

# A consistency unit for a consistent picture of the Italian Economy

25th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames

Session 4 - Quality and coverage

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Tokyo, 8 – 11 November 2016

# Introduction

Globalization is a fact and the quality of the statistics is affected by a set of problems including MNEs operating worldwide

Top MNEs incorrect or inconsistent data determine a considerable impact on the economic statistics

- Statistical Business Registers;
- Structural Business and Short Term Statistics;
- National Accounts

that it is necessary to reduce to improve the quality of the outputs.

NSOs have to develop the best strategies to minimize the impact of the inconsistencies collected for the business statistics production.

## NSOs experiences\*: the main aspects

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*.

Generally, the consistency unit was built as a specific organizational unit even if in different areas: National Accounts for Ireland; Data collection for Sweden; Business Statistics for the Netherlands.

The other main aspects concerning the way the units (or working group) act are the following:

- teams formed by experts with different skills;
- micro-data approach;
- integrated data sets.

\*The impact of globalization on National Accounts” (UNECE, 2011)

## NSOs experiences: useful hints

Promoting a good cooperation with the enterprise group

- simplifying data provision; single entry point; identifying the reporting unit; customizing solutions.

Keeping the users informed

- strengthening cooperation across the various domains; spreading information of changes; creating specific data reporting for single groups.

Timeliness

- developing methods to identify promptly consistency problems; standardizing the processing of data on large enterprises in different statistical areas; trying to “solve inconsistencies in an earlier stage of the statistical process or even to prevent their occurrence” (Vennix, 2012).

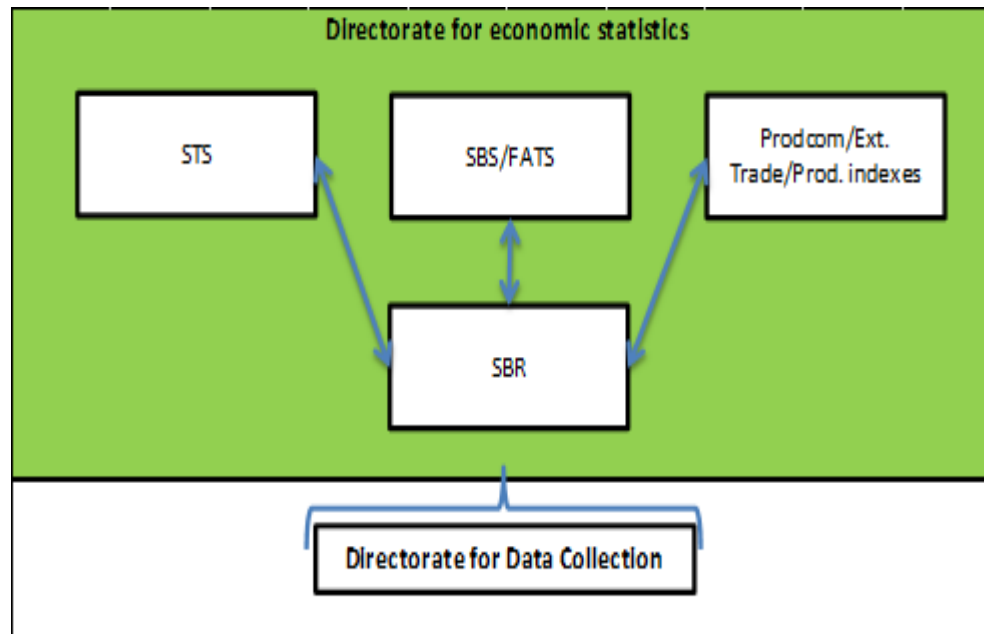
Statistical production

- taking in charge parts of the statistical processes.

## Internal context

Istat recently adopted a new organizational structure and two of the main innovations may be considered the following:

- creation of the Directorate for Data Collection outside the Department for Statistical Production;
- business processes based on an integrated system of Statistical Registers.



## Lessons learned

Taking into account the good practices of the other NSOs and the Istat background 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 team 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.

# Coordination of complex units activity

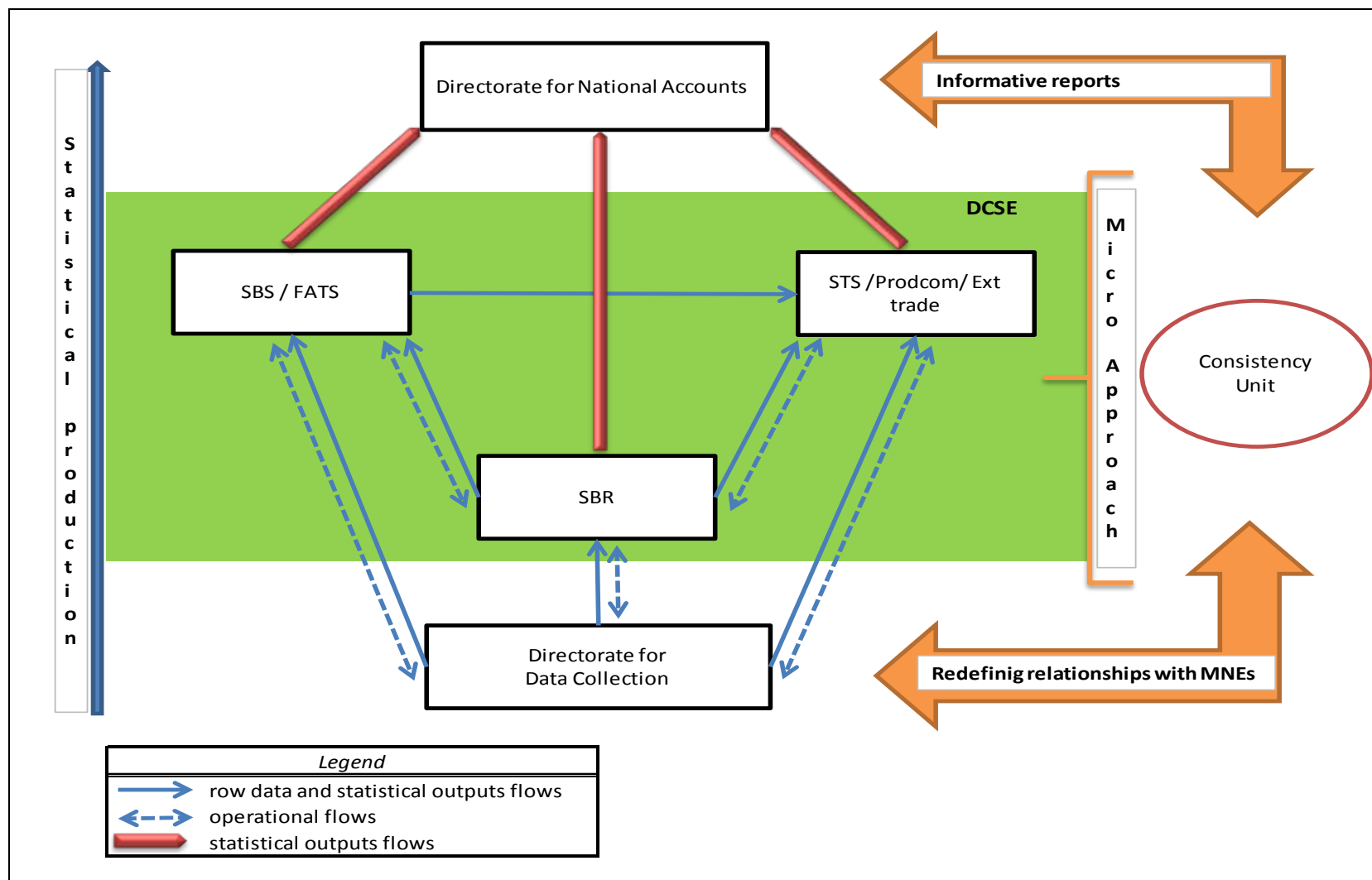
Main ambition:

identifying the inconsistencies in the early stages of the statistical production process

Main tasks:

- 1- Looking for the best strategies for data collection redefining the relationships with the top MNEs accordingly with the Directorate for Data Collection.
- 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 the MNEs investigated.

# Statistical production flow: the tasks of the Consistency unit





## Next steps

Assuring the following conditions

- staff should have the access to the data from the different surveys at an early stage;
- proposed changes in the data, once agreed, should be implemented;
- some inconsistencies may reoccur in another reference period (e.g., inconsistencies in the administrative data): if it is not possible to solve definitely the causes, it should be necessary to solve them likewise.

Near future:

- analysis of some cases for groups having had organizational changes in 2016 - useful to plan the activities for 2017
- the methodological developments regarding the Italian SBS Action Plan(\*) and the international profiling will be contextually taken into account in order to ensure consistency and compliance over time

\*action plan concerning the full implementation of the Structural Business Statistics (SBS) Regulation No 295/2008, with regards to the Statistical Unit Regulation (No 696/93) 30 June 2016

THANKS!