

## NSfK Meeting minutes 3/2024

# Nordic network for register-based criminological research

Working group meeting: 28 June – 20 June 2023

Host and minute taker: Torbjørn Skardhamar

### Names of Nordic delegate members:

Paul Nieuw Beerta, professor, University of Leiden, Netherlands

Barbara Catharina Maria van Hazebroek, Associate professor, University of Leiden, Netherlands

Benjamin Michael Matthews, lecturer, University of Edinburgh, UK

Susan McVie, professor, University of Edinburgh, UK

Matts Helge Olof Bäckman, professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Anders Nilsson, professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Anna Birgitta Kahlmeter, researcher, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Felipe Estrada Doerner, professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Enes Al Weswasi, phd student, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Mikko Aaltonen Ensio, professor, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Karoliina Eeva-Maria Suonpää, postdoctor, University of Helsinki, Finland

Riku Pekka Laine, phd student, University of Helsinki, Finland

Daniel Juhász Vigild, phd student, Rockwoolfonden, Denmark

Lars Højsgaard Andersen, professor and head of research, senior researcher, Rockwoolfonden, Denmark

Torbjørn Skardhamar, professor, University of Oslo, Norway

Synøve Nygaard Andersen, postdoc, University of Oslo, Norway

Michael Frith, postdoc, University of Oslo, Norway

Annica Allvin, phd student, The Norwegian police university college, Oslo, Norway

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Anette Marie Andresen, master student, University of Oslo, Norway

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*The opinions expressed in these meeting minutes are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Nordic Research Council for Criminology.*

## Background

The Nordic register data network has met regularly over several years. The overall goal is not one specific topic, but to engage across topics and methods in the countries with rich register data. Thus, there is no emphasis on reaching consensus on specific topics, but discuss across many

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topics. The findings mentioned below is thus just some conclusions from selected presentations.

## Outcomes

There were 15 presentations showcasing the variety of approaches and methods used with register data. Some highlights include:

- Register data also have great potential for social network analysis, utilizing the existing links between person of e.g. same family, workplace or registered in the same criminal case.
- Comparative study of immigrant crime (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands and New Zealand) show that higher crime rates of immigrants and their children are mostly attributable to gaps in education, labor market status and income differences.
- Debt-settlements have a crime reducing effect, but levels off quickly. As longer-term effects are desired, debt-settlements should be combined with other policy initiatives to maintain the effect over time.
- Replacing a prison sentence with electronic monitoring decrease recidivism and increase labor market attachment.

## Recommendations

- Take advantage of the potential in administrative registers for research to address a large variety of questions.
- Utilize the researchers using registers to evaluate future reforms.
- Invest in young researchers in criminology to make research careers using register data.

## Knowledge gaps and future research needs

- While register-based research has grown in criminology, it is still relatively sparse on most topics. Collaborative efforts have shown great potential, also with Dutch and Scottish data.
- There is a potential for more studies with a causal design, in particular evaluations of policy reforms. This also rest on the need for policy reforms to be implemented so that it is possible to evaluate the effects.
- Network analysis using administrative registers has been successfully demonstrated using

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Dutch register data, and Nordic data have at least as good potential. These possibilities should be explored further in future studies using Nordic administrative data.

**Host and minute taker**

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**Working group meeting**

Working group meeting serve as a cross-professional expert forum in various areas of common concern for the Nordic countries and is funded by the Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK).

**NSfK**

The Nordic Research Council for Criminology serves to promote criminological research in the Nordic region, and provides the governments with assistance in criminological matters and information on Nordic criminology.