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Quality and coverage

A consistency unit for a consistent picture of the Italian economy

Abstract

MNEs adopt the organizational structures reputed more useful to successfully compete in the different markets they invest. The characteristics of the LEUs belonging to a group, in terms of statistical classifications and quantitative variables, are affected by decisions taken from the head-offices with targets wide-ranging than the results of the single individual entities.

Business statistics may be produced using different statistical units, classifications and/or definitions applying correctly the different EU regulations but producing some inconsistencies.

Specific problems of classification or measurement arising in a context may be treated differently among the different domains.

The three aspects above mentioned cause an impact on the statistical production processes: BR; SBS and STS statistics; National Accounts.

In the European Countries the issue of consistency was generally faced by setting up specific units inside the organizational chart, the so-called *consistency units*.

From those experiences and the Istat developments in the fields of FATS statistics, EGR and international profiling, we got the following lessons:
- establishing a dedicated team with
- experts from different statistical domains,
using
- a micro approach starting from
- integrated datasets
in a context where
- it is necessary to reduce (or, at least, not increase) the statistical burden on businesses
- guarantying quality data for the business statistics.

In the new organizational structure of ISTAT, the *consistency unit* responsible to deal with the inconsistencies of the top MNEs operating in Italy was established in the Division for statistical registers on economic units inside the Directorate for economic statistics.

From an operational point of view, the unit will act identifying the inconsistencies at an early stage of the statistical production process and the staff involved will have access to all the microdata useful both from surveys and admin data.

The main objectives of the unit will be:
1- looking for the best strategies for data collection, including the single entry point option;
2- solving the inconsistencies and sharing the results with all the statistics potentially involved;
3- taking charge of some phases of the statistical production for the groups under analyses;
4- sharing all the issues related to MNEs investigated.