

# Quality controls and checks of data in the Finnish LFS production system

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#### Content of presentation

- Background / Finnish LFS
- Production system from the user's perspective
- Check and controls in the LFS production process
- Evaluation

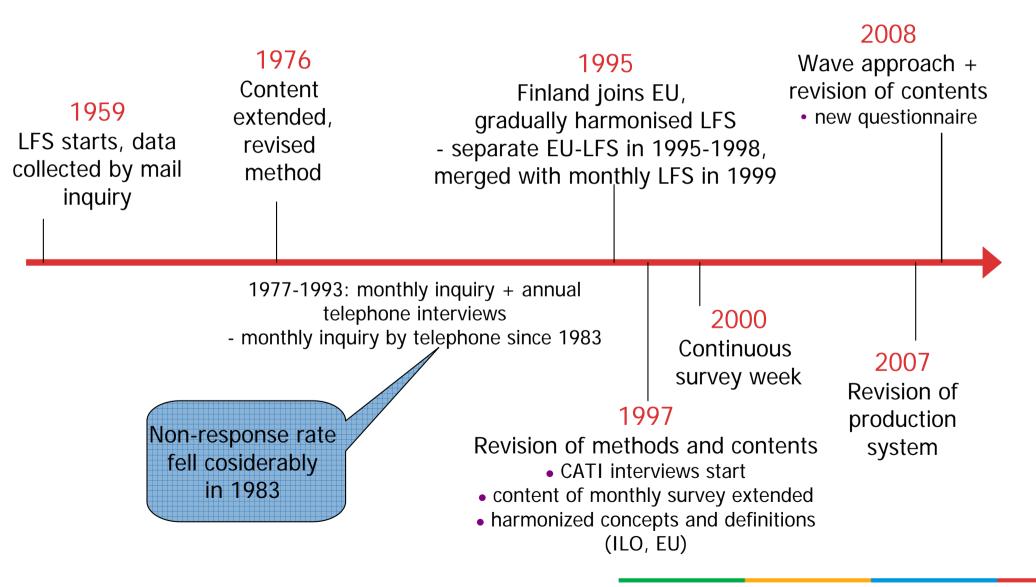


#### Finnish Labour Force Survey

- Started in 1959
- Based on individuals
- Data collection: CATI
- Sample size: 12 000 per month
- Publishing: monthly, quarterly, yearly.
- Major revisions:
  - 1995-97 EU-harmonisation; methods and contents
  - 2000 Continuos survey week
  - 2003-2007 Revision of production system
  - 2008 Wave approach + revision of contents



### History of the LFS in Finland

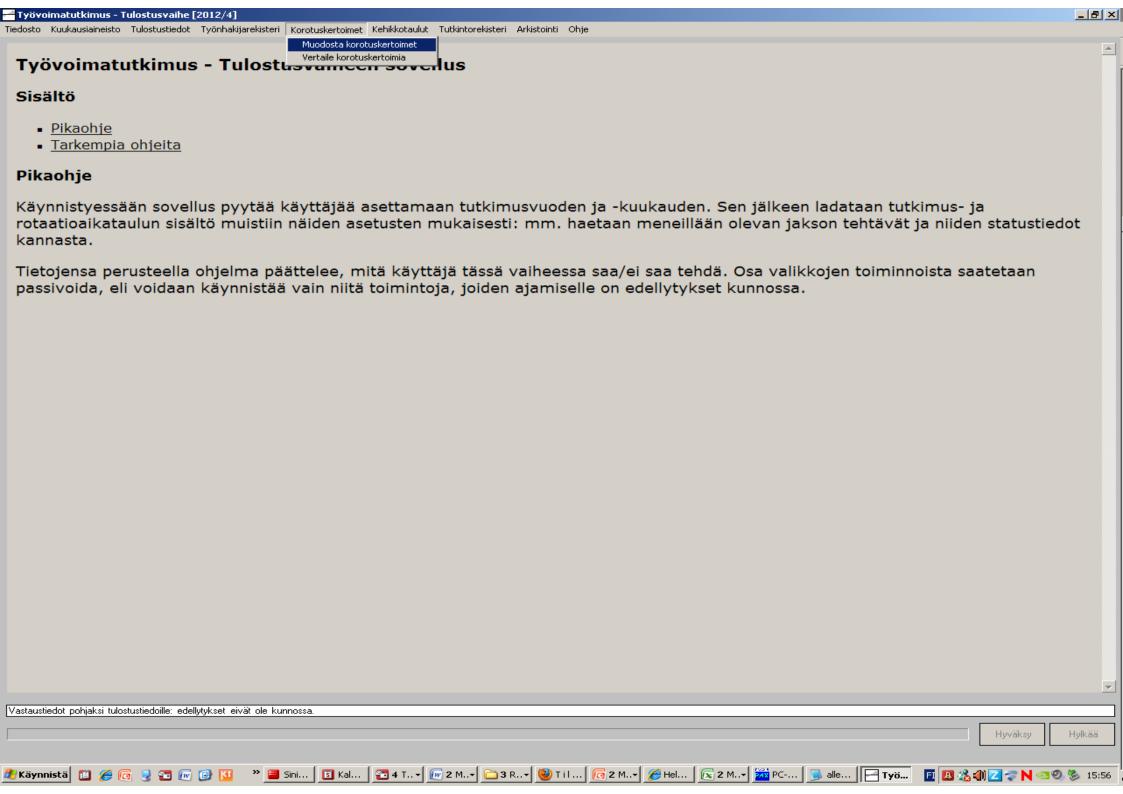




#### 'New' production system (from 2007)

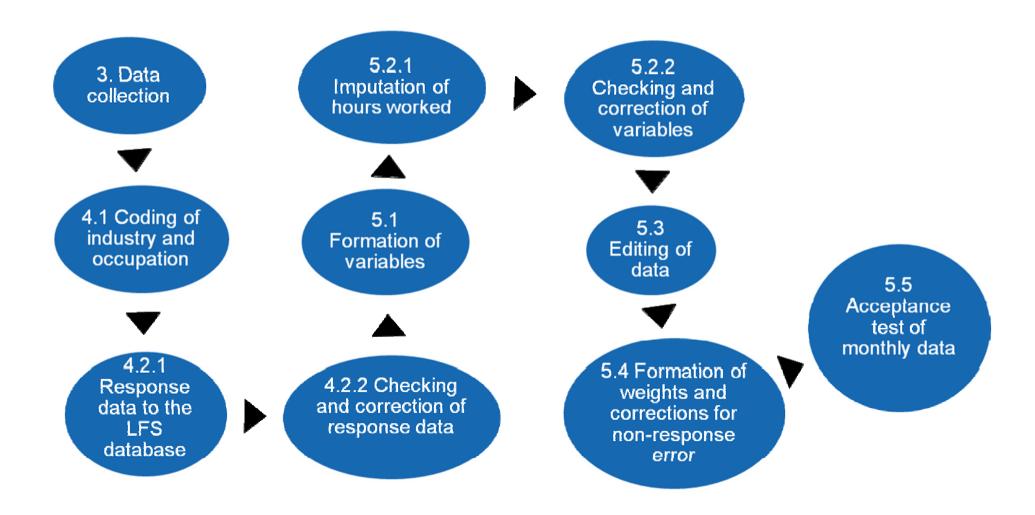
- Moved from mainframe to open environment
- .NET application in the SQL database
- The aim for the new production system was that it would be reliable, transparent and managed by LFS experts.
- Easy to use application, with the following principle:

```
Login => Selection of time period (year/month) => Selection of use case => Run! => Report on display => Acceptance/Rejection of report => Storing of data in database => Next use case
```





### Monthly production process





### Processess which contain checkings in the Finnish LFS production system

- Automatic checkings (+ corrections)
  - Response data to the LFS database
  - Imputation of hours worked

- Manual checkings
  - Coding of industry and occupation
  - Checking and correction of response data
  - Checking and correction of variables
  - Acceptance test of monthly data



#### Automatic checkings and corrections/ 4.2.1 Response data to the LFS database

- When data is moved from the interviewers' database to the LFS database, a set of automatic checks and corrections are made, such as:
  - Response data are formed or copied for disabled persons and conscripts
  - Education data are corrected for those aged 15 to 21 (education during the past four weeks)
  - If no responses to the first three questions, the respondent is moved to non-response



#### Automatic checkings and corrections/ 5.2.1 Imputation of hours worked

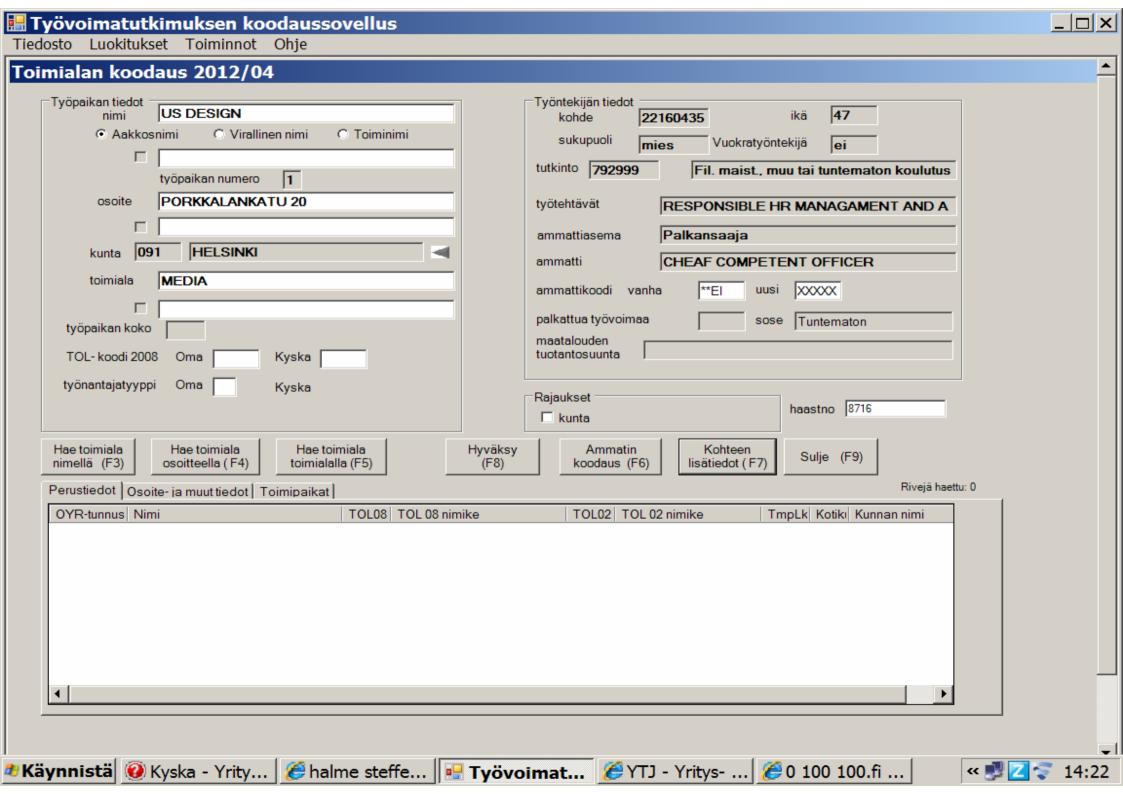
- Unknown hours worked are imputed with the average data according to occupation and industry.
- Around 10 to 25 employees per month (less than 0.5% of all employees) => small effect on the total number of hours worked.
- User gets report on how many imputed values (plus same report from previous month as comparison) and on the basis of this information, he/she accepts or rejects this use case.



#### Manual checkings/

4.1 Coding of industry and occupation

- Is made with a separate application, the so-called coding application, that was taken into use a few years before the new LFS production system.
- The industry and occupation (+ socio-economic group and employer sector) are searched for all those interviewed for the first time and for those whose job has changed between the interview rounds
- Around 2,300 targets per month to be coded





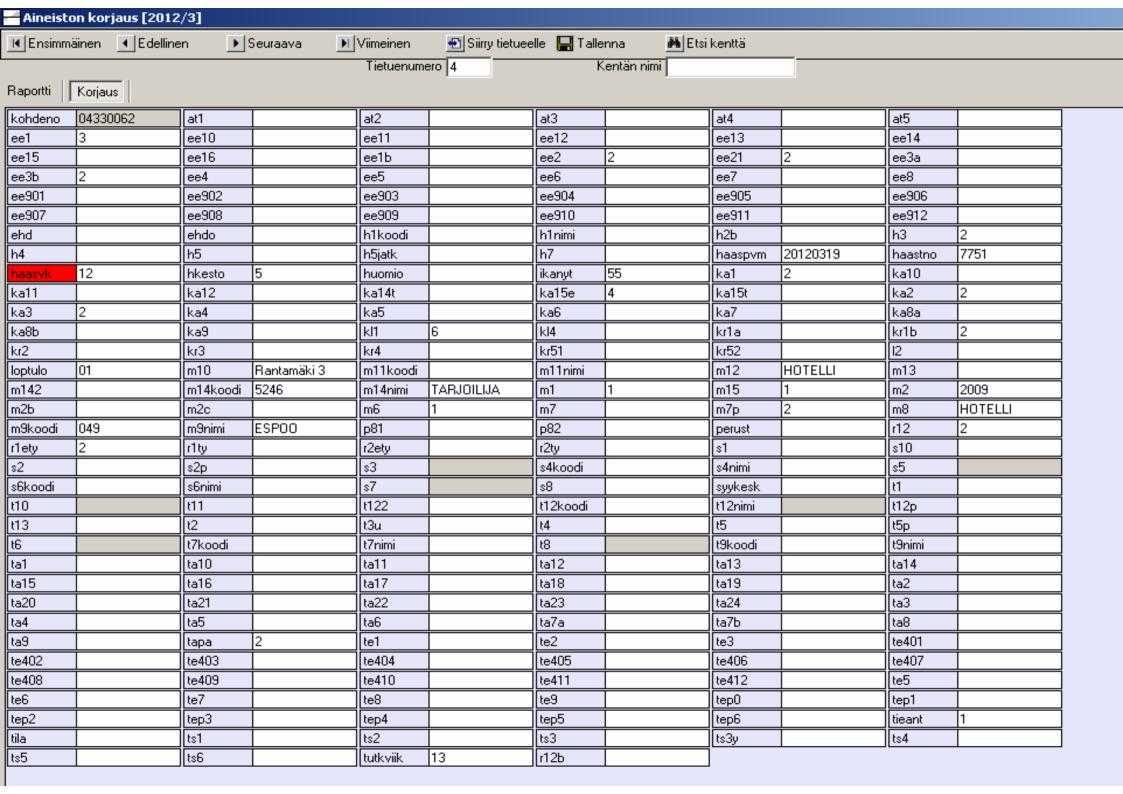
#### Manual checkings/

4.2.2 Checking and correction of response data

- Value range checks and few logical checks
  - Dates (typing errors)
  - Relations.

For example: check and correction if workdays + sick days > 7

- Tool: Editor that brings all response data for the target to be checked on display => all corrections straight to the original data.
- Around 10-20 corrections per month.





#### Manual checkings/ 5.2.2 Checking and correction of variables

- A similar correction process is made to the variables as to the response data.
- Logical relations between two variables are checked
  - for example, employer type with respect to occupational status: a self-employed person cannot have public sector as the employer type
- Two seperate processess: Checking of national and checking of EU-variables
  - Risk of contradiction between national and EU-variables
  - No major changes made at this point



#### Manual checkings/ 5.5. Acceptance test of monthly data

- Checking of publication tables
- The last test before acceptance
- If the figures seems to be in order
  - ⇒accepting monthly data
  - ⇒copying the data in the tabulation database.



## Other controls (of quality) in the Finnish LFS production system

- Response data to the LFS Database
  - Checking the amount of accepted answers and comparing it to the previous month.
  - ⇒ Preliminary distribution on employment/ unemployment and comparing it to the year before.

Response data taken to LFS database Year 2012 month 3		Response data taken to LFS database Year 2012 month 2	
Date	N	Date	N
12.4.2012 11:19	2222	8.3.2012 14:52	2755
12.4.2012 11:24	2116	8.3.2012 14:58	2629
12.4.2012 15:28	2128	8.3.2012 15:34	2632
12.4.2012 15:32	2119	8.3.2012 15:47	2637
12.4.2012 15:37	2120		
1:Employees	6370	1:Employees	6446
2: Self-employed	878	2: Self-employed	920
3: Unpaid family workers	30	3: Unpaid family workers	31
9: EOS	0	9: EOS	0
Total	7278	Total	7397
Missing	0	Missing	0
Employed	5286	Employed	5473
Unemployed	453	Unemployed	405
Total	5739	Total	5878
1 Accepted answer	9036	1 Accepted answer	9130
2.Refusal	273	2.Refusal	256
3.Sick/ unable to work/ answer	19	3.Sick/ unable to work/ answer	13
4: No-contact	1335	4: No-contact	1215
5. Language problems, etc	14	5. Language problems, etc.	20
6. Died	9	6. Died	2
7. Abroad	19	7. Abroad	17
8: Other overlap	0	8: Other overlap	0
9.Unknown	0	9.Unknown	0_
TOTAL	10705	TOTAL	10653



## Other controls (of quality) in the Finnish LFS production system

- Formation of variables
  - Frequencies on (ILO-) unemployment/ employment and main status.
- Editing of data
  - Increasing days worked and hours worked to the monthly level
  - Editing of preliminary population figures
  - Handling of the jobseeker register



#### **Evaluation**

- Improvments comparing to the old production system
  - All process stages go through an LFS-expert
  - Report storage. All the reports from monthly product process are easy to find in html-format.
  - Task management system. No chance to miss/ forget any stages of the process.



#### Evaluation...

- Still to improve
  - Dependency of IT-support during the production process
  - Timing of checks. All important checks should be done as early as possible (to the response data)
  - Manually corrected variables are not "flagged" => unnecessary double-entry bookkeeping (with excel)
  - Yearly maintenance
    - => Under construction, during 2012-2013.



### Thank You !!!

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