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"Business Demography and Data Products from the Business Registers"

The *"Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME)-attribute"* in the business register of the Austrian central bank (Oesterreichische Nationalbank) – objectives and challenges of implementation

Abstract

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone not only of the Austrian but also of the wider European economy and - as important sources of employment and innovation – the focus of specific economic policy measures. In financial regulation, they are treated in a different way from big companies.

That is why the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), the central bank of Austria and member of the Eurosystem, has been implementing the so-called SME-attribute in its master data management system "OBServ"(OeNB-Basisstammdatenservice) and taken the definition of SMEs provided by the European Commission (Recommendation 2003/361/EC) as the basis for this implementation.

The paper to be presented in this session would contain the following elements:

- An explanation about possible SME-definitions and why the SME-definition of the European Commission was chosen;

- The basic structure of OeNB's master data management system (different data sources which are prioritized to arrive at an overall view);

- An explanation of the elaborate SME definition (the criteria used for the determination of an SME taking into account associated/controlled enterprises) and how this definition way translated into an algorithm to calculate the different values ("very small", "small", "medium", " no SME", "excluded");

- The challenges resulting in particular from partially missing or old data (both concerning quantitative data and relationship data) and how these challenges have been addressed.

Finally, some conclusions will be drawn.