

21st Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

- International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames

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Country progress report 2008

Country: ESTONIA

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1. Organisation and Population of the Business Registers

The Business Register for Statistical Purposes was established in Statistics Estonia in 1994.

The holder of the Statistical Register is the Statistical Profile Service which is the sub-unit of the Enterprise Statistics Department. Five employees work for the Register. The methodological and IT support are received from the IT and methodological departments of Statistics Estonia.

The Statistical Register includes data of all economic units operating in Estonia. The undertakings, sole proprietors, non-profit institutions and foundations, state and local government agencies are covered by the Register. All NACE sections required by regulations are covered.

The Register is updated regularly on the basis of information received from four administrative registers — Commercial Register, Register of Taxable Persons, Register of Non-profit Associations and Foundations, State Register of State and Local Government Agencies. A special Register's survey for new units and the data from the statistical surveys are used for updating the Register.

There are approximately 140,000 live units in the Register in 2008.

2. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

The following developments were carried out in the past year:

1. Implementation of the new NACE in the Register
2. Integration of Agricultural Households into the Register
3. Implementation of the Register's data quality monitoring
4. Revision of the rules of classification of units according to Institutional Sectors.

All units in the Register were classified in conformity with the new NACE by the beginning of the year 2008, according to the plan. All users of short-term statistics and structural business statistics were supplied with the Register's data by new NACE codes in time. The procedure of maintaining the dual coding — by the old and new NACE — was implemented. (We plan to keep the dual coding till the end of 2009).

The Agricultural Households which are included in the statistical surveys have been integrated into the Register by now. The reason for integration is to enable these units to

be handled by the electronic data collection system (eSTAT) which is linked to the Register.

The full integration of Statistical Business Register and Agricultural Households Register into one common system is not possible at present due to limited resources.

A monthly monitoring of the quality of the Register has been implemented. For this purpose a list of variables for the measurement of quality was prepared. The first results of monitoring were presented in September at the Business Register's annual meeting, attended by users of our Register.

The rules for classification of units by Institutional Sectors according to the European System of Accounts were revised. The original rules were developed a few years ago in co-operation with the Macroeconomics Statistics Department. Due to the transition to the new NACE, these rules needed to be revised. In this process, some amendments were made to the rules to ensure a unified approach across all departments to the classification of Institutional Sectors.

3. Issues solved, problems and future plans

The main developments and actions planned for the next year are in the field of Enterprise Groups.

In co-operation with the Estonian Central Bank it is planned to implement in the Register the enterprise groups with the head of group in Estonia and subsidiaries abroad (i.e. outward links).

Starting from this year, Statistics Estonia has been participating in the project on development of the methodology of EuroGroups Register. Our duty in this project is to participate in the development of data quality statement to be used in the first data exchange planned for the year 2009.

This year we take part in the pilot project on implementation of the SDMX format for exchanging the individual data of enterprise groups between Eurostat and National Statistical Institutes.

In 2009 Statistics Estonia will also participate in the actions of the EuroGroups Register support project — testing the first data exchange and development of the priority/preference rules for data sources.

It is planned to participate in a voluntary data collection on the Business Demography of local units.