

**21th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers
- International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames**

24-27 November 2008 • OECD, Paris • France

Country progress report 2008

Country: Latvia

Reporter: Sarmite Prole

Institution: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

1. Organisation and Population of the Business Registers

Statistical Business Register (SBR) in Latvia was established in 1992. Since 2006 SBR section is a part of Business Statistics Department of Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) of Latvia. The CSB has main program used for data entering, processing with automatic control and validation tools – IDM SDMS (Integrated Metadata driven Statistical data management system), divided into several business application software modules in Registers module, which contains the database of SBR and therefore the data entry, validation, analysis and aggregation is function in a close link with the database of SBR. The base for the maintenance and updating of SBR is State Enterprise Register (administrative database under the Ministry of Justice), Taxpayer's Register of State Revenue Service of Latvia and statistical surveys – Structural Business statistical survey (SBS); Foreign Affiliate Trade statistics (FATS) survey and SBR update survey.

There are 11 persons involved in maintenance of SBR. The main tasks are:

- Information updating from administrative sources and from statistical surveys;
- Maintenance of economically active statistical units population;
- Classifications of statistical units;
- Preparation of business demography data;
- Maintenance of Enterprise groups register.

The provisional number of economically active units in 2007 is:

Legal Units - 134185

Enterprises - 134174

Local Units - 173326

Enterprise groups - 894

There are no thresholds for inclusion in SBR in terms of size, NACE classes, ESA 95 sector or legal forms.

2. Progress and Development in the Past Year

- Participation in project "Modification of the metadata driven system". New improvements in IMD SDMS and in register module would lead to optimized register information system functionality, improved overall parameters of the system and additional services and functionality for system users. Part of project is

improvement of Enterprise groups register according to requirements on multinational enterprise group's maintenance and data exchange between NSI.

- The continued improvement of the cooperation with different data sources reducing data quality, timeliness and costs of SBR update survey. New improvements helped to ensure data comparability and coherence, thereby contributing to reducing of the response burden for respondents.
- Due the fact that from 2003 there is no obligation for legal persons to inform State Enterprise register (administrative register) about kind of economical activity CSB to sent out, along with the annual statistical surveys, a notice for SBR updating to the economically active enterprises. The aim was to clarify the form of economical activity and location of the company (office and mailing address, phone numbers, e-mail and web-address). As a result from received information it was possible to evaluate the quality of SBR data. This year it is planned to send out Register updating notice the economically active enterprises that were not surveyed and that didn't receive SBR update survey in last 2 years.

3. Issues solved, problems and future plans

- Participation in GRANT project – Development and testing of matching the Euro Groups Register (EGR) data with the national business registers and Definition of the national preference and priority rules to be applied in the process of integration of national data in the EGR. In compliance with the task of the project there will be a possibility to evaluate Enterprise Group register data quality, as well as current accuracy of information data sources.
- To study the best practices in profiling.
- Analyses of local units and participating in voluntary data collection on the demography of local units.
- Implementation of special address code in SBR. There are problems with implementation of address code because all addresses are not yet included in State Address Register. The goal of this action should be a significant decrease of the time of manual operations made by statisticians, improved quality of register data and optimisation of inner register data exchange processes. According to the plans of the State Programme, this code is going to be implemented in all administrative files in Latvia.
- Improvement of co-operation with administrative data sources. The problem is the registration of enterprise groups in SBR because we have only on-line access but don't have any electronic data files on ownership of enterprises (share of capital) from State Enterprise register. The registration of enterprise groups requires serious manual input.