



**Luxemburg**

28. marts 2012  
Researchers Access to Danish Microdata  
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**An open and liberal data access system**

- Statistics Denmark (SD) has given researchers access to confidential data for 25 years
- Remote access has been possible since 2001
- Access can be given to all data at SD. Personal data as well as enterprise/geographical data
- Many registers covers 20 to 30 years and you can follow any person or enterprise from one year to another

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**An open and liberal data access system**

- Access to the total Danish population is possible - if needed to a project
- Researchers may bring their own surveys and enrich them with data from our registers
- Researchers can access data through the internet from all over the world
- Foreign researchers can access data if affiliated to a Danish **authorized institution**

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**The Act on Processing of Personal Data**

- Access to personal data may be given for the sole purpose of carrying out statistical or scientific studies of significant public importance if it is necessary for these studies
- Before data is disclosed to a third party an approval must be given by the Data protection Agency

4 30/8/2012 

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**The Danish Administrative law**

- Civil servants have a professional secrecy with regards to confidential data
- Professional secrecy can be imposed on any other person who are given access to confidential data

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**The Danish Criminal law**

- Persons who misuses confidential data can be punished with criminal sanctions (fines or imprisonment)

6 30/8/2012 

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**Legislation and discretion**

- Very few limitations are given in our legislation
- We have used this "power of discretion" to create a rather open and liberal system of data-access
- We have also used it to define two basic limitations in the data-access

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**Two preconditions for our openness**

- Access to data is given according to a "need to know" principle
- Only researchers from specially Danish **authorized institutions** (stable institutions with a responsible manager and a number of researchers/analysts)

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**A Danish Paradox?**

- Because of our open policy on data-access we are very reluctant to give data-access to anyone who is not affiliated to an authorised Danish Research Institute

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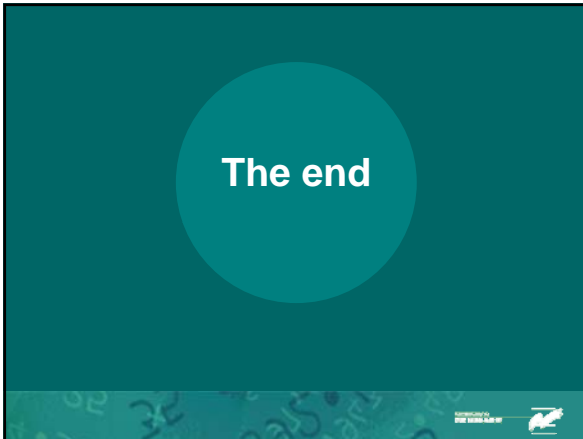
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**Workshop on Microdata**  
**Stockholm, 21-22 August 2003**  
**Lars Thygesen, Denmark**



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