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Workshop on Business Registers and their Role in
Business Statistics in the Eastern UNECE region

Luxembourg, 5 October 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORKSHOP

To be held at Jean Monnet Building, Rue Alcide de Gasperi, Luxembourg
starting at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 5 October 2009 in Meeting Room M2

The Workshop is being organized as part of the UNECE Technical Cooperation Programme with an aim to improve statistical business registers of national statistical offices in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It is organized in cooperation with Eurostat.

MORNING MEETING: 9.30 – 12.30

Introductory session

- (a) Findings from the 2008 Business Register Survey in the CIS and SEE countries (V. Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE);
A brief presentation summarizing results of the last BR Survey, indicating progress observed and pending issues.
- (b) The EC Business Register Regulation – a brief introduction (C. Schroeter, Eurostat);
An overview of the EC business register regulation and follow-up regulations on its implementation.
- (c) Business Register manual, (Z. Volfinger, Eurostat)

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Presentation and use of the BR manual, version 2009: changes, additions and some practical tips.

Roundtable 1: Legal basis for the statistical BR in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (V. Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE)

This roundtable is based on brief country presentations regarding the legal framework for their statistical business register; it aims to examine framework's provisions for exchanging and sharing BR information with the third parties, and its consistency with the fundamental principles of official statistics. The roundtable is also expected to identify/discuss some possible lessons to be learned from the EC business register regulation.

AFTERNOON MEETING: 14.15 – 17.30

Roundtable 2: Issues of linking units in administrative sources with those in statistical BR (N. Rainer, Austria)

This roundtable addresses several aspects of the use of administrative sources for statistical business registers. It will examine issues related to the correct identification of economic activity and institutional sector of statistical units: importance of the two classifications, differences in methods, concepts and rules of coding, relation between activity and sector classification; other problematic aspects and country practices will be discussed.

Roundtable 3: Country experiences in identifying enterprise groups and incorporating them into statistical BR (J. Perry, UK)

This roundtable examines possibilities for extending the existing statistical business registers that hold legal units. The issues to be considered are the sources, and the quality of those sources, for identifying the global enterprise group and the members of the group within the statistical business register, the technical issues in maintaining the information, data sharing issues, and how the information would be used in the statistical survey system. The discussion will use as its basis the responses on experience in identifying enterprise groups in the Country reports prepared for the workshop.

Closing session

- (a) The EuroGroups Register – a step forward in improving quality of information on businesses in the statistical BRs (C. Macchi, Eurostat)
Presentation of the EGR project, state of the arts, future work
- (b) Conclusions and feedback from participants.

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