## Introduction to Sublime Text

### Goals

* Know what is Sublime Text
* Learn some basic functionalities

### Script

[Note: This tutorial is done on Sublime Text 2. By 2014, Sublime Text 3 will be the standard version]

Sublime Text is just a text editor, just like Notepad on Windows or TextEdit on Mac. Why do you need another text editor? You’ll see that Sublime has some features that make it very useful for data journalists. What’s more it’s very, very fast, even when handling files that are over 100 megabytes.

Sublime is actually an open source text editor that is used by developers, when they need to write code. However, it’s very useful to take a look at data in open formats such as txt, csv or tsv.

To download Sublime, go to <http://www.sublimetext.com/> You do not need admin rights to run it.

Once it’s installed, open the file “Height of 40 people.csv”. You see that it is a CSV file, each cell is separated from the others by commas.

One of the first things to do is to set the zoom level to an appropriate level. To do that, use command and + and - or control and + and -.

Now, Sublime gets really interesting when you start batch editing the text. Let’s say you want to modify all instances of Denmark. You could do search and replace, which is also in Sublime. But you can also select the first instance of Denmark and press command + D or control + D. Sublime selects automatically all instances. Now type in “Jutland”, and see how you’re editing at 10 different places in the file at the same time. It’s pretty powerful.

Another great feature is the possibility to select the file at different places at the same time. Keep the alt key pressed and then drag the mouse over an area of the file. Try to select all the values in the height column for the first 10 rows. You can then edit all 10 rows at the same time.

These tricks are most useful when you do development jobs, but Sublime lets you access your data in its rawest format. It’s always good for a journalist to be able to check a file in its most naked form!