

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

Country progress report 2015 and future plans

Country:

Palestine

Reporter:

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Institution:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

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

1. Name of the register

Statistical Business Register (SBR)

2. Name of the organisation responsible for holding the register

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

3. Position of the register unit in the organisation

Central Registrations Department

4. Number of employees in the register unit (Headcount employees)

Two Employees plus the director of the department

5. Primary goal and use of the register

Sampling Frame and Quality Control of Administrative Business Register (Macro Level)

6. Year of establishment of the register

1994 - since that time, the SBR depend on Establishments Census (every 5 years) - last one was in 2012

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

2015 - Under process -PCBS started to lead SBR project to start depend on the Municipalities and Government BR as the main sources of the SBR instead of conducting the establishments census (EC) every 5 years. The next EC will be conducted in 2017, between 2015-2017 will be a pilot to use the available BR in the municipalities to update the EC 2012, and to start using officially the BR's in the government and Municipalities after 2017 to do an annual update for the SBR.

8. Number of active enterprises* in the register at the end of 2015

*If it is difficult to use Enterprises, you can use Legal units instead.

Enterprises: Around 126,000 Enterprises -updated frame depending on the EC 2012

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

Matching

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Improve the matching process
Using Fuzzy Lockup and DUKE (java) as tools for matching
Set a cleaning and matching specification and build the DUKE program

2. Short title of work which was done

lessons learned from matching

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Holding a workshop on data exchange and integration and standardized with stakeholders
The importance of Unifying concepts, classifications and minimum variables
The importance of building Unique ID of common establishment registered among the various sources of registration where the ID is a very important tool for linking administrative records for enterprises data between different sources.
The importance of consensus on the exchange of data between official institutions

3. Short title of work which was done

Pilot proposal 2016

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The experience of listing the establishments and buildings in Ramallah municipality boundaries in corporation with the Municipality of Ramallah and the commercial Chambers of Ramallah and Al-Bireh in order to identify the nature of the data that has been registered with the agencies and their importance in providing the main elements to build a business register, these elements are "providing standardized ID number, minimum required variables for the business register, the exchange interface between agencies and linking these data with the establishment census.

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

Conducting the pilot of Ramallah

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The objective of the pilot simulation how to use the next census
Signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with stakeholders (Ramallah Municipality, Ramallah Chamber of Commerce and PCBS)
Training the field workers
collect data from field work
matching data and extracting results

2. Short title of work planned

Determine the minimum of variables, concepts and ID and approved by the cabinet

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Document developed by stakeholder and approved by the cabinet about the minimum variables and concepts and circulated to partners

3. Short title of work planned

Preparing for Establishments Census (EC) 2017

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

- Conducting EC in 2017.
- Developing tool to match between the BR and EC data
- improving the SBR strategy after the matching
- annual updates

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

Unifying concepts between the partners

Description of the challenge

Since there is no consistency between partners it is a big challenge to unify these concepts to use them in matching (Record Linkage) and update the registers.

2. Main challenge 2

Improving the current ID and apply it on the old and new establishments

Description of the challenge

In Palestine, there is an ID for companies and establishments from 3 resources (Individuals from Ministry of Interior. Companies from Ministry of Economy. And NGO's from Ministry of Finance. The plan is to join these IDs in one system to be unique for each establishment/legal unit.

3. Main challenge 3

Coverage

Description of the challenge

The informal sector in Palestine covers more than half of establishments, so the updating for the rest of establishments is missing. We plan to use a modeling technique to estimate the characteristics and nature of its trends.