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# Metadata projects in Sweden and the Nordic countries

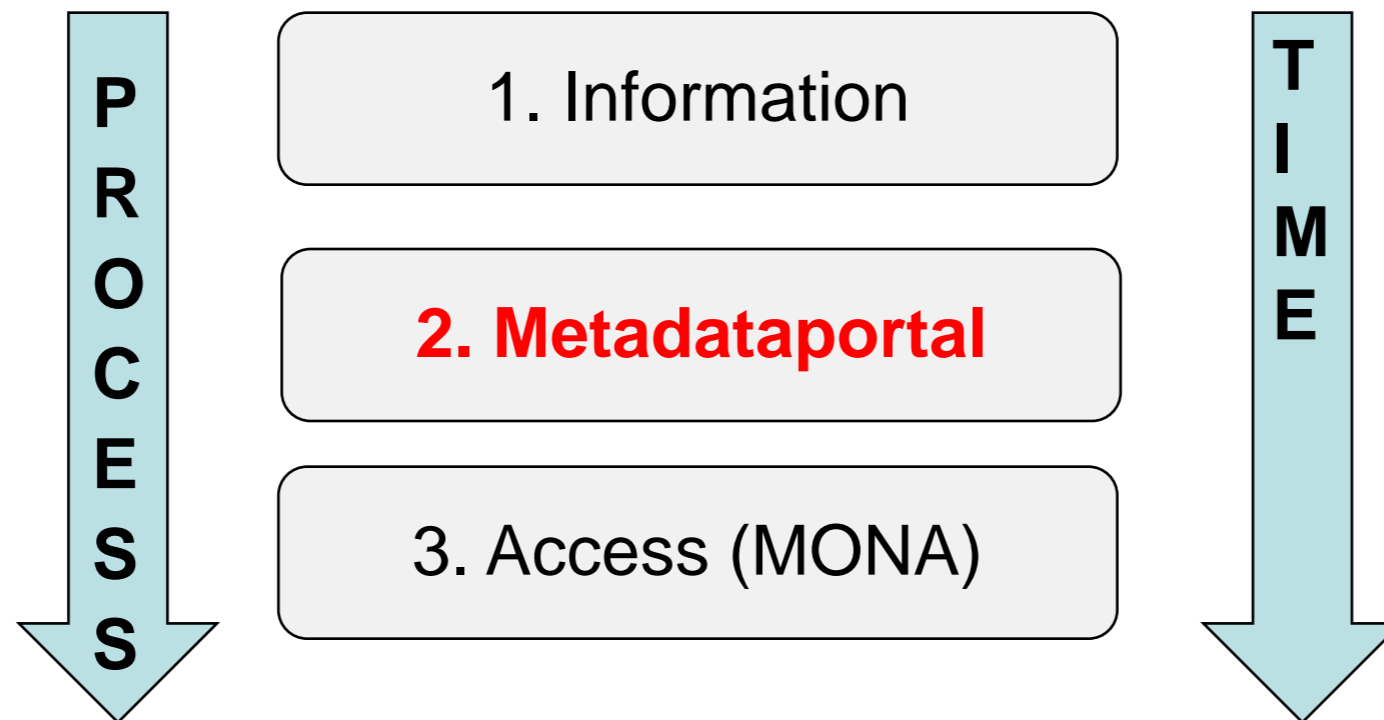
C-G Hjelm, Statistics Sweden



# One national hub in Sweden

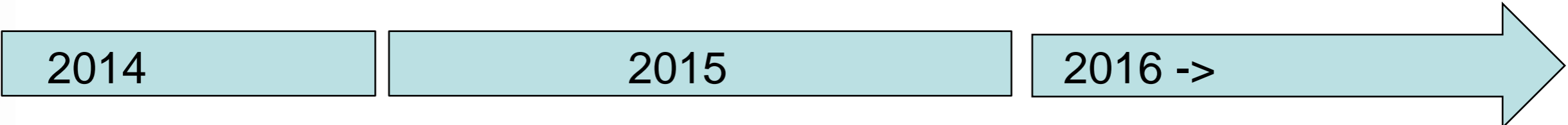
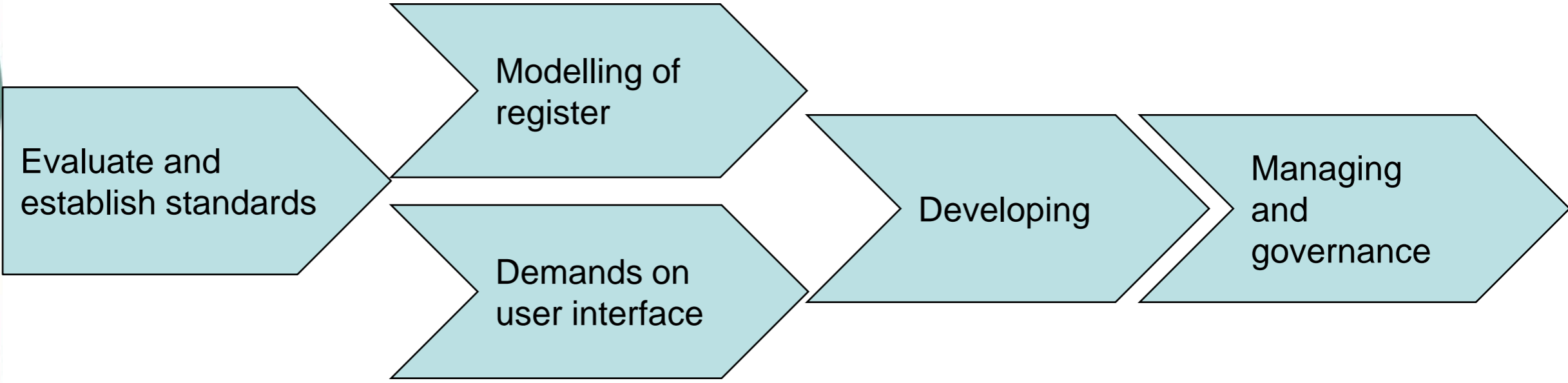


System solution



*Time to Data (TTD) can be calculated*

# Time-line and processes



# The need of a standardized framework for modeling of metadata for registers

- The project needs to work with a established standard that can relate to the models and standards that the register holder have chosen



SDMX



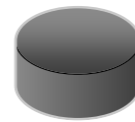
GSIM



MIABIS



DDI



RDB utan standard

- GSIM is chosen in order to modeling the metadata in a standardized way



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# Nordic Pilot for harmonization of metadata from the bureaus of statistics

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- All Nordic statistical institutions give national researchers access to de-identified microdata
- Huge potential for cross-border Nordic register research but still rather rare

## Similar **legal framework** in the Nordic countries

- Possible to give researchers access to microdata
- Allows transfer of de-identified data from one NSI to another under certain conditions

## Similar **authority structure** in the Nordic countries:

- high security levels
- data is de-identified before delivery
- amount of data needed is assessed
- risk assessment ("harm test")

## **Remote access systems** in DK, SE, FIN, GL\*

- safe behind fire walls etc
- researchers need to sign security agreements to access data
- output is logged and controlled

**Lack of micro-metadata** constitute the major barrier to high quality Nordic register-based research

To get an **overview** of

- which data that exists
- permissions needed
- how to apply for data

The data and variables are **not systematically and comparably documented** in the Nordic countries (quality varies)

Data for research has not been prioritised (instead produced for statistics)



- Proposal for **new model of cooperation** (see report)
- Should be tested for **2-3 years**

## Recommendations on data access:

1. Access to Nordic microdata is given through the *existing* remote access systems
2. Data are *extracted and de-identified* by each NSI *separately*. Data will never leave the safe domains of the NSIs.
3. Harmonisation of the application process for data access – a *common Nordic application form*

## Recommendations on data security:

4. Common Nordic *security agreement* is signed by all *researchers* as well as each relevant NSI
5. Development of an *security agreement* between the relevant *NSI* on data transfer
6. Structures for *communication on security* between NSIs in place
7. *Data output* is logged and controlled by the data hosting country

## **Production of information material**

8. on how to apply for and get access to microdata

## **Recommendations on financing**

9. similar as today

## **Recommendations on Metadata**

10. Development of adequate common Nordic metadata describing the precise content of registers and variables including changes over time series

## **Nordic pilot for metadata harmonisation**

Development of *Nordic metadata framework* to increase access to metadata in cross-Nordic research projects

The **common framework** should consist of:

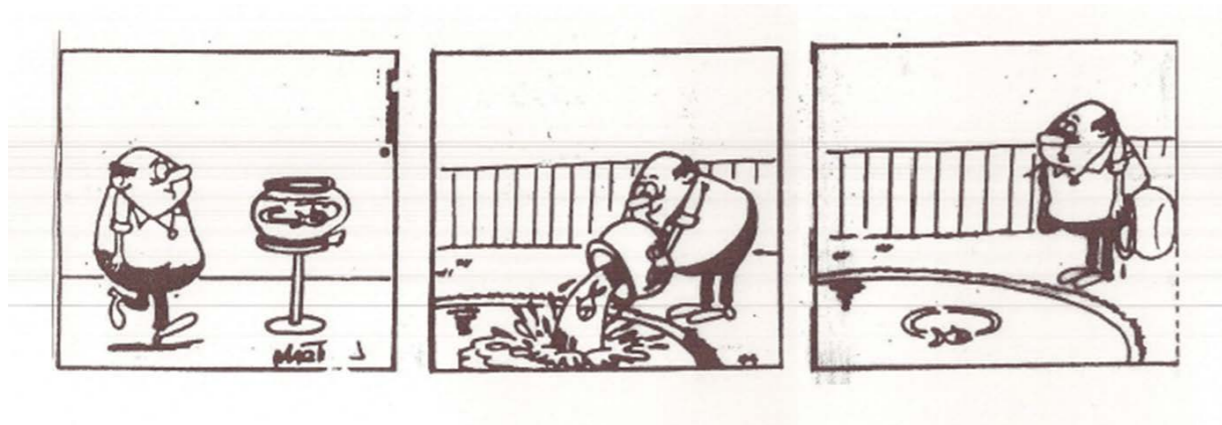
- The same variables/datasets in the different countries
- The same language – English
- The same common technical terms that have the same meaning in all countries
- Presentation of metadata should follow a harmonised, predetermined setup (will increase usability of metadata reports for the researchers)

Objective is to ease potential use of cross-Nordic microdata in research by:

1. Mapping of common subject areas
2. Identifying subject areas demand from researchers
3. Describe metadata in a common framework
4. Publish metadata for microdata

- Developing the framework
  - establishment of working group
  - mapping common subject areas
  - mapping of current practises
  - assess needs of researcher community
  - examine other initiatives
  - Nordic metadata report
  - development of manual for the metadata framework
  - pilot project to test two specific datasets (one register-based and one survey-based)
- Implementation of the framework
- Registering metadata in accordance with the framework
- Future work and final report

- Pilot project 2 years
- 1.6 MEUROS
- Project in collaboration with researchers and metadata experts





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Thank you for your attention!

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