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

Summary of the note submitted by Statistics Poland\*

1. Central Statistical Office of Poland carried out projects on the use of public administration information systems as administrative data sources for statistical needs. Integration of these systems, applying agreed standards related to technology, definitions and classifications is essential for the use of administrative data. More complete use of administrative data in statistics is possible under the condition that identity numbers of the official business register (REGON), national territorial register (TERYT), and population register (PESEL) are widely used in public administration information system.
2. Appropriate legal regulations request that business entities intending to undertake a business activity need to apply for the REGON registration with registration card. They have the same responsibility in any case of change of the data in the REGON registration. However, in practise lack of the severe law penalty results in large number of non-compliance by business entities. Therefore, updating of the REGON register decreases and at the same time quality of sampling frames and samples for economic statistic surveys drops too.
3. In order to minimise scale of the problem, various measures have been undertaken by the regional statistical offices for updating of sampling frame, using available administrative data sources, especially data from regional tax offices. Also, since 1997 bank borrower register is operating. Since

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\* Prepared by Mr. Mieczyslaw Maczyński, Central Statistical Office).

company wishing to obtain credit must have same identity code in both application for a loan and in the REGON register, this solution is enforcing some companies to update information in the REGON register. However, the quality of sampling frames improved only to a small extent.

4. In 2000 new approach has been introduced when Statistical Business Register was 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 seemed to be national file of the tax-payers (named KEP) carried out by the Ministry of Finance. Taking into account that updating of tax-payer file is enforced by legal consequences, CSO expects to increase the quality of the Statistical Business Register as the sampling frame.

5. The first trial to apply KEP file for updating the 5% sample for business structural survey of small enterprises (estimated at approximately 2.300.000 entities), was carried out by the CSO in 2001. The aim was to verify the address of enterprises, to exclude inactive ones from the sample and to increase the completeness of responses. The analysis of results showed 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.

6. Next step was to identify by entities which are really not performing economic activity. Some 7.346 enterprises out of 42.399 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 another survey.

7. Experience obtained from combination of the REGON based enterprise sample and KEP taxpayer file will be used for future improvements of the quality of Statistical Business Register. 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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