

International data

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In Denmark there has only been a very limited use of international data. The problem is that data often are old, and it's a big problem to be sure that it's the same thing actually been measured in different countries.

Still, we have made some stories:

Comparing costs for telephone calls in different countries – the Danish telephone company say it's very cheap, but analyzing the data showed it was one of the most expensive. (Self-collected data, OECD).

Comparing Danish organ transplantation statistic with American figures.

Comparing average expected life years (data from OECD and WHO).

Comparing the quality of the health sector (data from OECD).

Comparing costs for goods (self-collected data, OECD, Eurostat).

Tips:

Get to know the international organization/institution.

There are a lot of international organizations and institutions. They often have a yearlong experience in comparing international data and have put some out on the net. Find this institution in your beat. Learn what data they have.

Sign-up as a press-contact at that organization.

Cooperate more closely with the organization. Get to learn about its work and its employees.

Everybody with data in your beat-area have to relate to the way that institution is doing things.

Find journalists in other countries.

Begin to cooperate in collecting and sharing data. Begin to publish stories from the same set of data the same day.

As a medium make priorities.

At Dicar – the Danish Institute of Computer-Assisted Reporting we have made these priorities: health data, environmental data, business, consumer, crime and refugees. We link to and collect Danish data in these areas. We link to the international sites where you can find data. www.dicar.org

Go beyond the published data from the organization.

By knowing data, collecting methods and getting to know people inside these international organizations you can get data, which are not public yet. You can get help to fill in the gaps. This is data, which really go to work for you in new stories.

Recommended organizations and their sites for data:

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.ch/refworld/refbib/refstat/intro.htm>

OECD: <http://www.oecd.org/statistics/>

Eurostat: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>

EU-Commission: <http://www.europa.eu.int/>

WHO: <http://www.who.int/whosis/> <http://www.who.dk/country/country.htm>

European Environmental Agency: <http://www.eea.eu.int/>