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Globalisation and Profiling

**A World Identifier Is a Chance to Support Statistics in Globalisation**

**Abstract**

Today, globalisation is a well-known phenomenon with an increasingly important impact on national economies. Production chains are split up and spread all over the world while resources can be allocated to almost any place on the planet.

It is clear that, in order to capture economic activities statistically on a local and global scale, national statistical practices have to be connected and harmonised. Currently however, statistical production processes can vary greatly between countries. While some National Statistical Institutes (NSI) conduct surveys about the activities of international groups, others are only about to introduce such methods.

In Europe, many initiatives supported by Eurostat and by NSIs have been launched in this direction since the early 2000s. Profiling, for instance, is a way to gather information about economic activities that transcend national borders. Another approach is the introduction of the EuroGroups Register (EGR), which identifies connections between enterprises as to create corporate structures on a European level.

This being said, current initiatives have to be extended in order to enable NSIs to continue to fulfil their public mandate. Therefore, what has begun in Europe with the EGR and the EGR Identity service (IS EGR) should be a starting point for a worldwide system of entity identifiers. To reach this goal, the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) offers a promising opportunity.

In this context, the present paper depicts the Swiss Federal Statistical Office's (FSO) experiences with the introduction of the Unique Enterprise Identification Number (UID) and explains why the FSO is participating in the implementation of the LEI system as Legal Operating Unit (LOU).