



PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE



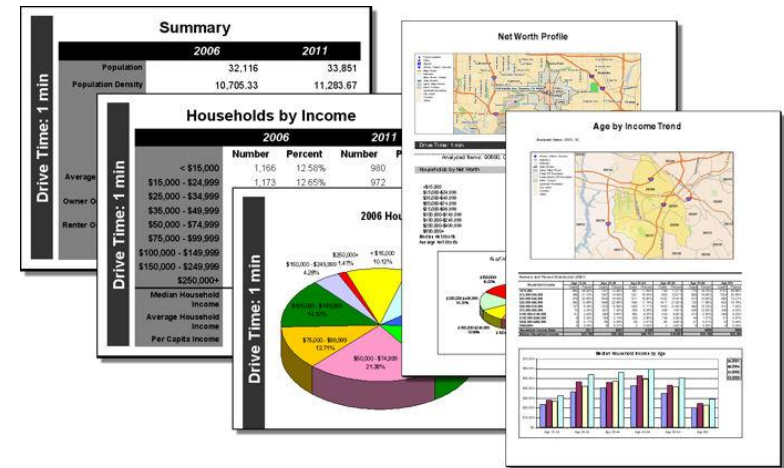
Social Monitoring and Reporting in the Northern Europe

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What is social reporting?

- Comprehensive reports?
- Thematic reports?
- Registers?
- Data gathering?
- Indicators?
- Regular or irregular?
- Active offering to users or passive existence in the statistical offices?
- National users or international bodies such Eurostat or UNSTAT?
- National or regional?





Northern European countries:

Iceland:

- Long traditions, regular data gathering
- NEW Social Indicators soon out!

Norway:

- Country of registers

Denmark: Niels please?

Lithuania:

- Regular reports with analysis since 1998
- Website
- Quality of Life indicators

Finland and Sweden:

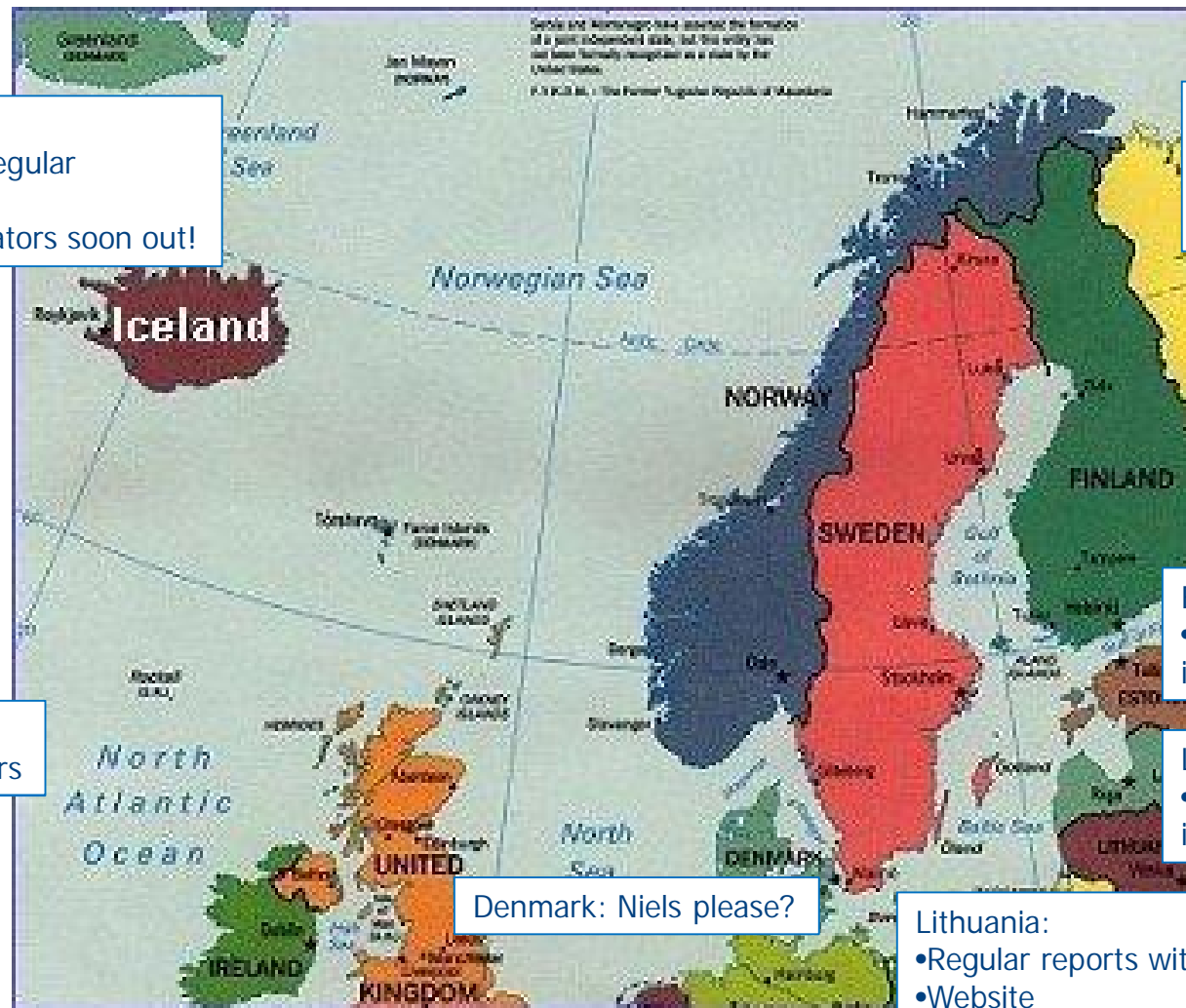
- Long traditions
- Comprehensive reports
- Irregular

Estonia:

- Several reports and indicators since 1998

Latvia:

- Statistical office key indicators





The overall feeling:

- Everybody's doing it, but differently
- Nordic countries have head start, Baltic countries have caught up and gone past in some sense
- Little is known what the others are doing, could be useful in order to get ideas and new learning
- Regular reporting is scarce





Lithuania: "model student"

- Lithuania ministry of social security and labor: regular social reporting since 1998
- The report covers activities by the ministry, outcomes/statistics and policy recommendations
- Section on international cooperation
- <http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?93931350>
- Also "Economic and Social Development in Lithuania", a monthly statistical publication
- Monthly updated excel datasheet on economic and social indicators
- Quality-of-life indicators 2005–2011





Norway invests in registers and research

- Norway is a world leader with best registerbased knowledge.
- Statistics Norway (www.ssb.no) has a register for almost everything.
- Internal department for research on registerdata.
- The Norwegian Labour and Welfare administration www.nav.no and the Health directorate have also a lot of statistic and reporting.
- Norwegian Council of research www.forskningsradet.no and also research institutes like www.nova.no , www.fafo.no www.frisch.no





Iceland is going to use social indicators

- After the economic collapse 2008, the Icelandic Government decided to develop „Social Indicators“.
- Meant to identify and understand current and future health and wellbeing needs of the population, to monitor the welfare in times of crises, to follow development over time and to be a ground for social policy decision making.
- At least 20 institutions and 30 specialists and academics in the field of health and social care participated in the making of the Social Indicators.
- Statistics Iceland, budget and permanent employee.





Finland likes information portals: "Findicator.fi was developed to a need"

- Timely, register-based up-to-date indicators with interpretation
- Content chosen together with users
- Easy to use, looks good, leads to further sources of information
- Modern technology: easy to use, FB discussion
- Active communication, great kick-start
- Three languages www.findicator.fi
- Institutionalised!





Some producers feel reports have been used but...

- Norway: Politicians, media, scientists are making use of data quite well.
- Sweden: 2006 and 2010 were very highly appreciated by media, politicians and general public.
- Iceland + Finland: There is a constant and growing call for more up to date and timely data on issues of relevance at each time.
- Politicians and government especially resent getting one year old data as the newest, and demand that some data should in this day and age be able to be produced more up to date and timely if people put their heads to it.



What is the role of communication?

- Major focus in Norway
- “Active communication of the reports in Sweden was lacking, which was most certainly a mistake”, but the reports have very good style
- Finland is trying to reach users through different medias
- Baltic states, esp Lithuania has very good and updated website



Rhinoceur vs rabbit?





Why do the new MS seem more agile in their reporting?

- “The need for societies ... coming out of socially and economic hard times ... follow up on how measures are working and society is developing”
- New MS strong back-up from EU to produce social reports.
- “They are not as stuck in routine work concerning data gathering as the older EU-countries are.
- One could maybe argue that the data gathering in the Nordic countries is not built on "needs to know today", but more on what has been collected through the years and ages.”



Future is uncertain, even political goals are unclear

- Needs vary, Nordic countries and EU?
- Resources/budget
- The discussion is part of the debate of developing the Nordic welfare states.
- “In the present situation nobody can tell about what happens with social reporting in Sweden.”
- Regional reporting like Nordisk Socialstatistisk Komité (NOSOSKO) is yearly publishing social statistics for Nordic countries; Eurostat reporting (national language is important!)
- Social reporting should be a part of our culture
- We should not undermine our classic data gathering to follow trends over time and keep track of history but we do maybe need some prioritising.



Where should we be going?

- More regularity, perhaps less comprehensive with some changing themes
- Online, wide access: people are googling anyway
- Regional focus
- Closer connection to policy-makers and the public
- Impact assessment, policy recommendations
- Subjective well-being
- Timeliness, now-casting, visualisation
- Use existing data better
- Catching flow of tides, burning issues
- Link to bGDP/happiness/well-being?

