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Session 3: Integrated Statistical Register Systems

**Redevelopment of Irelands Central Business Register – A Centre for Business Statistics
Transformation**

Abstract

The CSOs Statement of Strategy 2016 – 2019 outlines 5 strategy goals which encourage the enabling of delivery and building of capacity centered around the GSBPM model. The strategic goals focus on Process and Technology developments which state the following “embed a standardised, cost effective, efficient business statistical model to deliver consistent, high quality statistics” and to “build an adaptive data and services platform that enhances the collection and production process”. At the core of this strategic programme is the development of a Central Business Register to make it the backbone of business statistics and create new linkages to macroeconomic statistics in the form of National Accounts, Balance of Payments and the CSOs Large Cases Unit (LCU).

The paper aims to describe the CSOs approach to the development of a new BR IT application, issues with previous models of register integration, access and use of administrative sources and the roadmap ahead for development. This project is in its infancy but hopes to eliminate the use and reliance on multiple local registers in existence within the office which has made coherency and common workflow processes difficult to implement.

The current Business Register has been in existence since the 1990s and functions perfectly as a system that makes extensive use of the administrative sources that are available as well as a birthing source for administrative units. However, the application is not adaptable to statistical unit structures outside of the enterprise and local unit, cannot be readily amended to deal with structural changes in the administrative data that is used, cannot be linked to the satellite registers that exist locally, provides no detail on respondent burden or enterprise groups and provides no linkages to statistics or units used at a macroeconomic level.

A business statistics transformation project has been ongoing for the last two years in which the CSO has examined workflow processes, administrative sources, sampling, validation edits, statistical outputs and staff resources. The BR development is the final phase of this project, which will assist the BR in playing a central role in statistical production and analysis. The objective of the new BR IT application is to provide a statistical unit basis for all survey area requirements, encourage a one system approach to use of administrative data and the updating of statistical unit characteristics and overall, provide an integrated system that satisfies all business and technical requirements and eliminates current weaknesses in the performance of the BR as a backbone for business statistics.

