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on Business Registers  
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**LINKS BETWEEN STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER  
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES**

Note by Statistics Poland\*

1. In the Central Statistical Office of Poland there are conducted some projects concerning the use of public administration information systems as administrative data sources for statistical needs. Integration of systems mentioned above expressed by the application of settled standards is essential as far as the use of administrative data in public administration system is concerned. These standards are related to the used technology, definitions and classifications.

2. More complete use of administrative data in statistics is possible under the condition that identity numbers of the official national business register named REGON and of the national territorial register named TERYT, as well as of the population register named PESEL - are widely used in public administration information systems. According to the law on the official statistics, carrying out of the both REGON and TERYT registers is the Central Statistical Office responsibility. The CSO units as the base for planning and organisation of many statistical surveys use both a/m registers. The PESEL population register is carried out under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Administration.

3. In the REGON official national business register, being established as the administrative register, there are registered business entities as well as administrative bodies, professional and social

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organisations, and other units being not business legal bodies. For each REGON entity the following data are registered:

- 1) REGON identity number of 9 digits - for legal bodies or natural person businesses,
- 2) REGON identity number of 9 + 5 digits - for their local units,
- 3) name of the entity and its address; in case of natural persons conducting business activity, it is necessary to register additionally the natural person surname and name and its identity number of the PESEL population register, as well as its place of residence,
- 4) entity legal form and property form,
- 5) kind of the activities conducted by the entity, among which type of dominating activity is indicated,
- 6) date of establishment of the entity, date of the beginning of activity, its cessation and closing,
- 7) name of the administrative body, by which entity activity has been registered (if it is required) and registration number granted by this body,
- 8) number of employees,
- 9) information concerning number of local units being possessed by the business legal body,
- 10) in case of agricultural farms – total area and an area of arable land.

4. Appropriate legal regulations request that business entities intending to undertake a business activity need to apply for the REGON registration with enclosed registration documents (according to point 7). Also, in any case of change of the data in the REGON registration – a business entity is obliged to submit updating documents to the REGON register. However, in practise lack of the severe law penalties results in neglecting by business entities of the last mentioned actions in the considerable number of cases. Following such cases, updating of the REGON register decreases and at the same time an validity of the sampling frames and samples created on this base for economic statistical survey drops too.

5. In order to minimise a scale of problems mentioned above, since several years various measures have been undertaken by the regional statistical offices for updating of the sampling frame, using available administrative data sources, especially data of the regional tax offices for finding cases of suspension or closing of the business activities. Also, since 1997 bank borrower register is operating. If a company wants to obtain credit, then it must have same identity data in the borrower application and in the REGON register. Such solution is enforcing some companies that would like to get credits to update information in the REGON register. However, the mentioned activities improved a sampling frame only to a small extend.

6. In 2000 new approach has been introduced, on the basis of the official national business register REGON – Statistical Business Register is being created. It will be updated by the CSO at the national level using survey results and the selected administrative registers. The most useful administrative source seems to be national file of the tax-payers (named KEP) carried out by the Ministry of Finance. It contains detailed information concerning business entities as well as from their tax-payer registration documents, as from their monthly and yearly tax declarations and from their suspension or closing activity documents. Taking into account that updating by the companies of such tax-payer file is enforced by the tax consequences, CSO expects to increase the level of the actuality of the Statistical Business Register as the sampling frame.

7. The first trial to apply KEP file for updating of the 5% sample for business structural survey of small enterprises (named SP-3), having up to 9 employees, which number according to the REGON register is estimated approximately 2.300.000 business entities, was carried out by the CSO in 2001. The aim was to verify the address of enterprises and to exclude inactive ones from the sample and to increase the completeness of responses.

8. For this purpose the REGON identity numbers of 114.183 sampled enterprises for the mentioned above survey has been transferred to Ministry of Finance, to be used for an automatic selection of taxpayers having such identifier within the KEP file, updated on December 2000. As a result, a file was received from the KEP with the combined number of 71.784 enterprises together with their actual addresses, which are currently taxpayers.

9. There were also some cases of the wrong REGON identity numbers within the KEP file (it was caused by lack of use of checking formula for REGON identity numbers within taxpayer system).

10. The analysis of the received combination of the REGON based enterprise sample file and the KEP taxpayer file proved an existence of the essential differences in their address data structure (length of address area and its division into standard parts). Actual enterprise address data of the KEP file could be used by the regional statistical offices directly for distribution of statistical questionnaires, but it was impossible to use them for the automatic updating of the enterprise address data in the Statistical Business Register. Optical comparison of the addresses by the statisticians within received combination of the REGON based enterprise sample file and the KEP taxpayer file gave only 515 factual differences in the enterprise addresses.

11. Next step was to identify by the regional statistical offices the business entities, which are really not performing economic activity. It was confirmed for 7.346 enterprises out of 42.399, which have not been found in the KEP file. Status of the remaining approx. 35.000 enterprises (which activity may be probably transferred into the unknown address or closed some months or even some years ago) will be checked after carrying out of the SP-3 survey, to which they were included.

12. Experience collected from the combination of the REGON based enterprise sample file and the KEP taxpayer file will be used for future improvements:

- to use also archive KEP file with the enterprises, which closed or suspended their activity for the combination with the REGON based enterprise sample file, to clarify the status of enterprises like as 35.000 above,

- to propose to Ministry of Finance to use checking formula to avoid the wrong REGON identity numbers for the tax-payers within KEP file,
- to propose co-operation between CSO and Ministry of Finance to apply taxpayer address structure compliant with the TERYT register as it is applied in the REGON register.

13. Implementation of the above mentioned improvements will increase in the next years the effectiveness of updating of the Statistical Business Register by using the taxpayer KEP file.

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