A system for coherent metadata for production and dissemination in Denmark

In recent years, Statistics Denmark has worked on implementing a consistent and coherent metadata system to enable reuse of metadata and metadata driven production.

Metadata vision

- Our starting point: documentation of statistics, concepts, classifications and documentation of registers and variables existed in separate entities
- Our goal: to increase efficiency, by using standardised metadata actively and systematically in the production of official statistics and for dissemination to users by integrating the four types of metadata in one coherent system enabling reuse of metadata as well as metadata driven production
- Based on international standards, e.g. UNECE's Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM), Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) and the Neuchâtel Terminology.

Consolidating metadata in Colectica

Long term project – vision formulated in 2009, implementation started in 2015. The four types of metadata is now consolidated in Colectica.

Access to metadata

- Metadatabank which showcases the relationships between different types of metadata and enables editing of metadata is internally accessible
- Input to internal standard IT systems, SAS formats and R-package via internal API
- Input to dst.dk and Denmark’s Data Portal via databases.

The development of the coherent metadata system is ongoing by e.g.

- Improving the external access to information about relations in the coherent metadata.
- Development of external API
- Improving metadata quality
- Supplemeting classifications with correspondence tables
- Integration of further internal standard IT systems to facilitate metadata driven production.