

## **Brief summary of the national SIMSAM workshop 19-20 April 2012**

This national workshop was jointly arranged by the SUNDEM and the SUNSTRAT nodes and held at Nordenskiöldsalen at Geovetenskapens hus at Stockholm University. The first session April 19<sup>th</sup> started with a brief update on SIMSAM related issues. This presentation covered the recent midterm evaluation performed by the Swedish Research Council (VR), the SIMSAM-INFRA application/project, the “Bengt Westerberg commission” and information on the new SIMSAM calls that VR probably will announce in 2013. Next demographic and socioeconomic variables and registers together with social stratification were described and discussed. Information on geographical analyses of register data was then followed by updates on the new Swedish dwelling register and related household statistics. Half of the second session was focused on research with Swedish-style register-data from the neighboring countries: Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands. The other half was devoted to an initiative taken by Marie Reilly at MEB as a response to some of the recommendations of the VR-midterm evaluation. In order to investigate the prerequisites for establishing a code for management and analysis of common data sources Marie had drafted a questionnaire to be distributed among SIMSAM network members. She asked for and received input on how to formulate some of the questions of the survey and. This discussion session also touched upon issues related to providing feed-back to authorities and register holders in order facilitate the improvement of data quality in current registers. The first workshop day closed with a poster session followed by dinner.

April 20<sup>th</sup> was devoted to research presentations by node members at various stages of their career with an intermission by the invited speakers Anton Lager (CHESS, KI/SU) and Mårten Palme (Department of Economics at SU) discussing issues of causality in research designs based on register data.

- SUNSTRAT presentations focused on dimensions of social stratification together with school achievement and educational choice among ethnic minority students in Sweden.
- Lund contributions covered the topics second generation immigrants and age at parenthood together with early life experiences and first-time parenthood.
- UGIR members discussed quality of life among long-term survivors of oesophageal cancer surgery as well as the connection between gastroesophageal reflux disease and sleep problems.
- Umeå presentations dealt with confounder adjustment in observational studies and if childhood events influence adult life.
- A MEB representative discussed how to quantifying bias due to truncation in register-based research using “Poplab”, an R package making it possible to generate a complete (Swedish) population.
- The SUNDEM presentation focused on sex composition of workplaces correlated to health.