

Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

Country progress report 2017 and future plans

Country:

Italy

Reporter:

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Institution:

The National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

I. Organisation, Population and Usage of the Statistical Business Register

1. Name of the register

The ASIA system (in Italian, Archivio Statistico delle Imprese Attive)

2. Name of the organisation responsible for holding the register

The National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

3. Position of the register unit in the organisation

Directorate for Economic Statistics

4. Number of employees in the register unit (Headcount employees)

34 (9 researchers, 25 clerical staff)

5. Primary goal and use of the register

A centralized frame for SBS/STS surveys and for grossing up survey results; the official statistical source for information on the structure and the demography of the business population

6. Year of establishment of the register

1996

7. Year(s) of the main re-engineering(s) of the register

2006, 2012, 2016

8. Number of active enterprises* in the register at the end of 2017

*If it is difficult to use Enterprises, you can use Legal units instead.

Enterprises: about 4,9 million of active enterprises

(Legal units: about 8,1 million)

9. Does the register have geographical coordinates assigned to every address or could they be obtained through other registers linked to it?

Yes

II. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

Please list main achievements (maximum 3) in the past year (2016) or the problems you have tackled. Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Short title of work which was done

(Category)

Re-engineering of the BR and implementation of the statistical unit in view of the compliance with SBS (Action Plan SBS)

3. Units

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The process was rationalized for implementing new requirements, above all the need to have temporally different situations in the same instant. The EG part of the BR informative system was historicized to satisfy the national users' needs and at the same time those of Eurostat. A first prototype structure of the register was set-up, ready for the new concept of "Enterprise", integrated with the existing registers in the BR system. It will also guarantee a greater integration with EGR. The new data base will be then expanded to allow the maintenance of the new statistical unit according to the European definition. A revised method for automatic profiling has been implemented, mapping DEG and TENS that could be treated automatically, also using a new approach to better identify ancillary units and measuring the impact on the number of legal units and number of persons employed.

2. Short title of work which was done

(Category)

A stronger role of BR in statistical production and analysis

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

In 2017 an integrated database has been developed, allowing the identification of different types of enterprises and the production of statistical indicators related to TEC (Trade by Enterprises Characteristics), BD/EIP (Business Demography and Entrepreneurship indicator program), BR (Business Register) and SBS (Structural Business Statistics) topics.

3. Short title of work which was done

(Category)

Strengthening of the Large Case Unit

9. Planning and governance

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The LCU was recently established in the BS Directorate to manage with complex units and to have a governance in globalization approach. The activity is carried out by a team from SBR, SBS, FATS, External Trade and STS statistics. It is responsible to deal with the inconsistencies of the top MNEs operating in Italy, identifying them at an early stage of the statistical production process (Early Warning System), having access to microdata from surveys and admin data. Main objectives: 1- looking for the best strategies for data collection, including the single entry point option; 2- solving the inconsistencies and sharing the results with all the statistics potentially involved; 3- taking charge of some phases of the statistical production for the groups under analyses; 4- sharing all the issues related to MNEs investigated. In 2016 a more efficient work at national and european level was ensured by new collaboration with GNI TF, direct contacts with MNEs, analysis of the phenomenon of digitalization and the other new typologies.

III. Future plans

Please list themes/projects (maximum 3) which you plan to tackle in the current (2018) and following year(s). Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Short title of work planned

(Category)

The Farm Register and the new Portal of Farms

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The new Farm register will be soon the only frame to support the production of agricultural statistics. Previously all the Structural and Short-term surveys on the agricultural sector were not connected to the Register; the convergence of surveys to this unique frame led to the design of a Farm Portal, based on Istat long term experience on the Business Portal for enterprises. Furthermore the Farm Register will be the benchmark for the next 2020 Agricultural Census.

2. Short title of work planned

(Category)

Participation to ESBRS Interoperability Pilot C2: Alignment of national calendar for timely interaction of NSBRs with EGR and IPT

11. Others

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Two main objectives: (1) Description of the national BR production process and work model integrating the results of national Profiling, EGR and the Profiling/IPT cycle with focus on their related calendars to better synchronize the two national and European processes; (2) Proposal of a common combined calendar for the EGR and Profiling/IPT cycles and the nSBR and national Profiling cycles, including possible changes in the EGR or IPT data exchanges processes and related calendars in order to have better interaction of the NSI with EGR and IPT and to better fit to the national production process.

3. Short title of work planned

(Category)

New project: Identification of cross-border workers

11. Others

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

A pilot-project is launched by DG Regio of the E.C. on data collection initiatives on cross-border cooperation, in which indicators are captured in a systematic way for several countries at once, making cost-effective use of available data sources (surveys and registers), and new methodological approaches for integrating those with new sources of data including so-called Big Data. The project focuses the attention on the theme of labour market and aims to fulfil the request of information by taking some actions reviewing several data sources in parallel: (1) Labour force survey (LFS) data, micro-data level, (2) Administrative data and census and (3) Mobile phone data.

IV. Main challenges

Please list main challenges (maximum 3) with respect to development, maintenance and use of your statistical business register. Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Main challenge 1

(Category)

Reinforcement of industrialization of registers production processes for the permanent censuses

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of the challenge

In Istat, since 2016, greater emphasis has been given to the use of Business and Population Registers to support and/or replace part of the census information. The Nonprofit Institution Continuous Census will use every three years nonprofit yearly structural data of the Register of Nonprofit Institutions, integrating them with data coming from a thematic sample survey. In the same way the Permanent census of public institutions will use each two years structural data from the Register of Public Institutions, while the Business Register of Enterprises will support each five years the Permanent census of enterprises. The scopes of the censuses do not correspond exactly to the institutional sectors as they are linked to the specificities of the units to be detected. That's why a further analyses is needed to build them ad hoc, adding further information in the System of Registers, also to correctly manage the potential overlaps of units belonging to the different registers.

2. Main challenge 2

(Category)

New sources for BR: web mining to integrate and validate information in the SBR

4. Data sources

Description of the challenge

The project is of the first to participate in the Laboratory for Innovation (LabInn), one of the tools that ISTAT has been providing since 2018 to introduce process and product innovations. Within a dedicated physical and technological space, the most innovative ideas are developed that refer to the areas identified as strategic and of particular interest to the Institute, by producing an innovative output, using new technologies and methodologies and new data sources, like Big-Data. The main idea is to use Big-Data in support of the SBR, through web scraping and text mining technologies, with the aim of integrating the 'structured' business data with the 'unstructured' data from web pages. Expected results will be the dissemination of new experimental statistics expanding the SBR in addition to the traditional business statistics.

3. Main challenge 3

(Category)

Strengthening of the profiling activities

3. Units

Description of the challenge

Reinforcement and enlargement of the profiling activities (even without participating in the EU grants) as a shared method among several structured involved, having different kinds of expertise, not only BR but also belonging to the FATS, SBS and NA environment. Training and sharing knowledge will be necessary, including the involvement Data Collection department, to investigate how to get information from respondents in an harmonized way for all the business surveys, in order to reduce the burden on enterprises and to understand which is the most effectively and efficiently way to collect data not only for profiling but also to meet the information needs of all business surveys.