



UNITED NATIONS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC, STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

UNITED NATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
STATISTICS DIVISION

ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND REGIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT,
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

e-Learning course
Foundational course on Statistical Business Registers

26 September – 11 November 2022

I. Background & Rationale

Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) are part of the statistical infrastructure and form the backbone for producing economic statistics that meet the increasing demand for better integrated, coherent, and comparable statistics across countries and statistical domains. Traditionally, the primary role of SBRs has been to provide sampling frames for business statistics. However, the SBR also provides the framework for the production of specific business statistics (such as business demography statistics) and serve as a data integration framework for multiple sources. With increasing demand for business statistics on new phenomena such as business dynamics, business demography, and entrepreneurship, globalization, digitalization, well-being and sustainability, the SBR offer the integration framework for the coherent measurement of these phenomena. With the multipurpose use



of the SBR, an inclusive and exhaustive SBR becomes a central element of the statistical infrastructure for maintaining the relevance, responsiveness, and quality of economic statistics in order to measure the structure and dynamics of economic activity.

The SBR is also a critical element in the transformation of the national statistical system in adopting a responsive, efficient and cost-effective data collection strategy with a response burden as low as possible. This means efforts must be made to modernize the production processes, to use administrative data to reduce survey burden, to redesign survey systems, to harmonize surveys and variables, to comprehensively link administrative data and survey sources, and to cooperate more closely with administrative authorities on a continuous basis to improve the quality of the SBR. Better consistency between the various statistical areas at national and international level has also become a much more important goal than it was in the past, when economic development was less affected by international dependencies, and globalization of production and markets was at a lower level. Therefore, the statistical business register (SBR) plays a key role to address current and future needs for economic and business statistics.

II. About the Foundational Course

This e-Learning course was developed by the United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Statistical Institute for the Asia and the Pacific (SIAP); the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD); and the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB). In 2021, out of 114 participants from over 30 different countries, 62 learners (54%) completed the course successfully.

The objective of this course is to provide a strong foundation for the concepts, methods and framework required to build high quality SBRs. This will facilitate the international



harmonization of economic statistics in terms of coverage, statistical units, and frame methodology.

The course is comprised of seven modules. Each module consists of 30~40 slides and is accompanied by Exercise for evaluation. Module 1 starts with an introduction to statistical business registers and provides a broad overview of topics discussed in latter modules. Modules 2 discusses in detail the uses of SBRs, and module 3 continues with coverage of the SBR. Module 4 highlights the data sources for maintaining and updating the SBR, and the challenges entailed. Module 5 addresses the legal framework in support of a SBR, organizational concerns and the related IT infrastructure and tools. Module 6 introduces SBR Maturity Model to allow for a self-assessment of the level of development or maturity of the national SBR and the formulation of a strategic plan for its further development. Finally, Module 7 describes profiling and global/regional registers.

III. Target Audience

This e-Learning course is designed for statisticians from national statistical offices, ministry of finance and tax authorities who are involved in the development and maintenance of registration of enterprises and the SBRs, preparation and use of sampling frames for business surveys, or production of economic statistics from SBRs. It is also recommended for users of SBRs inside the compiling agency.

IV. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the foundational course, participants will be able to:



- a) Describe the main concepts of SBR and the important role of SBR for producing economic statistics
- b) Identify data sources, investigate other potential data sources, and understand the importance of the legal framework around the access to administrative data
- c) Recognize the challenges in developing procedures for the update and maintenance of SBR
- d) Use the SBR Maturity Model to assess the stage of implementation of SBR in the country and identify possible areas for improvement
- e) Share country practices on SBRs and understand new emerging topics related to SBRs

V. Course Design and Content

The e-Learning Course has been developed as an interactive training on the key concepts of statistical business register. It is organized in seven modules. Each module includes a lecture, self-assessment quizzes and hands on practice exercises to reinforce the major concepts taught. Participants are expected to complete one module each week. There will be three online meetings, each one hour long. First online meeting will be held during second week of the course and cover modules 1 and 2; second online meeting will be held during week 5 and cover modules 3-5 and third online meeting will be held during week 7 and cover modules 6 and 7. Each meeting will start with a short presentation to supplement the e-Learning course. Participants can ask questions about the content covered in the relevant modules and the lecturer can also ask questions to engage participants and encourage discussion. Instructions and discourse are in English.



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The course is expected to take an average 15 hours to complete. This includes the participation in online meetings and other course activities.

Module	Coverage
1. Statistical Business Register- An overview	Part 1. What is Statistical Business Register (SBR) Part 2. Users of SBR Part 3. Requirements of SBR
2. Roles of SBR	Part 1. The role of an SBR as a live register Part 2. The role of SBR as a coordinator of surveys Part 3. Statistics and research Part 4. Other roles of SBRs
3. Coverage of the SBR	Part 1. Entities recorded in the SBR Part 2. Types of institutional units in an SBR Part 3. Special cases of economic activities Part 4. Summary of coverage recommendations Part 5. The types of units included in an SBR Part 6. Statistical units Part 7. Other units included in an SBR Part 8. The characteristics of SBR units
4. Data Sources, maintenance, and update	Part 1. Data sources of an SBR Part 2. Maintenance of an SBR Part 3. Quality assessment and improvement



5. Legal framework, Organizational, and IT considerations	Part 1. Importance of legal frameworks Part 2. Organizational considerations of an SBR Part 3. IT considerations
6. SBR Maturity Model (SBRMM)	Part 1. Characteristics and requirements of the SBRMM Part 2. Use of SBRMM to identify areas for improvement
7. Profiling and Global/Regional Registers	Part 1. Importance and benefits of profiling Part 2. How profiling is performed Part 3. Profiling in the global context

The course is hosted on the SIAP Learning Management System (LMS), which contains a discussion forum for general questions and interactions with the lecturers (or experts). Active participation and interaction in the discussion forum are strongly recommended.

Lesson materials will be made available on a staggered basis to assist learners follow the required sequence in mastering the material and achieving the learning outcomes.

VI. Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on

- Three online meetings-Participation in online meetings (30% of score, 10% each)

First online meeting: Date and time

Second online meeting: Date and time



Third online meeting: Date and time

Further details about the online meetings will be shared in due course.

- Seven open book online graded exercise (70% of score, 10% each). Maximum three attempts, with the highest score out of the three attempts to be recorded.

The overall evaluation of the participants' performance is based on the total score obtained in the above.

A certificate of successful completion will be issued to participants securing a total score of at least 70%.

NO EXTENSION WILL BE GIVEN TO PARTICIPANTS WHO FAIL TO COMPLETE THE COURSE DURING THE DESIGNATED PERIOD.

Successful participants are required to complete a **course evaluation form**, which will be made available to them immediately after the completion of the course. Participants will be able to print the certificates in the system after the completion of the course.

VII. Source Material

This course draws upon a number of reference materials, including the United Nations *Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers (2020)*, the Eurostat *European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers — 2021 edition*; the ADB *User Guide for ADB Statistical Business Register December 2018*; the *Statistical Business Register Maturity Model* (United Nations Task Team of Exhaustive Business Registers and Task Team Capacity Building, 2020); the Eurostat *European business*



profiling — Recommendations manual — 2020 edition; and Global Group Register – Experimental Release User Guide (18 December 2020).