Regional Course on SBR

Chiba, Japan, 11-14 March 2024

Questions for group exercises, session 4 and 9

# Introduction

These questions are designed to facilitate the participation of workshop participants in the group exercises. All participants will be invited to answer those questions on a strictly voluntary basis, based on their personal work experience and the unique circumstances in their respective country. There are no right or wrong answers, and the answers are only used to help achieve the objective of the workshop, i.e. to help the participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepens their understanding on the principles and methodology on statistical business registers.

For each group exercise session, each participant of the workshop should be invited to prepare a note of 1-2 pages that include answers to 2 or more questions in the session. The note can then be shared and discussed at the workshop. Alternatively, they can prepare a presentation on their answers, with a maximum duration of 10 minutes.

These questions can be distributed among all confirmed participants before the event, so that the participants can have adequate time to review and prepare their answers, preferably in consultation with their colleagues working on SBR or on business statistics.

# Questions for Session 4:

[Hint: each participant of the workshop should be invited to prepare a note of 1-2 pages that include answers to 2 or more of the following questions. Alternatively, they can prepare a presentation with a maximum duration of 10 minutes. These questions can be shared with the participants in advance, so that they have to consult with their colleagues before attending the workshop.]

1. Tell us your understanding of the key properties of an SBR. How can an SBR contribute to your work programmes of your office? [Hint: the key properties of an SBR are introduced in session 1 – what is an SBR; whereas the importance of an SBR is covered by sessions 2 and 3. The participants are invited to express their views on the SBR based on their own work experience and on the lessons learned from the past sessions of the workshop.]
2. Does your office conduct business surveys? If not, does your office compile any data at all that are related to businesses (enterprise/establishment/legal units)? [Hint: this question is related to one of the roles of an SBR: provision of a survey frame. For the participants of the workshop that do not have any experience on a functioning SBR, they are welcome to share their experience on the compilation of business statistics in general, possibly based on their experience with economic censuses.]
3. Discuss the feasibility of using the following data sources to update the SBR in your country:
4. Economic census (frequency of the census, estimated numbers of units, coverage of the units, and if there is any update on the variables in the years between censuses) [Note: the participant from Sri Lanka in particular should be invited to give a presentation on using administrative data to update the SBR, given their experience in the DA13 project and their recent participation in the Wiesbaden Group meeting and subsequent study visit to Statistics Denmark on the development of SBR.]
5. Surveys (how will the results of the surveys be used to improve the quality of SBR)
6. Administrative data and tax registers (where to find newly established enterprises/legal units, and the participants are welcome to share their experience on data sharing on businesses between NSOs and other government agencies in general)
7. [Optional] Internet and big data (does your office have any experience in using big data or other non-traditional data sources?)
8. Is there any interest in your office to produce statistics on business demography (enterprise births/deaths/etc.)? If not, is there any policy interest to conduct research on the characteristics of business in general (i.e. coverage of variables such as employment, their principal economic activity, etc. that are introduced in Chapter 5 of the UN Guidelines on SBR)?

# Questions for Session 9

[Hint: each participant of the workshop should be invited to prepare a note of 1-2 pages that include answers to the following questions. Alternatively, they can prepare a presentation with a maximum duration of 10 minutes. These questions can be shared with the participants in advance, so that they have to consult with their colleagues before attending the workshop.]

1. Give a brief description on the legal framework on official statistics in your country, with a focus on the aspects that are relevant in the production of business statistics. [Hint: the participants can user the following list of talking points based on the SBR Maturity Model:
* Is there a provision in the statistical law or a MOU(Memorandum of understanding) that mandates or allows the NSO(National Statistical Organization) to collect data that are relevant for SBR?
* Is there any provision on how your office should collect data on businesses?
* Is there any provision that grants NSO access to administrative data sources (e.g. records of businesses from the tax office)? If not, is there any institutional arrangement on data sharing in general among the NSO and other government agencies at various levels (national, regional or local governments)?
* Is there any mandate on the use of unique IDs for businesses in your country? If not, is there any institutional arrangements that helps the sharing of micro-data on businesses?
* Is there any provision on how data on businesses should be compiled and disseminated? If not, can you show some published reports or datasets on business statistics?
1. Give a brief description on the basic characteristics of the population of businesses in your country, with a focus on the following variables [Hint: these variables are based on UN Guidelines on SBR, Chapters 4 and 5]:
* Total number of businesses, and their distribution by legal form (e.g. how many of them are incorporated company/sole proprietorship/partnership/etc.) and size (small/medium/large, by employment and revenue)
* Demographic characteristics (age distribution of businesses, e.g. how many of them are one-year old, etc.)
* Is there an identification framework to identify every business in a unique manner?
* Does your office use an industry classification to indicate the activity of each business (e.g. ISIC)?
* Does your office use geospatial information to track the location of individual businesses?
* [Optional] can you describe the methodology on the data collection and dissemination of business statistics (e.g. how data on business are collected in general; the kind of unit – enterprise/establishment/legal unit – that is used; whether your office conducts “profiling” or other methods to collect additional information on large enterprises; etc.)
1. Discuss the challenges of establishing an SBR in your country with regard to the following aspects [Hint: the aspects are based on the CPR questionnaire, Section IV – Main Challenges]:
* Roles (use cases) of the SBR
* Ways to improve the coverage of an SBR
* Units in the SBR
* Current and new data sources of the SBR
* Maintenance and update of an SBR
* Survey frame methodology (how the SBR can be used to support business surveys)
* Dissemination of business statistics
* Quality (improvement of SBR quality)
* Planning and governance (management of the SBR unit in your office)
* IT considerations (IT infrastructure in your office, skills and capabilities of the SBR team, access to new technology such as AI, computer-assisted survey solutions, and computer databases)
* Others (funding, technical assistance, etc.)
1. Is there a strategic plan for the improvement of business statistics in your office in the next couple of years? Alternatively, is there any plan to improve the production of business statistics in general in your office? (in response to new user needs for business statistics, evidence-based decision making for policy makers, etc.) How do you think the development of an SBR can become part of the strategic plan of your office?