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Statistical Business Registers User Survey

Abstract

In 2017, Eurostat conducted the first Statistical Business Register user survey in the European Statistical System, as part of the Data Quality Program on Statistical Business Registers (*SBR*). The SBR user survey was addressed to statistical users of the national statistical business registers and EuroGroups register (EGR).

The SBR quality – with regards to content, coverage, accuracy, timeliness, etc. – is determined by the degree the user needs are met. SBR users are statisticians and experts working in the business statistics or other statistical domains. To assess the gap between the information available in current statistical business registers and the information needed by users, Eurostat – in cooperation with the Member States – developed a questionnaire and conducted the SBR user survey.

The paper will present the overall objectives, the structure and the outcome of the 2017 SBR's user survey.

The main organisational and technical aspects of the user survey will be presented covering the survey design and the data collection. The survey results will be also summarized, presenting main findings on the use of national SBRs and EGR by Member States and EFTA countries in statistical production and the SBRs shortcomings in terms of units, coverage, missing characteristic, timeliness and frequency. Additional targets will be defined on the base of shortcomings indicated by SBRs users.

The paper also will deal with the setting of quality targets for national SBRs and the EGR, based on user needs. The component 'Quality targets' of Data Quality Program outlines the 'to-be' state for SBRs. It defines quality targets for statistical business registers and envisages converging to the maximal possible quality – as requested from users – as much as possible.

The setting of targets from the legal bases can be stable over time as long as the legislative framework is not replaced or amended. The targets derived from user needs however may change more frequently. To anticipate possible changes of user needs these targets should be regularly confirmed.

Keywords: Data quality program, user survey, user requirements, quality targets, Statistical Business Registers, EuroGroups register (EGR), European Statistical System