

A motivational model for running a statistical business register

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Registers of different kind traditionally serve statisticians as means to generate survey frames. From this basic function statistical registers have been developed which offer assistance in different steps of the statistical production process. Modern business statistics in many statistical systems rely on a statistical business register as an infrastructural, conceptual and methodological backbone. This puts the register in a most responsible position:

- It shall contain all relevant statistical units and all relations between these units.
- It shall serve as frame for statistical surveys (coherent sampling and extrapolation).
- It shall be a tool to acquire, combine and connect existing data (minimized response burden).
- It shall be an assisting instrument for the statisticians in every phase of the production process of business statistics.

Whereas this kind of description of the roles and purposes of a statistical business register is quite commonly found, the way such a register can be built up and run often remains vague or is not tackled at all.

Obviously, a coherent description of an integrated system for business statistics production which contains a statistical business register cannot treat the latter as exogenous ("given"). Decisive questions are:

- What data sources feed a statistical register?
- What mechanisms harmonise the statistical register with the needs of its users?
- Who is contributing to the running of a statistical register and by what motivation?
- How can the efficient running of a statistical register be organised?

The motivational model aims to define optimal work-share for the running of a register by utilising the self-interest of all parties involved. This approach thereby replaces the commonly found roles of „producers“ and “consumers” of register information by an approach of co-operation for efficiently running a statistical business register.