WinDATI

(Extract from CoRD 041 "A brief outline on existing data collection tools and new developments at Statistics Sweden", Hans Irebäck, 2001)

Statistics Sweden's unit for survey processing consists of 160 employees including 125 field interviewers and a central CATI-group with 30-120 interviewers depending on the current workload. Since 1989 a system developed by Statistics Sweden has been used for computer assisted interviews. During 1997 over 300 000 interviews was conducted with this system, including the Labour Force Survey with a yearly sample of 207 000 observation units. Statistics Sweden has now introduced the second generation of computer assisted survey system, WinDATI. The WinDATI system is an advanced system with functions for questionnaire design, compilation of the questionnaire to an interview program, queue management, scheduling and telephone searching functions.

Some WinDATI properties:
- Automatic distribution of the sample to the field interviewers laptops via database replication.
- Automatic queue handling for the central CATI-group
- Support for very large samples
- Easy for a interviewer to switch between different surveys.
- Support for very large questionnaires.
- Accompanying data for each observation unit can be used for individual editing and navigation.
- Construction of questionnaires can be done by subject matter experts without programming experience. A C-program is automatically generated from the constructors specification.
- The questionnaire can easily be tested on the constructor's PC.
- Extensive production statistics available in the system.
- Support for adding/deleting additional surveys to the main survey running in production.
- The results can be transferred to production databases any time during and after the survey via Intranet.

The system is developed with Visual Basic (the questionnaire construction tool and the program for running the interview-module) and C/C++ (the code for creating the interview module/DLL). The database is implemented with a Sybase database server.

The full introduction of the system has however been delayed due to technical problems with the replication of the database to the field interviewers.