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Role of Business Registers

The new role of the Business Register within the Integrated System of Registers

Abstract

The current Italian modernization programme is based both on a strong and structured governance and on production lines modelled on registers, where the BR will have an enhanced central role.

The Integrated System of Registers (SIR) is a core element of the project of modernization. After a comprehensive description of the system, the paper provides a detailed overview of its main components – the Base Statistical Registers (RSB), the Extended Statistical Registers (RSE) and the Thematic Statistical Registers (RST) – also outlining the relations that exist among these in the general pattern of the SIR, whose schematic diagram is based on a unit-variable matrix.

In order to ensure a coherent integration among objects and properties coming from multiple input sources, specific criteria, proper methodologies and suitable processes will be detected. They are summed up within the SIR Integration Systems, which stands out in detail in a conceptual, physical and statistical integration.

For its conceptual representation an introduction to the "ontology-based data management" approach will be provided, illustrating the main ideas and techniques for using an ontology to access the data layer of an information system and to represent the information in the registers. The physical integration delineates the operating, deterministic and probabilistic procedures for the unit identification. Starting from the data collection (microdata collected through surveys or administrative sources), it takes the form of a linkage operation having the goal of identifying the presence of the same elementary unit (a natural person, a legal person, a place, a relation) in various sources. The statistical integration identifies all the criteria, methodologies and processes to derive units, populations and statistical variables from the objects and the properties of the input sources.

In order to represent all the functional relations, the ones within the SIR and those with the outside components, two separated diagrams will be presented, to show the circular information flow within the system.

The SIR will be built incrementally starting from what is already operational in the current situation. However, some problems have to be faced, also from a theoretical point of view. The absolute priority is given to the problem of data security, although it will be important as well to develop methods for integrating surveys and administrative sources and to manage temporal aspects.