

Standardisation of statistics production at Statistics Sweden – approach, results and making use of international collaboration

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Like many other National Statistical Institutes Statistics Sweden have a history of stove-pipe production where each survey had its own production system and with little coordination between them. To better ensure quality and to make the production more cost-efficient a major initiative was launched at the start of 2008 to drive the standardisation effort.

Statistics Sweden adopted a version of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) – adapted to the organisations needs – as the structure for the change and appointed Process Owners within five sub-areas. The Process Owners have a responsibility for the “common toolbox”, including methods, work routines, templates and IT-tools, within their area. This includes identification of needs, driving development, providing support and training and evaluation of functionality and relevance of the standard approaches. Information about the standards as well as how they should be applied in different situations is available through a Process Support System available through the Intranet.

A large number of standards on different levels have been established and they are constantly being improved or added to, via further development. Major focus during the present time has been on Data collection and Dissemination but projects to establish or improve standards are being run within all sub-processes of the GSBPM.

The adoption of standard approaches into the actual survey processes are monitored and comprehensive implementation plans have been developed for prioritised tools.

Statistics Sweden has for a long time been an active partner in international statistical cooperation, both within the European Union and beyond. Some very good results have been achieved and these are now part of the statistical infrastructure within the organisation, but we have also experienced a lack of effectiveness in many cases. The formation of the Statistical network on the initiative of the Australian Bureau of Statistics provided a new kind of environment for this cooperation that has potential to deliver to a higher degree. Experiences so far are promising but have also highlighted the need for structures and commitment and for slightly new forms of working arrangements.

Key words: Common production environment, GSBPM, Process Owner, Statistical Network