Abstract

Insee has been solicited by French financial authorities to be part of the Global LEI system (GLEIS) as a local operating unit (LOU). This paper would explain why Insee chose to accept this job by given an objective view of advantages and drawbacks for Insee, as INS, to be an LOU.

The main advantage for Insee, to be an LOU, is to cover all the identification system of the French units (legal, administrative or statistical) and to be able to move easily from one system to another. Since 40 years, Insee maintain an inter-administrative business register, Sirene, which is the basis for providing the statistical business register (SBR) and thus makes possible the use of administrative data for statistical purposes. Be part of the GLEIS for French legal units gives to Insee the ability to well assure the link with this new identification system.

But Insee identified some drawbacks to perform the function of LOU. First, the GLEIS is built as a Competitive system with private sector LOUs which all can attribute LEI for French entities and also for entities in the worldwide. To be not too involved in worldwide competitive system Insee decided to restrict its scope to only French entities. Second, for the entities themselves, this restriction of the scope complicates the management of multinational groups.

Currently the system is being built and LEIs were assigned to only 19,000 French entities (250,000 entities worldwide). But when this global registration will be generalized to all entities, INSEE could be easily able to switch from its current French single identifier to this new global unique identifier.