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Workshop on Statistical
Business Registers for
Developing Countries, UN SIAP
and UNSD with support of the
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Agenda item 3: Overview and Importance of the Guidelines for Statistical Business Registers

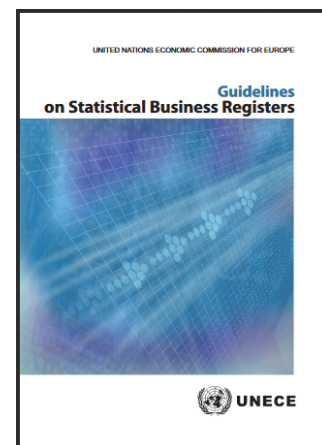


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We provide information

Content

- Relevance of SBR for integrated economic statistics and modernization of statistical production
- Background and aims of the Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
- Overview of the content of the Guidelines
- Follow-up actions



Business registers have a central role in integrated economic statistics. They provide a **common universe for sampling and a uniform classification of firms**, which promote consistency in collected data across surveys.

Moreover, they allow the **integration of data from administrative sources and surveys**.

As a result, timeliness in producing statistics can be improved and respondent burden reduced.

Source: Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics, United Nations, New York 2013

A business register **combines different sources**, such as tax records, other administrative records etc. using unique identifiers.

All **survey populations** drawn from the business register and **all administrative data matched to it**, ensures that information from different data sources is classified consistently.

The business register consists of a suite of files, programmes and processes that interface with business through direct profiling, survey responses and feedback, as well as indirectly through administrative sources.

Source: Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics

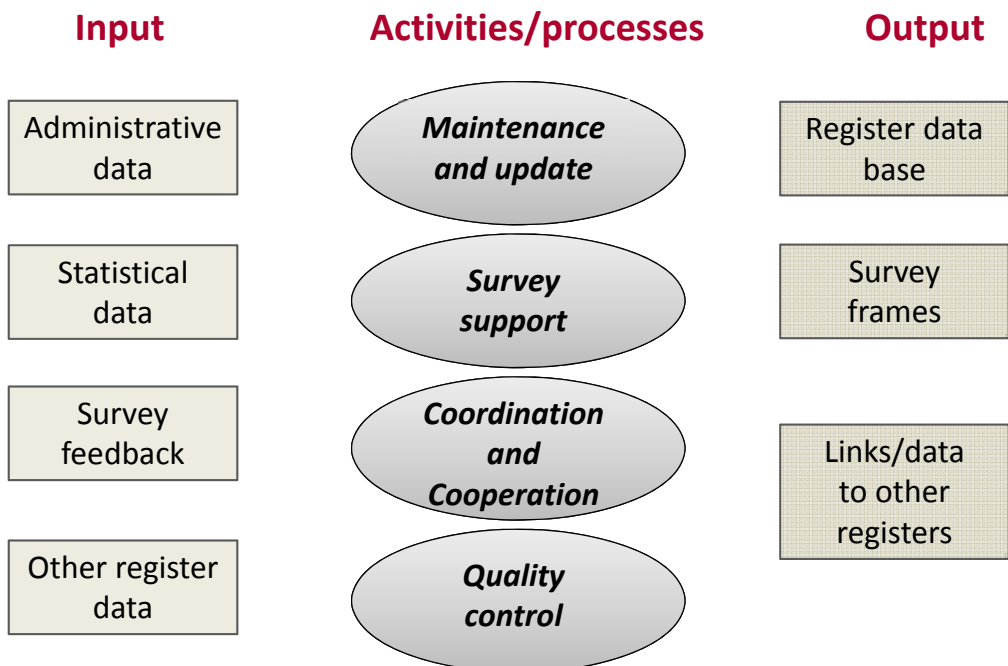
The **frame** is to support survey sampling and stratification required to measure fully all sectors of the economy.

Consequently, the register needs to contain data about units (including identification code), the name and address, a code identifying activities, variables about their size and information about their life cycle.

That information is not only to determine an optimum sample for a given survey, but also to study the **business demography** of the country.

Source: Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics

Statistical Business register activities



Benefits of comprehensive business registers:

- consistent reference point for all classifications
- reduction in duplication and inconsistent coverage of base data
- coherence between different survey data
- combination of administrative and survey data
- time series of business demographic information
- monitoring of operating costs and response burden

Source: Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics

Background of the Guidelines

- Growing demand for high quality and detailed economic statistics
- Need for more efficient and integrated production of economic statistics
- The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) established a task force in 2012 to develop guidelines to countries for establishing and maintaining SBRs
- The Guidelines were endorsed by CES and published by UNECE in 2015

Aims of the Guidelines (1)

Objectives:

- Provide practical guidance on core SBR issues of establishing and maintaining the SBR
- Clarify typology, concepts and definitions including for statistical units
- Provide guidance on the use of administrative and other sources
- Provide guidance on how to use the SBR in its own right for production of statistics and how information from the SBR can be combined with information from other statistical registers, administrative sources or surveys to produce new statistics
- Provide guidance on the role of SBR in the modernisation of statistical production and services

Aims of the Guidelines (2)

Guidelines are targeted to:

- SBR management
- SBR staff members
- staff of business statistics
- staff dealing with respondent relations
- staff dealing with administrative authorities that deliver data to the SBR
- for training purposes

Aims of the Guidelines (3)

Use of current international manuals and guidelines:

- System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) and European System of Accounts (ESA 2010) for the main conceptual framework
- Manuals on international classifications, such as ISIC Rev. 4
- Variety of other international manuals, such as use of administrative data, on the informal sector, on business demography, on foreign affiliate statistics, on integrated economic statistics
- International Guidelines on SBR
 - Business Registers Recommendation Manual of Eurostat (2010)
 - Guidelines for Building Statistical Business Registers in Africa, African Development Bank (2012)

Aims of the Guidelines (4)

Presentations and consultations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • 23 rd Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, Washington 2012 | Outline of the planned chapters |
| • Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Expert Group Meeting on Business Registers, Geneva 2013 | Presentation of first draft chapters |
| • 24 th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, Vienna 2014 | Presentation of the third version of the draft chapters |
| • Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Expert Group Meeting on Business Registers, Brussels 2015 | Presentation of possible follow-up |
| • 25 th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, Tokyo 2016 | Presentation of survey results on the use of the guidelines in the countries |

Aims of the Guidelines (5)

Task Force members: Austria (chair), Australia, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, African Development Bank, Eurostat, OECD and UNSD

Further contributions from Costa Rica and Malaysia

UNECE provided the secretariat support

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Structure of the Guidelines (1)

Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Roles of SBR
Chapter 3	Coverage of SBR
Chapter 4	Units in the SBR
Chapter 5	Characteristics of Units
Chapter 6	Data Sources for the SBR
Chapter 7	Maintenance of the SBR
Chapter 8	Survey Frame Methodology
Chapter 9	Dissemination
Chapter 10	Quality
Chapter 11	Key Considerations in Establishing an SBR
Chapter 12	Topics for Further Work and Research

Structure of the Guidelines (2)

Annex A	Characteristics of Units by Unit Type
Annex B	International Classifications
Annex C	Examples of Statistical Business Registers
Annex D	Examples Relating to SBR Quality Assurance
Annex E	Additional Concepts and Procedures
Glossary	
References	

Content of the Guidelines

Chapter 1 - Introduction

- What is an SBR?
- Use of the SBR
- Aims of the Guidelines
- Overview of the Guidelines
- Main terminology

Remark: The following slides on the content of the Guidelines are largely based on a presentation prepared by Carsten Boldsen (UNECE) and Michael College.

Chapter 2 - Roles of the SBR

The 8 roles of the SBR

1. Live register
2. Register snapshot and frozen frame
3. Survey frame
4. Survey support
5. Production of statistics based directly on SBR
6. Information source
7. International data exchange
8. Modernisation of statistical production and services

(More information under agenda item 4)

Chapter 3 – Coverage of SBR

- Target coverage of the SBR
- Key issues to consider for SBRs
- Special cases

Chapter 3 – Coverage of SBR

Target coverage of SBR

- In principle all units in the national economy that contribute to GDP
- Target for SBR coverage is the **2008 SNA production boundary** (2008 SNA: 6.26)
 - Production activities of all institutional units that have economic production
 - Excludes household activities for production of services for own use, except services provided by owner-occupied dwellings and services produced by employed domestic staff
 - Include both market and non-market producers (Government units and NPISH)

Chapter 3 – Coverage of SBR

Difficult areas to cover

- In practice there are problems in trying to cover
 - Non-market producers
 - Non-observed economy, including informal sector and illegal activities

Special cases

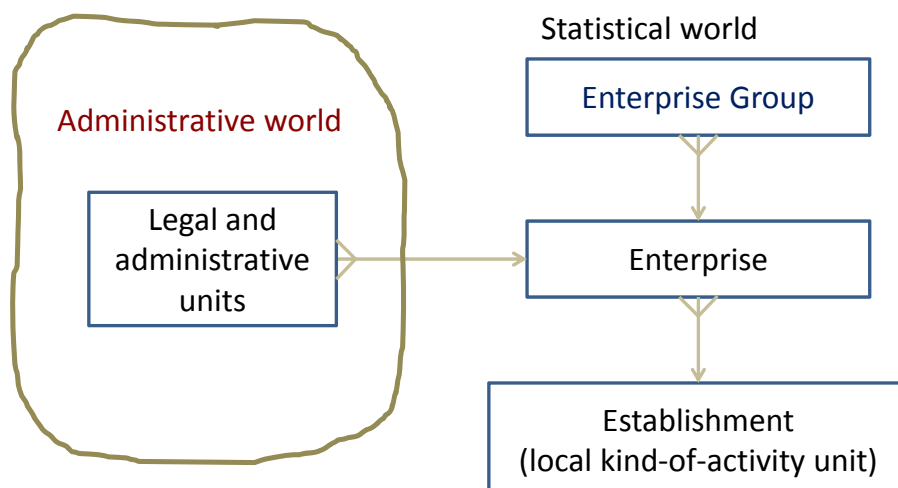
- The *Guidelines* gives more detailed recommendations on the treatment of government units, corporations, NPIs, self-employed persons, agricultural households/holdings, illegal activities and extraterritorial organisations

Chapter 4 – Units of the SBR

- Describes different types of units conceptually and operationally
- Distinguish three groups of units:
 - Statistical units
 - Legal, administrative and operational units
 - Observation and reporting units
- Provides and discusses definitions of 2008 SNA, ISIC Rev 4 and Eurostat
- Recommendations on difficult to measure areas - MNEs, government, agriculture, special purpose entities

Chapter 4 – Units of the SBR

Recommended statistical units model



Chapter 5 – Characteristics of units

Identification and contact characteristics

- Type of unit
 - enterprise group, enterprise, establishment
 - local unit, legal unit, administrative unit
- Identification number
 - with no embedded information
 - allows linking to other units in SBR
 - and to administrative registers and other sources
- Contact details
 - names, addresses, telephone numbers...

Chapter 5 – Characteristics of units

Demographic characteristics

- Date of inclusion in SBR
- Date of commencement of economic activity
- Date of final cessation of economic activity
- Date on which legal unit ceased to exist
- Date of merger, take-over, split or break
- ...

Chapter 5 – Characteristics of units

Economic/stratification characteristics

- Legal form/legal status
- Institutional sector and sub-sector
- Principal economic activity
- Market orientation (market, non-market)
- Turnover
- Number of persons employed
- ...

Chapter 5 – Characteristics of units

Links between units in the SBR

Required for establishing and maintaining the SBR

- Administrative units and statistical units
- Enterprise groups and enterprises
- Enterprises and establishments
- Observation units and reporting units...

Chapter 5 – Characteristics of units

Links with other registers

- Ideally link statistical units to administrative and legal units
- Administrative units include VAT units, units in trade registers, units registered to collect and make social security contributions etc.
- Links to units in agricultural registers
- Links to transport registers, health services registers, population registers...

Chapter 6 – Data sources for SBR

- Different data sources for SBR
- How to combine different data sources for SBR
- Distinguishing three main sources
 - Administrative
 - Statistical
 - Others (e.g. internet)

(More information under agenda item 5)

Chapter 7 – Maintenance of SBR

Maintenance of statistical units and their characteristics

- SBR maintenance strategy
- Recording of demographic events
- Handling of changes in characteristics
- Maintenance procedures
- Treatment of errors

(More information under agenda item 6)

Chapter 8 – Survey frame methodology

- Backbone role of the SBR
 - How to produce survey frames
 - Snapshots of the live registers
 - Survey frame selected from frozen frame
 - Frozen frame should be used by all surveys having the same reference period

(More information under agenda item 4)

Chapter 9 – Dissemination

Dissemination of economic statistics

- Direct production of economic statistics from SBR is possible only if SBR quality is sufficient
- Output should satisfy same conditions as for other surveys in terms of quality, confidentiality and access

Dissemination of business demography statistics

- There is a growing demand for entrepreneurship, economic growth and job-creation statistics
- Requires clear definitions of units and events, and specification of compilation methods

Chapter 9 – Dissemination

Dissemination of micro data (individual data)

- Access to individual data restricted by confidentiality
- Some NSIs offer access to individual data to researchers under conditions that ensure confidentiality
- In some countries publication of selected micro data, such as name and address, activity and legal status, is allowed

Chapter 10 – Quality of SBR

- SBR quality dimensions
- SBR and survey quality
- Quality of administrative registers
- Frame errors and their implications
- Metadata
- Quality assessment methods and indicators
- Quality policy and improvement

Chapter 10 – Quality of SBR

SBR quality dimensions

Quality= the degree to which SBR meets user needs

- **Dimensions:** relevance, accuracy, timeliness, punctuality, accessibility, comparability, coherence
- **Costs** (including response burden) and cost-efficiency needs to be taken into account

Chapter 10 – Quality of SBR

- Quality policy/framework
 - How and when to initiate quality improvements
 - How to inform users about quality and quality problems
- Quality assessment methods
- Quality indicators
 - Establish SBR quality indicators
 - Measure quality of inputs, processes and outputs

Chapter 11 – Key considerations in establishing SBR

- Particularly for countries where an SBR is being developed, or is under review/re-design
- Provides guidance on
 - Planning
 - Governance and organisation
 - IT

Chapter 11 – Key considerations in establishing SBR

IT – software, databases

- Relational database management system (RDBMS) is the most common choice for SBR data infrastructure
- Extensive capacity for compilation, storage and documentation
- Flexible and standardized query language
- Ability to be extended for future requirements

Chapter 12 – Topics for further work and research

- 1) **Statistical units and profiling**
 - Enterprise, enterprise group, establishment
 - Best practices in profiling
- 2) **SBR as the backbone of economic statistics**
 - Multi source datasets, data warehouse
 - Frame methodology
 - Harmonization, efficient maintenance strategies, fulfilling growing user demands

3) Use of administrative sources

- Best practices in cooperation with administrative registers
- Quality assessment of administrative data

4) Use of new data sources

- Experience in new data sources
- Electronic collection methods

5) International trade and economic development

- Micro-data inking
- New global production arrangements (e.g. factoryless goods producers)
- Supra-national SBR

6) Development of new statistics

- Business Demography and Entrepreneurship Statistics
- Linking with other registers
- Geocoding in the SBR

7) Methodological developments

- Database software for SBR, including software services for maintenance, data validation, matching methodologies, identifiers, etc.

8) International comparability

- All aspects that improve comparability of SBRs

- CES Bureau: expert group meetings should focus on sharing experience and identifying difficulties in implementing the guidelines
- Focus on topics for further work and research (as listed in chapter 12)
- Survey on the use of the guidelines in the countries: presentation of the results in the 25th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, November 2016, Tokyo

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**Thank you for your
attention !**