

## **Implementing Selective Editing at Statistics Finland Case Studies for Four Statistical Surveys**

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The traditional approach to editing in the production of official statistics has been to aim at detecting and correcting all errors in the data. This approach leads to an editing procedure that is highly resource-demanding. In some surveys conducted at Statistics Finland, over 50% of the working time is used for editing. Moreover, the traditional approach to editing often lacks a clear strategy. Typically, a large number of errors that have little impact on results are corrected. Selective editing helps target editing to errors that have a significant impact on results. Both the suspicion of errors and their impact on results are estimated in order to calculate score values for survey units. These score values help prioritize units subjected to manual editing. This presentation will describe the implementation of selective editing at four statistical surveys conducted at Statistics Finland. International trade in services, Finance of housing companies, Quarterly statistics on the finances of municipalities and Register-based statistics on buildings and dwellings were chosen as pilot surveys in a project that aims to harmonize and improve editing practices in the framework of an editing model developed at Statistics Finland. Selective editing is one of the new tools to be implemented in the project. The usefulness of selective editing in the pilot surveys is evaluated by assessing the decrease in the number of units requiring manual editing.

**Key Words:** Official statistics, editing, score values, prioritization of units