

Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers - International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames

Country progress report 2015 and future plans

Country:

The Netherlands

Reporter:

Rico Konen (statistical researcher)

Institution:

Statistics Netherlands

I. Organisation, Population and Usage of the Statistical Business Register

1. Name of the register

Algemeen Bedrijven Register (General Business register)

2. Name of the organisation responsible for holding the register

Statistics Netherlands

3. Position of the register unit in the organisation

Department of Registers within the Division of "Economic and business statistics and national accounts"

4. Number of employees in the register unit

42 (excluding 4 very large enterprise group's profilers in Business Statistics department)

5. Primary goal and use of the register

To serve as sample frame for all economic statistics surveys and to serve as tool for linkage with administrative files with data that is to be used in compiling business statistics.

6. Year of establishment of the register

1974

7. Year(s) of the main re-engineering(s) of the register

1992, 2006, 2009, 2014

8. Number of active units in the register at the end of 2015

1.530.239 Enterprises (2015-12)

II. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

Please list main achievements (maximum 3) in the past year (2015) or the problems you have tackled.

1. Short title of work which was done

Data infrastructure

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

A new data infrastructure should decouple data sources and the services used in statistical production processes by its 'consumers', with the aim to reduce the complexity in IT-systems for statistical production processes. Besides it should support the linkage between all kinds of datasources independent of their format. SN adapted a new data architecture, which consists of different types of layers: 'Consumer Layer', 'Data Provisioning layer', 'Data Integration Layer', 'Data Aquisition Layer', 'Data Source Layer'. The Dutch BR-department participated in the development of this environment in order to disseminate SBR-information on statistical units and linked administrative sources to its users.

2. Short title of work which was done

Data Quality Management

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Past year SN investigated the needs and requirements the Dutch BR should fulfill according to new developments regarding FRIBS (e.g. based on cross-border relationships), the ESA2010 and improve the coverage in the Dutch BR-system to obtain more coherence in statistics. This resulted in an action plan to implement improvements to support Employment-, FATS-, Governmental-, macro economic statistics for National Accounts and functional statistics. Besides the provision of cross-border relations to the EGR is secured. The Dutch National Bank has participated in this project to improve statistics of the Financial sector by matching statistical units and the secondary data from DNB. The action-plan is supposed to be implemented this year (2016/2017).

3. Short title of work which was done

Participation Eurostat / ECB

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The BR-department of SN participated in the ESRs VIP Project. SN was Workpackage leader of WP2 about interoperability, and an active participant in WP1 about the architecture and in WP3 about International profiling and the EGR. An important milestone was the realization of EGR 2.0 in 2015. Furthermore the BR-department cooperates with the nationale bank in the project 'Anacredit' initiated by the ECB.

III. Future plans

Please list themes/projects (maximum 3) which you plan to tackle in the current (2016) and following year(s).

1. Short title of work planned

Strategic agenda

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

In 2015, SN published its 'strategic agenda' (<http://www.cbs.nl/NR/rdonlyres/1F24BFB3-D915-4664-91A4-DAF541A4D1F0/0/strategischeagendaen.pdf>). Innovation, phenomenon oriented, state-of-the-art data infrastructure, quality and efficiency are key values of this vision document. This document represents also the strategic vision of SN which is important and leading for the BR-department for the developments of the SBR (incl. linked data) in the coming years to strengthen the backbone- and coordinating role of the Dutch BR.

2. Short title of work planned

Data Lake

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

"Data Lake" is a concept for searching, processing and publishing statistical information based on metadata. Microdata is only 'virtually' available in the "Data Lake". The aim of a "Data Lake" is not only a concept to uncouple input-, throughput- and output processes, but also supports accessibility of data sources for statistical purposes without understanding of complex methodology or being a IT-expert. The SBR is the backbone of many statistical production systems. Therefore the BR-department will be a partner in the developments and will take an important role in the implementation of this concept.

3. Short title of work planned

Eurostat

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

SN participates in the EU-project to publish indicators on "Family Businesses". The BR-department is involved by developing a methodology to use information from several administrative sources to detect and to link this characteristic to a statistical unit in the SBR.

IV. Main challenges

Please list main challenges (maximum 3) with respect to development, maintenance and use of your statistical business register.

1. Main challenge 1

Modernisation of Statistical Production Processes

Description of the challenge

SN is exploring new techniques like web-scraping or "big data" sources to optimize the datacollection for statistical purposes. The usability of these sources for statistical purposes is a challenge for SN.

2. Main challenge 2

Phenomenon oriented

Description of the challenge

It will be a challenge for SN to provide demand and hypothesis-oriented statistics. The concept of "Data Lake" in combination with the new data infrastructure should be supporting this topic of the strategic agenda.

3. Main challenge 3

Organisation

Description of the challenge

SN is supposed to be an innovative organisation in a dynamic environment where the availability of information is increasing exponential and where the budget to produce statistics will decline and the competition in the field of statistics will grow. It's a challenge for SN in general to transform from a governmental body into a dynamic organisation that can compete.