Abstract

In the ESS one of the main roles of the Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) is to serve as coordinating mechanism for business/economic statistics. In other words, over the recent years, national surveys have been linked to the SBRs, which gradually took steps in the direction of becoming the backbone for the national business/economic statistical program, enabling the linking of statistical information on business.

In the meantime globalisation created the need for coordinated information on ownership, control links and cross border links. Since 2008, with Regulation 177/2008 on SBRs and the launch of the EuroGroups Register (EGR) project, Eurostat tried to provide answers to the globalization challenges. At present EGR provides national SBRs with some information they lack on multinational enterprise groups with an interest in the EU, thus linking the national with the European level.

In 2013, the ESS went further taking steps towards creating a genuine system of statistical business registers and launched the European System of Business Registers project (ESBRs) with the following objectives:

1. **Strengthen and rationalise national SBRs**
   - Integration into an interoperable system
   - Serving national and EU statistical production
   - Efficiency (including reduced burden for respondents) and quality gains for the whole system

2. **Improve the EuroGroups Register (heart of the system)**
   - Improved quality of information on multinationals
   - On-line access for National Statistical Institutes (NSIs), facilitating interaction with EGR
   - Dedicated interfaces for FATS and FDI statisticians
   - Integration of profiling information into the EGR

3. **Share statistical services**
   - NSIs’ access to shared services for efficient register management
   - Services certified by Eurostat against ESS standards

ESBRs’ first objective foresees an even stronger backbone role of national SBRs in all ESS countries. SBRs are expected to fully become the backbone infrastructure, where all relevant statistical units are
defined, implemented and maintained according to harmonised operational rules and from which frame populations are derived for producing consistent business/economic statistics across domains and across countries.

ESBRs second objective implies an EGR backbone role at ESS level for the globalisation statistics.

The whole ESBRs system is expected therefore to become the backbone for the ESS, allowing the production of good quality, consistent, efficient, national and European business/economic statistics.