birth with citizenship. Immigrants can thus be divided into immigrants with Danish citizenship and immigrants with foreign citizenship.
Ethnicity is not registered anywhere in Danish administrative data and data on ethnicity are not collected from any other sources. Therefore it is not possible to use the concept in official statistics. The country of origin covers every country in the world and a study on ethnicity would have to use this variable as an approach to ethnicity.

The concept country of usual residence is not used in Danish population statistics. The foundation for published population statistics is people who actually have residence in Denmark. People who work in Denmark without living in Denmark are not covered. From the CPR we know when a person enters Denmark and when he leaves. If an immigration date is more recent than any emigration data recorded for a particular person that person is still considered a part of the Danish population (unless his death has been registered before the period in question).

E. Availability of data

E.1. Core demographic data on immigrants and migration control

E.1.a Population Stocks and General Demographic Characteristics

In theory a population stock can be extracted from the population register for any given date. Changes in population (immigration, emigration, citizenship, births, deaths, marriages, divorces etc.) are registered with a date. It is therefore possible to extract the entire Danish population a given date with all the demographic characteristics valid on that particular date.

E.1.b Migration flows and characteristics of migrants at the time of migration

The registration procedures concerning immigrants and emigrants are described in section 4.

When a person who is about to emigrate reports his emigration it is only his intended country of residence that is registered. By definition an emigrant is in the Danish population before he emigrates and therefore all the basic demographic data about the person is already known. It is not registered in the CPR how long an emigrant intends to stay in the country he emigrates to. After emigration he will no longer be a part of the Danish population until a possible later reimmigration.

All the basic information about citizenship, country of birth, country of previous residence, sex and age are registered when an immigration is reported.

The intended duration of stay is not registered when an immigrant registers. The duration of stay can thus only be calculated when an immigrant has emigrated again. That is when both an immigration date and an emigration date have been recorded for the person in question.
Information about purpose of stay is only available for people with immigration or renewal of residence permit after 1996. Furthermore there are some problems with the variable, which are particularly relevant for people from EU countries, EEA countries and Switzerland. The problem has increased in size after the enlargement of the EU.

Country of birth and citizenship are basic information which is registered in the CPR when an immigrant reports his immigration to the municipality. Distinguishing between nationals and foreigners and EU and non-EU citizens is therefore a relatively easy task. Danish citizens who immigrate or emigrate also have to register at the relevant local municipality.

The exact duration of an immigrant’s stay in Denmark can only be known when there is an immigration date and a later emigration date. When there is no emigration date later than the last known immigration date it is presumed that the person is still a resident in Denmark. Based on the immigration date the time of duration can be calculated as the period from the immigration date to any later date where the person is still a resident in Denmark. Information about duration of stay can only be based on immigration and emigration dates. An immigrant’s intended duration is not registered anywhere. A study of long term and short term duration therefore has to be based on the actual duration and not intended duration of stay.

E.1.c Legal status of immigrants

An immigrant who registers at the municipality has to have a proof of residence or a residence permit issued by either one of the five Government Administration regions or the Ministry of Integration. Only immigrants who register at a municipality will be registered in the CPR and therefore all immigrants in the CPR can be considered to have immigrated legally to Denmark. There are no official statistics on illegal immigration.

E.1.d Change of citizenship

A person is only registered with one citizenship in the CPR and if a person has or obtains a Danish citizenship it will overrule any other citizenship even though the other citizenship might still be valid. As all other information in the population register dates are registered when changes are made. The information about which citizenship a person has prior to changing to Danish is therefore available. A change from one foreign citizenship to another foreign citizenship is only registered if the person himself declares it.

In order to obtain a Danish citizenship a number of conditions have to be satisfied. The most important are listed below:

- You have to sign a declaration in which you swear allegiance and loyalty to Denmark and the Danish society and declare your willingness to observe Danish legislation and respect fundamental Danish principles of law.
You also have to provide information on any criminal offences committed in the form of a solemn declaration.

To be listed in a naturalisation bill you must agree to renounce your present nationality.

To be listed in a naturalisation bill you must have a permanent residence permit for Denmark and live in Denmark.

Moreover, it is a general rule that you must have lived in Denmark for a continuous period of at least 9 years. The residence period is reckoned from the data of your first residence permit.

If you are stateless or have refugee status in Denmark, you only need to have lived in Denmark for a continuous period of 8 years from your first residence permit.

Requirements for shorter periods of residence are also made of Nordic nationals, persons married to a Danish national, persons who came to Denmark as children and were given a Danish education, and persons who underwent a substantial part of their general education or vocational training in Denmark.

### E.1.e Asylum seeking and refugees

Asylum seekers are not considered a part of the Danish population before they are given a residence permit. The only information available about asylum seekers is quarterly statistics which include the number of asylum seekers and their citizenship. Asylum seekers are not assigned a CPR-number before they have a residence permit. Arriving/leaving asylum seekers are therefore not included in the migration statistics.

The variable purpose of stay includes the two categories quota refugees and other refugees. A refugee who will get a residence permit in Denmark will be registered with one of these two categories and when he is assigned a CPR-number by the municipality he will be a part of the Danish population.

### E.1.f Irregular immigration

Irregular immigration is not covered by the population statistical system in Denmark. A valid residence permit is a prerequisite for registration in the CPR, which is the foundation for the population register. The CPR does not contain information about the duration of a residence permit. If an immigrant’s residence permit has expired and he has not declared an emigration to the CPR he is still considered a part of the Danish population even though he would no longer be a legal immigrant.

A purpose for emigration is not registered and in the rare cases where immigrants who at some point entered Denmark legally are expelled, it is not possible to distinguish these emigrations from other emigrations.

The Ministry of Integration collects and publish CIREFI data. Statistics on the number of residence permits given within the different areas (study and work, EU, Family
regrouping, Asylum) are available. As far as Family regrouping and asylum are concerned, statistics on the number of applications and rejections are also available. It can be found on the website of the Ministry of Integration (www.nyidanmark.dk).

E.1.g Changes

The population register is in fact a large database containing many different tables. Basically all the tables include personal identification number, a variable within a given subject (citizenship, marital status, purpose of stay etc.) and two date variables (to and from) describing the period where the status described in the variable was valid for the person with the given personal identification number. One person can have several records in a table depending on the number of changes. Via the personal identification the tables can be combined according to the user's needs. Normally the published statistics and datasets for analytical purposes are based on the status a given date (for example 1 January) where a person only has one valid status. But information on all changes in status for a particular person is recorded in the register.

E.2. Measuring integration, discrimination and diversity

For the purpose of studying structural integration within different thematic areas, registers based on administrative data is the only possibility. Of course these data will only include immigrants who are registered as residents in Denmark and therefore have entered Denmark legally. The relevant registers are all based on administrative data and therefore areas such as jobs in the black economy and untaxed income are not covered.

Statistics Denmark publish a yearbook called “Indvandrere i Danmark” (Immigrants in Denmark). The 2008 edition was published 16 December 2008 and contains chapters about population, employment, education, income, transfers and social benefits. The book is only available in Danish.

The availability of data is very good in the areas 1) employment, 2) incomes, transfers and social benefits, 3) housing and residential pattern, 4) family and household and 5) crime. Danish statistics in these areas are almost entirely based on administrative data. The CPR is thus a part of the data and therefore all kinds of background information can be combined with the data – including data on ancestry and nationality.

Statistics which combine ancestry with employment are widely used in Denmark. The statistic suitable for this purpose is the registerbased labour market statistic (RAS), which covers the entire population and is published once a year. Information from many different sources and registers are needed to produce the statistic and therefore it has a relatively long production time. The latest version was published in March 2008 covering the population on January 1st 2007 and their labour market status in last week of November 2006. Employment rates for immigrants from specific countries are based on RAS. Information on sector of work is also available in RAS among many other variables.
At this moment new statistics in the employment area based on new and better sources is under development. From 2010 RAS will be based on the new source which will improve the timeliness, level of detail and also add new variables (e.g. working time for employees).

Statistics on crime is another area where the combination with ancestry and nationality are widely used in Denmark. The statistics on crime is based on complete registers and not samples. It is therefore possible to go into details in terms of ancestry and even immigrants from specific countries and their level of crime in a given year. In the published statistics on crime and nationality indices for the levels of crime for persons of Danish origin and immigrants and descendants from various countries are included. In these indices the influence of age and socioeconomic background is eliminated by means of standardization. Standardized indices are very important regarding statistics on crime, because the level of crime is higher among young people and people outside the labour market. Without standardization the level of crime among immigrants and descendants (who are younger and often unemployed or outside the labour force) is exaggerated.

6) Health care and access to healthcare
Every contact a person has with the health care system is registered with the cpr-number. Detailed information about every person’s use of the health care system is therefore available. It is the actual use of the health care system that is registered and not access to health care in itself.

7) Political participation
No information on political participation is available. This is the case for both immigrants and people of Danish origin.

8) Education
Education is the one major important statistical area with substantial quality problems regarding the data for immigrants. This is due to the fact that Danish educations are the foundation for the education register, and the educational attainment for immigrants who have not taken an education in Denmark is therefore in general unknown. It has been tried to add survey data about immigrants’ educations to the education register. Even though the surveys undertaken have been very ambitious with the intent to cover the entire immigrant population, non-response rates have been very high. Many different nationalities from many different national educational systems complicate the task and in addition there is a general problem with combining survey data and administrative data. The quality of the data of immigrants’ educations is therefore not as good as for the rest of the population.
F. Accessibility of data

On the webpage [www.statbank.dk](http://www.statbank.dk) free aggregate table data are available. Most tables about migrants and migration are in the subject area ‘Population and election’/foreigners. Tables that combine ancestry with employment are also available in the subject area ‘Labour Market’ and there are tables that combine ancestry and crime in the subject area ‘Social conditions, health and justice’/Justice.

As for individual data it is possible for researches to buy access to datasets designed according to the researcher’s purpose. Via the link Research under the headline ‘Statistics for sale’ on the English version of Statistics Denmark’s website more information about the possibility to buy microdata are available.

G. Quality and scope of data collection

G.1. Statistical registers made from administrative data

The major strength of the available data on migrants and migration is that the data comprises the entire Danish population. Except for illegal immigrants who are not registered all population groups are covered completely.

Regarding data on migrants and migration the registering for emigrations and the variable purpose of stay have some quality problems worth mentioning. Both have already been described earlier.

The problem with the registering of emigration is that in many cases an immigrant fails to inform the authorities when he emigrates. Usually months will pass before it is discovered that a person is no longer a resident in Denmark. In Statistics Denmark published statistics with population data related to a specific date has a deadline of 28 days after that date. For example if the specific date is 1 January 2008 and it is registered 14 January 2008 that a person emigrated 7 December 2007 that person is not counted in the population of 1 January. However if his emigration of 7 December 2007 is not registered before 28 days after the 1 January he will be counted in the population of 1 January. Due to this problem emigrations are somewhat underestimated. Emigrations of immigrants who have only been in Denmark in a relatively short period (e.g. students) are the group mostly affected by this problem. From July 2007 Statistics Denmark changed the way migrations are counted. Before July 2007 the day a migration was registered decided the time of migration. From July 2007 it is the actual date of the migration and not the day it is registered which will decide the time of migration. This change has caused a downward break in the number of emigrations.

The creation of the variable purpose of stay is described in section 4. It is by definition a variable which is only available for immigrations after 1996. Even for immigrations after that date the coverage is not complete and the quality problems have increased since the enlargement of EU.
As mentioned in section 5b data on educational attainment for immigrants is not good. Only contact with the Danish education system is registered and the educational attainment for immigrants who have entered Denmark as adults is therefore in many cases unknown.

However education is really the only major statistical area with special problems concerning the coverage of immigrants.

G.2. Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey was briefly mentioned in section 1 as another source for statistics on migrants and migration. It was already mentioned then that it is not a good source for this kind of statistics.

When samples for the LFS are made immigrants are not treated in a special way. Their part of the sample therefore corresponds to their part of the population. Since the LFS is a survey the possibilities of detailed analyses of immigrants are not good. Immigrants' part of the sample is simply not large enough to get quality data. In addition immigrants do not participate in the LFS in the same degree as people of Danish origin. Their non-response rate is in general much higher and furthermore the non-response rates are different for different groups of immigrants. The different non-response rates are a cause of concern. The immigrants who participate in the LFS are in general better integrated and they are therefore not representative. It is however very difficult to take the issues related to immigrants into account when adjusting the survey data to data for the entire population and it is currently not done.

H. Conclusions - Recommendations

H.1. Researchers

It has already been mentioned several times that statistics based on administrative data is the only solution concerning Danish statistics on migrants and migration. It is not recommended that LFS data is used mainly due to its limited coverage of immigrants but also because of quality concerns.

The free data available via Statistics Denmark’s [www.statbank.dk](http://www.statbank.dk) should be able to satisfy most basic needs for statistics on migrants and migrations and it is recommended that a researcher takes a look at the data on this site first. If his needs go beyond the published tables an approved researcher has the possibility to buy datasets with micro data designed according to his needs.
H.2. Policymakers

The variable ‘Ancestry’ which divides the Danish population into the three categories 1) people of Danish origin, 2) immigrants and 3) descendants is central for Danish statistical analyses of integration. For policymakers who want to interpret the data it is therefore very important that it is understood how this variable is defined. The definition is described in section 4.

H.3. Accessibility, reliability and comparability

The overall situation is very good in all these three areas. Regarding statistics on migrants and migrations it has been described that some quality problems exist concerning the registering of emigrations and the variable purpose of stay. Furthermore immigrants’ educational attainment is to some extent unknown. Among these three problems the variable purpose of stay is the one area where better registration and cooperation between the different organisations involved in collecting the data could lead to improvement in the variable’s quality. It is the Ministry of Integration who is the responsible collector of data for the variable purpose of stay and they are working to improve the data.

The problems concerning late registration of emigrations and the lack of information on immigrants’ educational background are more structural problems which are very difficult to do anything about for the moment.
Bibliography