



## ***Workshop on Statistical Business Register for Developing Countries***

organized by UN SIAP and UNSD with support of the Statistics Bureau of Japan

*7-11 November 2016, Chiba, Japan*

### **Concept Note**

Over the last decade the growing demand for better and more detailed economic statistics has put focus on statistical business registers (SBRs) and their role in the production of economic statistics. While traditionally the primary role of SBRs has been to provide sample frames for business statistics, SBRs of today often include more information and can be used in their own right as a source from which to derive economic statistics. SBRs have also proved to be central for statistical offices' efforts to reduce response burden and utilise administrative data sources and for the combination of survey data and administrative data.

There is also growing interest in the role of SBRs as the backbone in the production of economic statistics and the potential benefits of integrating the SBR with other statistics. These include both improvement of the quality of existing statistics and development of new statistics by combining SBRs with information from other administrative or statistical registers. Integration of SBRs also means an opportunity to modernise the statistical production process.

High quality business statistics depend on high quality SBR. A high quality SBR fulfils the user needs in an optimal way, and is based on international concepts, definitions and classifications. Thus, it serves as the basis for international harmonisation of economic statistics in terms of coverage, statistical units and frame methodology. The new guidelines on SBR, which were recently developed within the context of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) of the UN Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE), are targeted at both developed and less developed statistical systems and provide practical guidance and recommendations on the establishment and maintenance of an SBR. These guidelines were endorsed by the CES in June 2015.

Within this context, the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP), and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) with the support of the Statistics Bureau of Japan organize a workshop to strengthen the statistical capacity in the maintenance of a statistical business register. The workshop is targeted for statisticians from offices in developing countries and will be held at the conference facilities of UN SIAP in Chiba, Japan, on 7 November 2016. The first part of the workshop will precede the meeting of Wiesbaden Group on Business

Registers, which will take place in Tokyo, Japan, on 8-11 November 2016, hosted by the Statistics Bureau of Japan<sup>1</sup>.

Participants will also attend selected sessions of the meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Register to learn about good examples and best practices on Statistical Business Registers (SBR) on 8-10 November 2016. The second part of the workshop will take place on 11 November 2016.

The objective of the workshop is for participating countries to learn about the latest recommendations for establishing and maintaining a high quality SBR and to share experience and knowledge regarding SBRs. Resource persons from those offices, which principally contributed to the UNECE Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers, will present on the roles of SBRs, the main data sources, the maintenance and the key points in establishing an SBR.

The participants will also be given the opportunity to discuss good practices and challenges in establishing SBR (i.e., planning and organization, IT systems), accessing data sources (i.e., administrative data, web scraping), and undertaking SBR maintenance (i.e., updating coverage and content).

## **Topics**

### Overview of the Statistical Business Registers

What is a Statistical Business Register and why is it important? The overview will discuss the broader picture around the SBR, notably on integration of policy decisions, the need for integrated economic statistics and the modernization of the statistical production process.

### Part 1: Role of the Statistical Business Registers

The SBR serves as the coordinating mechanism for economic statistics and ideally provides all the information needed by the statisticians who are responsible for the various economic surveys and related statistical processes and outputs. The SBR is therefore sometimes said to play the role of a backbone in the production of economic statistics. Part 1 presents the specific roles of the SBR. Each role is described in detail, indicating the inputs needed to perform the role and the statistical outputs produced. It first presents the primary roles of an SBR in maintaining and providing sets of statistical units, in particular enterprises, and in providing frames and other supports for surveys.

### Part 2: Data sources for the Statistical Business Registers

Part 2 provides guidance on the sources of data that can be used to construct an SBR and how they are used in combination. The main focus is on administrative data, but statistical sources and new potential sources are also discussed. It defines what is meant by administrative data and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/info/meetings/wiesbaden2016/index.htm>

describes main administrative sources that are used in many countries. The advantages and disadvantages of these sources are considered, also the legal aspects pertinent to their use.

### Part 3: Maintenance of the Statistical Business Registers

Whereas Part 2 describes the data sources used in SBR construction, Part 3 discusses maintenance of the various types of statistical units and their characteristics. The key objective of maintenance is to update the coverage and content of the SBR, taking into account continuity and stability rules, according to a well-defined calendar, and in as timely a fashion as the information sources allow. The basic aim is to provide economic surveys with sampling frames that are accurate and as up to date as possible.