A System for Managing the Quality of Official Statistics

Dr. Paul P. Biemer
RTI International and University of North Carolina

This presentation provides a general framework for improving the quality of statistical programs in organizations that provide a continual flow of statistical products to users and stakeholders. The work stems from a 2011 mandate to Statistics Sweden issued by the Swedish Ministry of Finance to develop a system of quality indicators for tracking developments and changes in product quality and for achieving continual improvements in survey quality across a diverse set of key statistical products. We describe this system, apply it to a number of products at Statistics Sweden, and summarize key results and lessons learned. The implications of this work for monitoring and evaluating product quality in statistical organizations are discussed.