

# **The Austrian business register as a tool for linking various administrative data sources**

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In the past few years the role of the statistical business register has undergone a significant change. Was it before a mainly a database for performing statistical surveys with updating the register mostly from survey results, the business register is now a linkage system between administrative data sources and statistical requirements. The main sources for the updating of the business register are today administrative data. This has consequences on the structure of the register, the workflows, and the quality dimensions as well as on the use of the register which has increased consequently. It also opens new possibilities for the use and integration of administrative data sources into the statistical survey system.

In the paper the Austrian developments and situation will be presented with a view on the general aspects of this new role of the business register serving as a linkage system to administrative databases. The problems encountered are of course dependent on the kind of the administrative data system, whether the administrative system has common identifiers, a rich list of variables and thus a broad coverage of data available and similar aspects. In the Austrian case for instance, there is no common identifier so that matching tools are an important requirement. Further, specific tools for the linking of the administrative data files were developed.