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- International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames**

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Country: GREECE

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**Institution: NATIONAL STATISTICAL
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1. Organization and Population of the Business Register

The Section of the Business Register and Classifications is part of the Division of Organization, Methodology and International Relations at the National Statistical Service of Greece. The Business Register and Classifications Section manages the Statistical Business Register (SBR) and the classifications of economic activities, products and professions. It currently has a staff of 6 persons corresponding to 5 full time equivalent staff and each one of them has more than one function in the Section.

The SBR is maintained centrally and based entirely on administrative sources. The SBR regularly processes data from tax authorities and mainly from the VAT Register, which is based on the annual VAT declarations. There are also files from the Social Insurance Office from which data on business employment is obtained and processed. Apart from the above-mentioned sources, the SBR is kept up to date by using information from the Business Registrar files (tax authorities official records) and the statistical survey results.

The SBR contains basic information about enterprises and their local units (name, address, activities -main and secondary-, employment, turnover ...) and is used for sampling, survey frames and economic analyses for internal (national statistical office) and external users.

The SBR consists of 902,631 enterprises, 1,494,121 local units and 2,608,864 persons employed. Information about Enterprise Groups is not yet available.

2. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

A new project has been launched in early 2007 to redesign the BR database, which will be finalized by the end of 2008. The objective, the main scope of this project is the development of IT tools for the data processing and analysis. The project will develop a new user-friendly interface to help the SBR staff in reducing processing time. Applying new techniques in processing data, improvement of the Business Register quality is expected. Updating then will be more efficient by combining all relevant information from administrative and other private sources and the statistical surveys outcomes.

The project also foresees to develop new software to report data on Business Demography but it has not been tested yet.

The use of additional data from private and public agencies has been examined exhaustively to reduce the time lag between VAT and employment data, which usually are obtained from different

sources (approximately two years time lag) and to check and/or correct data received from standard sources.

Many contacts have been made with public and private data providers to examine the possibility of using their files to gather information on Enterprise Groups and create a relevant database.

3. Issues solved, problems and future plans

- Although the project launched during 2007 for the reconstruction of the SBR is coming to an end in a few months, the new tools are not yet available to the SBR staff.
- There is a very slow development of the on-line data collection from the administrative sources.

There are

- cuts in financial resources
- lack of qualified human resources for the profiling of the enterprise groups
- lack of software for the disclosure control and data confidentiality

Future plans

- Further improvement in the quality of the Statistical Business Register and fully compliance with the Business Registers Regulation.
- Development of an Enterprise Groups system in line with the EUROSTAT EGR
- Provision of the Business Demography characteristics