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Role of Business Registers

New functionalities of SBR – a central backbone on the horizon

Abstract

Slovenia decided for register-based statistics in the 1970s following predominantly the Nordic model of setting up and keeping registers. Because of the needs for informatised and centrally kept data, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS) has set up three base administrative registers: the register of territory, the population register and the business register. Due to growing needs for setting up and keeping statistical registers for various observation units, after 1995 SURS transferred the mentioned three registers to other authorised national administrative institutions and started developing EU harmonised statistical registers that enable high-quality and comparable dissemination of data on various observation units.

One of the statistical registers set up by SURS in 2004 was the Statistical Business Register (SBR) as a combination of administrative and statistical sources which was used in a limited set of statistical domains.

During the years it was proved that the needs for the SBR increased from year to year. The users needed more up-to-date information for the business population, more reliable information on the main activity code, complete coverage of local units, timely monitoring of demographic events and insolvency proceedings, following the continuity of units, etc. Those needs were the main reasons for major reengineering of the SBR in the 2011–2016 period.

The paper will focus on the <u>main new</u> functionalities (sources and methodology) set up during the reengineering of the SBR and their main impact on statistical production:

1. **Central management of demographic** (i.e. mergers, takeovers) **and insolvency** (i.e. bankruptcies, liquidations) **events**.

   These events are the basis for following the continuity of units that was enabled by the introduction of a new statistical identifier (SIR) in the SBR. Data on demographic and insolvency events assist statisticians in implementing and processing the statistical data more efficiently. With this functionality also the Business Demography project got quite some benefit since automatic elimination of units that are not real births and deaths increased and manual work was reduced.

2. **Central management of statistical main activity code** that is different from the administrative one for statistically important units.

    This functionality in particular contributes to greater treatment of units by a special NACE group of statistical experts that accept decisions based on special methodology using all available public and statistical data. At the same time it maximizes the awareness among statisticians of using the results from the central system of the SBR. Statistical activity codes enable statisticians to present information more realistically and coherently and in some domains the impact on their results is quite significant.

3. **Central management of so-called fictive LKAUs.**

    Those units are not registered in the Administrative Business Register (ABR) but are important for the statistical purpose.

    With this functionality we found the way how to effectively overcome the disadvantage of the ABR, which still does not cover all LKAUs necessary for the statistical purpose, and provide central treatment of missing units.

4. **Master sample frame – improved approach.**

    Based on the three above-mentioned functionalities, the new SBR simplifies the construction of the annual master sample frame. Now it could be better prepared since it uses the pre-prepared central registration of all units relevant for statistics from the SBR (better coverage) and with better stratification variables (i.e. employment, NACE code, turnover). This new master sample frame is used for business and partially for social surveys and in the future plans national accounts are waiting in the queue, too.

All mentioned new functionalities reduced the setting up of different kinds of statistical solutions on purpose in some statistical domains and strengthened the central role of the SBR.

With new functionalities, the SBR indirectly contributes to central treatment and use of units in all statistical domains and consequently increases the coherence of statistics.

All these new functionalities strengthened the infrastructural role of the SBR, and improved the consistency and quality of data. At the end the SBR started to became a backbone not only for business statistics but also for other statistical domains (i.e. national accounts, social statistics). We actually got a new central backbone on the horizon.