

Session 1

Morten STRØMGREN, Ministry of Government Administration and Reform,

mst@fad.dep.no

StatRes, a Norwegian project for measuring and displaying public sector performance

The StatRes project will develop and publish performance-related indicators and statistics for the various parts of the public sector. The system will include measures for both input, activity, output and outcome – displayed through a functional website. Among the users we expect to find decision makers and other public-sector employees, academics, media, organisations, voters and other stakeholders.

The project was established in 2005 by the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform, and is executed by Statistics Norway. According to plan, the system will be launched by the end of 2007, starting out with selected pilot sectors.

StatRes will not replace the numerous systems publishing performance information in the public sector today, but will be a supplement showing “the whole picture” for the central government, with performance data on various levels. The experiences with the existing transparent systems are mainly positive, e.g. within health and education.

Some anticipated effects of StatRes are:

- More transparency, as an incentive for better performance in the public sector, overall and in agencies
- More available data enables more and easier analyses and identification of improvement areas (e.g. by benchmarking or trend analysis)
- The display of data will normally trigger improvement of data quality as well as the quality of the indicators themselves
- Relevant and easily accessible data to stimulate and support the debate about effective use of public resources

Performance transparency is regarded as an important tool for improving public-sector performance. Most countries are probably in the same situation as Norway, with large amounts of relevant public-sector performance data *not* easily available to the public. Therefore, we believe the efforts to make such data available to a larger “audience” are valuable.