



Meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers

Organised jointly by UNECE, Eurostat and OECD

30 September – 2 October 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The Group of Experts on Business Registers invites authors and attendees to submit papers and presentations for its meeting on 30 September – 2 October 2019 in Geneva. The meeting will discuss the following topics for which contributions are invited:

- The role of the statistical business register in the modernisation and integration of statistical production
- Use of administrative data sources for statistical business registers
- Use of big data and other new data sources for statistical business registers
- Web portals for business respondents
- Different uses of statistical business registers
- Statistical business registers and globalisation
- Production of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics by use of the statistical business register

Examples and suggestions of issues that could be addressed under each of the topics are provided in the following pages.

The topics will be discussed both in plenary sessions and in poster sessions. Contributions are therefore invited in the form of either

- papers and/or presentation slides to be presented in plenary sessions; or
- posters to be presented in the poster session of the meeting.

Plenary sessions

The plenary sessions are led by session chairs and usually include 4-6 consecutive presentations on the topic of the session. For the plenary sessions 15 minutes will be allocated to each presentation, followed by questions and answers.

Poster session

The poster session will last one hour during which all posters are presented in parallel. The presentations are shown on poster stands of 1,5 m x 2,0 m. The poster can be a sequence of A4 or A3 pages (from word document or presentation slides) or it can be made on one large size poster. The participants, depending on their interest, can circulate between the different poster presentations and raise questions and discuss with the presenters.

Abstracts

Authors who would like to submit a paper or a presentation to the meeting should send a brief abstract (200-300 words) via email to economic.stats@un.org by **30 April 2019**, and indicate any preference for having the presentation in a plenary session or in a poster session. Based on the received abstracts the organisers of the meeting will select contributions for presentation.

Submission of papers and presentations

Papers and presentations of accepted abstracts should be send to economic.stats@un.org by **30 August 2019**. Papers may be submitted in any of the official UNECE languages (English, French and Russian). However, only papers received by 30 July 2019 will be translated into the other official languages. Poster presentations should be submitted by email or brought by the presenter to the meeting.

Examples of issues that could be addressed in papers and presentations

The role of the SBR in the modernisation and integration of statistical production

As a backbone for the production of economic statistics the SBR is crucial for the modernisation of the statistical production: for coordination and integration of data from different data sources, for the development of efficient statistical production processes and ensuring coherence across statistical outputs. Issues that could be addressed under this topic would include experiences from countries on the development of integrated production of statistics, including challenges with using the SBR for analysis and integration of data from different sources; the development of business architecture to improve production efficiency and coherence of statistical products; examples of quality management frameworks; micro data sharing within and between statistical offices; sharing of good practices on linking of micro data; technical and statistical standardisation for SBRs; impact of budget reductions and organisational changes on the quality of SBRs; optimisation of resource allocation; cost/benefit analyses; integration of SBR into data warehouse systems; and sharing of experiences in implementation of the Generic Statistical Business Model (GSBPM) and the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) for SBR database management.

Use of administrative data sources for statistical business registers

Administrative registers give access to sources with good coverage and detailed information that can be used directly in the SBR or in validation of SBR information, improve efficiency in the statistical production and reduce response burden. The challenges in using administrative data include issues with coverage and definitions, which may not be in line with the statistical requirements, timeliness and in some instances confidentiality. In some countries lack of access to administrative sources is also an obstacle. Papers and presentations that share experience on the following issues are invited: Sharing of best practices in cooperation with administrative registers to improve the quality of the SBR and of the administrative sources; how to establish good cooperation with the owners of administrative data; how to ensure sustainable and cost-efficient solutions and that the NSO is kept informed of, and exercise influence on, future changes in administrative registers. How to derive statistical units on basis of administrative/legal units. Examples of how information may be linked across registers, how to deal with conflicting information and how to assess the quality of administrative data for statistical purposes.

Sharing of best practices in cooperation with e.g. central banks and other external (governmental) organisations to ensure correct sector coding of the statistical units; metadata management; legal and confidentiality issues; and development of register-based economic censuses.

Use of big data and other new data sources for statistical business registers

While there are still only few practical experience of using big data for the SBR, big data in the future may reveal opportunities for developing additional sources for the SBR. Big data sets are often owned by private businesses such as mobile telephone operators or internet providers. Obtaining access may be a challenge. Structuring and editing the data might also require substantial investment but be worthwhile if accompanied by significant benefits in terms of quality, coverage and timeliness. This topic aims to share possible experiences or plans in countries of using big data and other new electronic data sources, such as web pages, telecommunication data, satellite images, smart meters and social media data. Issues to discuss would include e.g. experiences in countries on the use of new data sources to replace or supplement existing data sources; methods and technologies to utilise new electronic data sources (e.g. web-scraping); coverage of big data and other new electronic data sources; and use of big data and other electronic data to validate information from other data sources, in helping to create enterprise groups or to derive new statistical products.

Web portals for business respondents

Some countries have established websites or web portals where respondents can report their data online to the statistical office. Such portals for electronic reporting should make it easier for respondents to report and, at the same time, offers opportunities to statistical offices in terms of improving the quality and the timelines of reported data. Papers and presentations on this topic would share experiences on using web portals for reporting of data to the SBR, including e.g. the design and the functionalities of web portals; which are the possibilities of data checking and validation; how to get the data from the portal to the SBR; and costs and benefits of web portals.

Different uses of statistical business registers

The Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers (UNECE 2015) distinguishes eight different roles of the SBR, including the integration of data from different sources, the provision of sample frames for survey based statistics and survey support (monitoring survey response and response burden), as a source of producing statistics directly from the SBR and as a source of information about enterprises and other units and their locations and other characteristics. The topic aims to collect experiences of good practices in performing the different roles of the SBR. For instance, what outputs are produced from the SBR and how are these disseminated; experiences in modifying (anonymizing) micro data to be used for analytical and research purposes; what is the role of these outputs from SBR in the statistical system; how do SBR publications fit into the dissemination strategy of the statistical office; development of user oriented maintenance strategies of the SBR and balancing the demands of different user groups when developing the SBR; and communication with users of the SBR and how to meet growing and changing user demands. Submissions by users of the SBR are also welcomed for this topic.

The statistical business register and globalisation

Economic globalisation is a main challenge for SBRs and for economic statistics in general. It influences the activities to be measured and data collection becomes more complex and difficult. Economic globalisation is accompanied by the development of global production arrangements and increasingly complex enterprise group structures, where the challenge of the SBR is to collect and provide coherent and relevant information in a continuously changing world. Statistical offices need to consider this when developing methods and practices, while national differences in terms of legislation, institutional set-up and structural diversities put limits on obtaining international comparability. Papers and presentation for this topic may discuss issues such as: The requirements for the SBR to deal with economic globalisation; are the current units adequate for measuring still more global production arrangements? linkages of enterprises across borders and classification of MNEs and their foreign affiliates; the recording of MNE groups in SBRs; profiling of multinational enterprise groups; alignment with the

international statistical standards regarding, for example, the National accounts and the Balance of Payments; introducing new variables on globalization (e.g. the nationality of the enterprise/enterprise group); the development of a supra-national SBR to deal with multinational enterprise groups (based on experience with the EuroGroup Register); progress of work on the Global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) System; and linking the SBR with trade or foreign direct investment data and the international sourcing of business functions.

Production of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics by use of the statistical business register

Business demography and entrepreneurship statistics can be produced directly from the SBR or by combining information from the SBR with information from other sources, e.g. administrative registers, survey data or other statistical registers. Key to this type of work are the availability of suitable identifiers across data sources and suitable longitudinal information. Presentations of interest for this topic would include: Practical experiences on producing business demography based on the SBR; how can current practices be extended to integrate dimensions such as ownership or age? Methods to create a longitudinal database of the units in the SBR for business demography purposes; practical approaches to identify the characteristics and the demographic changes of statistical units. Linking methods in the absence of a common identifier; what is required from the SBR to produce high quality business demography statistics? How to develop a longitudinal version of the SBR that can be used for producing business demography? Analysis of the effects of using different statistical units in business demography; the use of common data repositories, such as data lakes/warehouses, technology and software issues; and examples of producing entrepreneurship statistics by combining information from the SBR with social and/or population data.