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25th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

Tokyo, Japan
8-11 November 2016

Special Session: Follow-up of the Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers

We provide information

Content

- ➢ **CES Bureau request on follow-up on the implementation of the guidelines**

- ➢ **Endorsement of the guidelines by the Conference of European Statisticians**

- ➢ **Content and structure of the follow-up questionnaire**

- ➢ **Country responses**

- ➢ **Resume and proposals for the way forward**

Ex Report on the Bureau meeting concerning task forces and international recommendations and guidelines:

c) It is important to inform about and promote recommendations after they have been finalized.

d) To be proactive expert meetings should follow up on the implementation of CES guidelines developed in recent years. …. … The expert meetings should focus on sharing experience, identifying difficulties in implementing guidelines and provide feedback for improving the guidelines.

Ex Report on the thirty-six plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (ECE/CES/89):

c) "49. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

d) The Guidelines were found comprehensive and helpful in supporting countries to maintain and improve statistical business registers;

e) It was noted that the Guidelines will be important for other regions. The Guidelines will be presented to a meeting of a working group on business registers Latin America in December. A possibility to translate the Guidelines into Spanish will be considered.

f) One area for future work is elaborating best practices for coordination with other organizations that provide data for business registers, such as Central Banks."

Ex Report on the thirty-six plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (ECE/CES/89):

c) "1. Action taken by the Conference

d) 50. The Conference endorsed the Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers, and thanked all countries and organizations that contributed to the development of the Guidelines.

e) 51. The Conference encouraged the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Expert Group on Business Registers to address the proposed topics for future work.

f) 52. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the United Nations Statistics Division to seek endorsement of the Guidelines at the global level by the United Nations Statistical Commission."

Content and structure of the follow-up questionnaire (1)

➢ **Question 1: Promotion of the guidelines in your office**
(Actions that have been set in order to promote the guidelines within your statistical office)

➢ **Question 2: Implementation of the guidelines**
(Actions that were set in your register system and/or concepts that were originating from or based on the guidelines)

Content and structure of the follow-up questionnaire (2)

➢ **Question 3:** **Future work and research topics**
(Work done recently or planed on the specific topics of future work and research)

    a) Statistical Units and Profiling

    b) Statistical Business Registers as Backbone
       of Economic Statistics

    c) Use of Administrative Data Sources

    d) Use of New Data Sources

    e) International Trade and Economic Globalization

    f) Development of New Statistics

    g) Methodological Developments

    h) International Comparability

➢ **Question 4:** **Other comments and proposals**

Country responses

Responses from 32 countries and Eurostat:

➢ **Asia:** Armenia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Russia

➢ **Africa:** Egypt

➢ **America:** Canada, Mexico, USA

➢ **Europa:** Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine

➢ **Oceania:** Australia

Question 1: Promotion of the guidelines in statistical offices

- ➢ Distribution of hard/electronic copies of the guidelines to SBR staff
- ➢ Basis for discussions on specific issues within SBR unit, such as quality assessment, SBR coverage, statistical units, etc.; but also with business statisticians
- ➢ Study and discussions of specific chapters, such as roles of SBR, units, maintenance
- ➢ Help for IT experts to better understand the rationale behind SBR concepts
- ➢ Use in training courses and for new staff
- ➢ Use in technical assistance provided to other countries
- ➢ Translation into
  - Chinese
  - Japanese
  - Spanish

Question 2: Implementation of the guidelines

➢ Reference basis for conceptual discussions

➢ Used as reference of SBR redesign processes

➢ Used in reviewing of the compliance of national definitions/ concepts with the international definitions/concepts

➢ Guidelines are itself mainly not an originator of implementation processes but are of help in case actions are considered/planned

➢ Nevertheless, in a few countries concrete actions were already based on the guidelines, such as broadening the coverage of the SBR, continuity rules, etc.

➢ Furthermore, the guidelines were of help in various conceptual issues and practices, such as statistical identifiers, snapshots and frame methodology, maintenance concepts and procedures, quality indicators, access to administrative data

Question 3: Future work and research topics

a) **Statistical Units and Profiling**

  ➢ Nearly all countries reported current or planed activities

  ➢ Main focus

    – Profiling of large and complex enterprises

    – Delineation and implementation of enterprises groups and enterprises

    – Integrating of not yet maintained statistical units in the SBR

  ➢ Further issues dealt:

    – Identification of firms involved in specific forms of international transactions (i.e. factory-less goods producers)

    – Coding of units (activity, institutional sector)

b) **Statistical Business Registers as Backbone of Economic Statistics**

➢ Data Warehouse approaches under construction or realised; GSBPM and GSIM

➢ Improving and/or enlarging of the SBR for integration of non-survey data, standardisations to facilitate microdata linkage

➢ Extending the use of the SBR to further domains of business statistics

➢ Adapting or enlarging SBR concepts and databases to improve/facilitate the backbone role (such as demographic events, bi-temporal)

➢ Implementation of survey frame concepts and procedures

c)   Use of Administrative Data Sources

➢   Agreements with providers of administrative data

➢   Exploring and use of new administrative data sources

➢   Increased use of administrative data

➢   Central role of SBR in cooperation with administrative data owners

➢   Data from Central Banks

➢   Centralisation of data reception system with extensive utilisation of metadata in validation procedures

➢   Data quality issues/indicators

d) Use of New Data Sources

➢ Shared electronic data collection

➢ Webbased data collection

➢ Studies on Big Data for SBR

e) International Trade and Economic Globalisation

> ➢ Data linking exercises in many countries, mainly with foreign trade "trade by enterprise characteristics"; also linking with other domains

> ➢ Use of the EuroGroups Register

f)   Development of New Statistics

➢   Introducing/improving geocoding of the locations where an economic activity exits

➢   Compilation of business demography statistics based on SBR already in many countries; others start with these activities (including regional, sub-annual, high-growth); other register based business statstics

➢   Linkage of SBR with other registers

g) Methodological Developments

➢ Current or planned reengineering projects

➢ Methodical developments in various areas, such as matching methodology, data validation, delineation of statistical units and integrating into SBR database, profiling, coding methods, quality indicators, integration of new data sources and data validation, historisation of units, etc.)

Question 3: Future work and research topics

h) International Comparability

➢ International comparability will be increased by implementing the enterprise unit

➢ Use of EGR in general and for FATS specifically

➢ Switch to harmonised international classifications

➢ Integration of the LEI for the legal unit identification

Question 4 : Other comments and proposals

- ➢ Guidelines are a useful reference tool and its usage will be promoted

- ➢ More guidance requested on
    - Statistical units
    - Software and information technology

- ➢ More practical cases and guidance in various areas

- ➢ Expectation that the Guidelines will be updated on a regular basis

- ➢ Organisation of seminars, workshops, training courses and technical assistance

Resume/ Conclusiones

➢ Questionnaire based on the discussions at the joint Eurostat/ OECD/UNECE Expert Group Meeting on Business Registers, September 2015

➢ In general , quite positive assessment and already extensive use considering the short period since the guidelines are available

➢ Value added of the guidelines varies over the countries

➢ Countries are very active in re-engineering/enlarging/improving their SBR

Proposals for the way forward

➢ Follow-up of the use of the questionnaire on the basis of the annual country progress reports

➢ Language versions of the guidelines: official Russian version already available;

➢ Topics of future work and research that might be followed-up in the forthcoming joint Expert Group Meeting(s):

- Statistical Units
- Backbone role of the SBR
- Development of new statistics by linking with international trade and/or other data sources
- SBR re-engineering

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Thank you for your attention!