Backbone role at the level of the European Statistical System (ESS)
The ESBRs project

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Eurostat G1
NSS - Ensemble of statistical organisations and units within a country that jointly collects, processes and disseminates official statistics on behalf of national government.

ESS - Partnership between Eurostat and NSIs and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

= 32 countries: 28 EU MS + 4 EFTA countries
The ambition of the ESBRs project is to open the path towards $S_f \rightarrow$ backbone for the ESS business statistics.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>SBRs' long term vision</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ideal final status ((S_f))</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All relevant statistical units are defined, implemented and maintained according to <strong>harmonised operational rules</strong>.</td>
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<td><strong>All business surveys are linked to the SBR</strong> - Frame populations are derived for producing consistent business statistics across domains and across countries.</td>
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</table>
• Progress towards the backbone role is quite different from one NSS to another

• SBRs are not used and compiled in a standardised way by different authorities even in the same NSS and for different statistical domains.
• Horizontal inconsistencies between different statistical domains in a given NSS.

• Vertical inconsistencies between European aggregates and the sum of national data.

• Burden on NSS: time consuming procedures for the manipulation of BR information, for data linking and for validation of results from different domains.

• Inefficiency of the ESS, because of the obstacles for sharing common developments and tools across the ESS.
Inconsistent backbones

Stove-pipe approach

Interoperability becomes a need
Past attempts to coordinate SBRs

- **Regulation 2186/93** aimed mainly at setting up one or more harmonised registers for statistical purposes in the ESS area.

- **Regulation 177/2008** went further into consolidating a common framework for the harmonisation of national registers. It also introduced the **EuroGroups Register (EGR)** - information on all control relationship between enterprises,
ESBRs

- ESBRs project (2013-2017) provides continuity to previous MEETS projects (EGR, Profiling & Consistency), but it has a larger scope.

- Ambition = to rationalise, strengthen and systematise all statistical business registers (backbone role) in the ESS.

- Two new dimensions:
  - Interoperability of statistical business registers in the ESS
  - Sharing statistical services in the ESS
In 2013 ESBRs overlapped with previous projects (EGR and Profiling)
From disconnected statistical business registers…

EuroGroups Register (EGR)

national Statistical Business Registers (SBRs)

… trough Business Architecture

… to an efficient system of statistical business registers …
The ESBRs project will imply, between else:

- the establishment of an ESBRs business architecture (BA), coherent with the general ESS BA

- the practical operationalisation of parts of the ESBRs BA model into an “interoperability framework” (IF)

**IF = agreed approach to interoperability for organisations that wish to work together towards a joint goal**
The ESBRs Interoperability framework will consist of:

- specifications of the concepts used
- data structures
- register processes
- data exchange arrangements

It will include a proposal for a comprehensive frame methodology for SBRs in the ESS, i.e. the methodology to produce and use the statistical frame populations.
The ESBRs project will include some steps at implementation level, based on “gentlemen agreements” supported by Eurostat grants.

However significant and stable progress towards the long term vision $S_f$ can only be achieved assigning to the ESS system of SBRs the legal weight to become the backbone for business statistics.

Eurostat and the whole ESS are working on the preparation of the FRIBS regulation expected to be adopted in 2018.
Changes under discussion, relevant for the ESS backbone role:

- Setting up of the system of European statistical business registers (ESBRs)
- ESBRs as the backbone for business statistics
- Interoperability concept
- Introduction of a unique identifier
- Common data programme management for SBRs
- Common data quality programme for SBRs
Time line

The following achievements are expected:

2014 2015: Conceptual work on the interoperability framework and on the quality management of EGR

2016 2017: Some implementation of the interoperability framework, even if not yet covered by legal requirements (gentlemen agreements). Extension of quality management’s elements to the whole ESBRs.

2018: Legal requirements (on interoperability, backbone, quality, etc.) inscribed in FRIBS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EGR</th>
<th>Profiling</th>
<th>Integration EGR Profiling</th>
<th>Business Architecture</th>
<th>Interoperability Framework</th>
<th>Statistical Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>PRESENT</td>
<td>1.0 ---&gt; 2.0</td>
<td>Tests Methodology Guidelines</td>
<td>DESIRE</td>
<td>DESIRE</td>
<td>DESIRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSNET 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; PHASE</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>CONSOLIDATION Further tests Improvements Light profiling</td>
<td>MODEL Tests Starting implementation?</td>
<td>MODEL Tests</td>
<td>Proposed IF Feasibility Tests Implem. Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSNET 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; PHASE</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE</td>
<td>Full implementation</td>
<td>REVISION (if necessary)</td>
<td>IMPLEMENTATION</td>
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<td>BEYOND 2017</td>
<td>Further improvements</td>
<td>Generalised use</td>
<td>USE</td>
<td>REVISION (if necessary)</td>
<td>USE &amp; IMPROVEMENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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</tbody>
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**Notes:**
- WP1: Proposed IF Feasibility Tests Implem. Plan
- WP2: Implementation
- WP3: Tests
- LIST: Insertion in the general ESS catalogue
- FRIIBS: Final Implementation Resulting In Better Services
Thank You!