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### Economic Commission for Europe

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#### Group of Experts on Business Registers

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**Defining statistical units in statistical business registers**

### **Using administrative sources to maintain the ROSSTAT Statistical Register**

**Submitted by the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian  
Federation**

#### *Summary*

Obtaining information from administrative sources is a core activity of the ROSSTAT Statistical Register. Since 2004 the tax authorities, implementing the concept of “single-window” registration, have been providing data for listing entities in the Statistical Register. Since 2008 a list of taxpayers who have not paid taxes has also been provided; this is used in ascertaining entities’ level of activity. In 2011 there has been continuous statistical monitoring of the activities of small and medium-sized firms. The use of unique identifiers in various government databases and the use of Web-based technology are significant factors for effective inter-agency cooperation.

Preparation of a guide is included in the Conference’s programme of work for 2011 (ECE/EX/2011/L.4).

1. Obtaining information from administrative sources is a core activity of the Statistical Register of the Federal State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT).
2. The Register is based on data from government registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs.
3. Since 1 January 2004 data on government registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs have been provided by the tax authorities from the Unified Register of Legal Entities and the Unified Register of Individual Entrepreneurs. This procedure is provided for in the legislation to implement “single-window” government registration.
4. The term “single window” denotes an approach to Government registration of economic entities. When an entity’s constituent documents are filed with the State registration authorities, they are then sent electronically to other departments for inclusion of the entity in the tax and statistical registers and registration with the State extrabudgetary funds. These procedures are performed rapidly and without the entity’s direct involvement.
5. Transmittal to the public statistical authorities of information on the State registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs is required by current legislation, notably the Government decisions implementing Federal Law No. 129-FZ of 8 August 2001 on State registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs.
6. This facilitates both organization of the statistical recording of economic entities and the creation of a comprehensive itemized database for statistical monitoring in the framework of the Statistical Register.
7. The registration authorities transmit information about any registrations (or re-registrations) of firms (and individual entrepreneurs) to the State statistical authorities electronically in a precisely defined format through the communications channels and at regular intervals.
8. Information from the registration authorities about any changes in company information is reflected in the register.
9. Since 2008 the Federal Tax Service has provided ROSSTAT with lists of taxpayers who have paid no taxes for a given year. This information helps to ascertain which of the businesses listed in the Statistical Register are economically active.
10. Information about taxpayers is particularly important for identifying small firms.

The task of establishing small-firm status under Russian law is not assigned to a specific authority. In addition, this category of economic entities is being monitored on a sample basis and has less impact in the context of accounting and statistical reporting. Therefore, the State statistical authorities do not have full information on the extent of small-firm activity.
11. In accordance with a Government order, continuous statistical monitoring of the activities of small and medium-sized firms is being carried out in 2011.
12. Thus, ROSSTAT has received from the Federal Tax Service a list of the taxpayers that have paid any taxes during the year. This has made it possible to assemble information for the Register to permit continuous monitoring with an acceptable level of reliability and timeliness.
13. In the future, information on taxpayers who have paid taxes will be provided by the tax authorities on a yearly basis.
14. However, cooperation with the tax authorities could be improved. To date, ROSSTAT has not been able to reach agreement with the Federal Tax Service regarding the

provision of economic indicators included in tax returns, such as the number of employees of a company, its volume of activities, and the application of various tax regimes.

15. In addition to cooperating with the Federal Tax Service, ROSSTAT works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, the Federal Agency for Federal Property Management, the Federal Tariffs Service and others.

16. In an example of fruitful inter-agency cooperation, ROSSTAT receives information from other ministries and agencies about licenses issued to organizations to conduct various activities. This information is used to improve data about the entities in the Register and to develop statistical information about license holders.

17. Effective coordination of the Statistical Register with the resources of other government agencies enables timely updating of the Register.

18. Another benefit of this inter-agency interaction is that it makes it possible to fine-tune the information about entities that is contained in the databases of various Government agencies.

19. A key factor here is that each economic entity about which data are contained in various public databases has a unique identification number. This is required by legislation on the application of national standards and classification systems to Government information systems and resources.

20. Regular reconciliation of the data in the ROSSTAT Statistical Register with the information resources of other ministries and agencies improves the reliability and credibility of the information.

21. For each type of information obtained from administrative sources, ROSSTAT, jointly with other agencies, adopts protocols establishing the data format, the order of reception and transmission, and other aspects of information exchange. These protocols can take the form of orders, instructions or bilateral agreements issued jointly with the Federal Tax Service, the Federal Agency for Federal Property Management, or ministries licensing various types of activities.

22. The use of Web-based technology also facilitates inter-agency cooperation. Since ministries' and agencies' registers are now available on the Internet, public statistical authorities are able to use the information they contain by accessing the site of the relevant agency.

23. For example, to update the Statistical Register the following are used: the register of scientific organizations of the Ministry of Education and Science; the register of insurance companies of the Federal Insurance Oversight Service; the register of natural monopolies of the Federal Tariffs Service; and the register of organizations with a license to purchase, store and purvey alcohol products maintained by the Federal Service for Alcohol Market Regulation.

