

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/SEM.37/11 (Summary)
12 December 1997

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint UNECE/Eurostat seminar on business registers
(Geneva, 19-20 February 1998)

**The business register, updating of the register
and use of the results of sample surveys in the
process of updating**

**Summary of the paper submitted by the State Committee
for Statistics of the Azerbaijani Republic**

1. The need to establish a register of all entities engaged in economic activities arose in Azerbaijan as of 1992. The existing analogue for the register and statistical classifications failed to reflect the changes taking place in the country's economy. Major changes had also taken place in the legislation, with the adoption of laws regulating economic activities, the procedure for State (legal) registration of economic entities, etc.

2. The main obstacle was the lack of the classifications needed to meet the coding requirements of the register; the task of developing such classifications was entrusted to a section of the State Committee for Statistics, and the exercise was completed by early 1996. The structure of the business register and the procedure for gathering information were defined at the same time. A census of all legal entities was conducted for that purpose. Use was also made of information from other administrations to identify the legal entities. The register now contains details of 75,000 units and it is being expanded to take account of new businesses and formerly "dormant" units, as well as the division of large enterprises. Use of an identification code for economic entities has been compulsory for all administrations since 1 June 1996. The identification code is assigned to the unit from the time of "birth" and is retained until its "death". The business register, covering all economic entities in the country, is maintained centrally at the main office. All changes are made to the Central Register in the process of updating, regardless of the source of the change to be made, and these changes are only afterwards reflected in other registers.

3. State administrative bodies using the register have access to it as appropriate for their functions. Use of a single identification code has considerably facilitated information interchange between the country's administrative departments.
4. Maintenance of the register calls for it to be updated once a year by means of a full survey of the statistical units by the regional statistical services.
5. Under the TACIS programme, several pilot sample surveys were conducted in September 1996 and a further annual updating of the register was completed before operations began.
6. An inquiry among selected enterprises revealed that the activities performed by some of them did not match the activity code under which they were classified for sampling purposes. The main reason for such errors is that new businesses not having a clear idea as to the activity in which they will be engaged state the wrong activity when they are listed in the register.
7. The results of the pilot sample surveys show that the register of accounting units maintained by the State Committee for Statistics of the Azerbaijani Republic contains about 10 per cent of units with activity codes that do not correspond to their actual activities.
