

TWINNING CONTRACT

Development of new statistical methodologies and indicators in selected areas of statistics in line with EU statistical standards

Ukraine



MISSION REPORT

on


Procedures for double coding in the Business Register
and
methods for back casting

Component no 1.3.3.

Mission carried out by
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List of Abbreviations

LT	Statistics Lithuania
KVED 05	Ukrainian version of Nace Rev. 1.1.
KVED 10	Ukrainian version of Nace Rev. 2
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SD	Statistics Denmark
SSSU	State Statistics Service of Ukraine
ToR	Terms of Reference

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project „Development of new statistical methodologies and indicators in selected areas of statistics in line with EU statistical standards”. It was the second mission to be devoted to Statistical Business Register within Component 1.3.3. of the project. The mission was aimed at defining a strategic plan forming the base of the further implementation of the project in this statistical area.

The concrete objectives of the mission were:

- The prior purpose of the mission is to assess the results of conversion of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises as a result of a special survey conducted at the annual structural survey for 2011.
- Using the available statistical and administrative information for the conversion of economic activities of enterprises and local units of double coding and economic activities of enterprises in the statistical register of enterprises.
- Experts will present for the SSSU experts in order to access the statistical register of enterprises of different categories of users and experts responsible for conducting statistical surveys.

The consultants would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which he/she received during the stay in Ukraine, and which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, SSSU, Statistics Denmark or Statistics Lithuania.

2. Assessment and results

Progress after mission 1.3.1. and the study visit in Copenhagen and comments to the recommendations

Ad actions to be prepared from mission 1.3.1.to mission 1.3.3.

- Rules for double coding in SBR and a test application of the rules
The SBR has been double coded for the year 2010 in 2011 as already described in mission report 1.3.1. The SBR team has had some difficulties to decide which rules should be used for double coding. This subject was discussed again at the present mission.
- Describe back casting rules and work on the first draft of guidelines
The dead line for these activities has been postponed, cf. next action.
- Select a pilot statistics as case study
The head of Unit for Mathematical Methods of Statistical Data Processing and Analysis had realised that it would not be possible to discuss all possible problems concerning the back casting either with all sector divisions together or with one sector division for a more detailed discussion in connection with a pilot study. It has also been judged that a pilot study would take too long time. Instead it has been decided to carry out separate discussions with each division. A plan for these discussions has been made and a few meetings have already been held. The idea is to pick up all problems, describe procedures and include answers to the problems.

Ad recommendation in 1.3.1.

1. The SSSU SBR team agreed that the self-employed entrepreneurs should be a part of the SBR, but they explained that for now it is impossible because there is no possibility to get identified information from the tax authority.
2. The SSSU SBR team has started the activity to reduce the number of secondary activities by introducing rules.

3. Conversion matrices for the year 2010 and some test results using these for back casting have been produced for the Labour statistics. The Labour division has made their own procedures for back casting and it was possible to compare the results. It showed up that using the matrices gave the best results.

The MS consultants recommend presenting this result for the other sector divisions.

4. The SSSU representatives agreed that it will be a good service for the users of the different statistics to be informed on the transition both in advance and in connection to each statistics, and prepare one common opening formulation for the latter would be expedient. The decision concerning this is although out of the hands of the SBR team and Methodological division.
5. The SSSU representatives agreed that the best solution would be to back cast the SBR in order to produce conversion matrices for each year statistics are going to be back casted. Differentiate between enterprise characteristics, eg. size.

The subject was discussed in details during the present mission to be clearer about the recommendation and the possibilities to realize it in practice.

6. The SSSU representatives agreed on developing a coordinated strategy on methods and requirements for back casting statistics. The Methodological division had updated and expanded the timetable for implementation (Actions on back casting analysis due to introduction of Nace Rev. 2 for state statistical surveys). Included in the timetable are the consulting meetings with the different sector divisions.

The timetable is very compressed. A lot of work has to be done during the next few months. This work has to be done by the SBR team and the Methodological division. But the work back casting the individual statistics are in the hands of the different sector divisions. Even though it is not the responsibility of the Methodological division, the MS experts recommend that the Methodological division during the meetings with each sector division agree on an expanded the timetable for the back casting for this sector division. It has to be realized that it is time consuming to make these back castings.

Other subject

- The first drafts on a methodically document concerning recording of economic activities and calculation of conversion matrices has been produced and were presented at the mission. The draft includes a list of steps which has to be carried through. The presentation will be an annex to this mission report. The work to be done according to the different steps will appear in the time table.
- The first draft on a methodical document concerning back casting and the use of conversion matrices is in preparation. Some outstanding questions were discussed during the mission.
- A summing up of the study visit in Copenhagen in Ukrainian is under preparation. It will include a translated version of the Conclusions and recommendations made in Copenhagen.

Subjects under discussion during the mission

Three presentations were made by the MS experts:

1. 'Access to SBR in Denmark'
2. 'Business Register in Lithuania'
3. 'Dynamic Populations in Sample Surveys concerning Business Statistics (section 6)'

SSSU participants presented:

1. Results since last mission 1.3.1.
2. Questionnaire on Local Units
3. Extracts from a draft to methodological paper

From Nace 1.1 to Nace 2.

The SSSU SBR-team has made a re-coding of the statistical units in the SBR. Some units went from one sector to another, for instance from industry to service. This means the population which have to be handled by the individual sector divisions have changed.

The Classification division has drawn up a list of activities which have to be handled by each division. The list is approved.

The SSSU SBR-team asked the experts about how to handle this in the sector divisions.

The sector divisions are responsible for handling those changes themselves.

The responsibility includes the acceptance of introducing the Nace Rev. 2 as the common activity code. The sector divisions have to use the new structure of Nace for their surveys. It also means that the responsibility for taking in enterprises in the sectors assigned to the different sector divisions in the populations. The sector divisions have to take in enterprises which now have an activity code which belong to their population although they did not belong to this population before, and leave out those enterprises which do not belong to their population any more.

Of course it means that some work has to be done to prepare new questionnaires etc.

In some cases information about the new enterprises is incomplete or even missing. Incomplete information might be used to calculate missing information (for instance higher the turnover by a given percentage because new activities are included into the group of activities and the contribution can be calculated on the basis of supplementary information), but in the cases no information is available a break in the time series is unavoidable. This must be told the users of the statistics.

The MS experts recommend that it is ensured that all sector divisions accept the new situation. This is not a task for the SBR-team or the Methodological division.

A discussion arose concerning change in activity code. Is it a change or is it a question of wrong coding from the beginning? Actually this is not a question of re-coding. It will always be possible to find wrong codes – the more search and information which was not available at the time for the first coding the more wrong codes will be unveiled. In this re-coding procedure more information and searching are available. A change in code must be entered into the next frozen version.

National Account division wants a recoding on the basis of as 'clean' units as possible and suggests using Kind of Activity Units. This is not a statistical unit in SSSR SBR. Alternatively the local unit can be used, but it requires information linked to these units.

Correspondence table

The SBR team presented a table showing that a lot of Nace Rev. 1.1 activity codes which include enterprises and should correspond to a group of Nace Rev 2 activity codes at first hand did not result in enterprises in all corresponding Nace Rev. 2 activity codes. Example:

Nace Rev. 1.1	Number of enterprises	Nace Rev. 2	Number of enterprises
45.21	100	41.20	40
		42.10	30
		42.20	20
		42.90	10
		43.99	0

In some cases it is obviously that it is not correct that no enterprises are assigned a given Nace Rev. 2 activity code. In other cases such as public administration no information can be taken from SBS survey and the activity code and conversion table have to be made with other information. In some situations no information is available.

The SBR-team and the Methodological division have to work with this problem.

Double coding

For new enterprises (and Local Units) the only information about activity, which is available, is the new Nace Rev. 2 activity code. In connection with the recoding of the SBR in 2010 correspondence tables have been prepared, and this is the only extra information which might be used to assign a Nace Rev. 1.1 activity code to these new enterprises. Often the new enterprises are small and therefore it is recommended to use the correspondence table for number of enterprises to make the double coding. The assigning of the code to the individual enterprise has to be random. Therefore the double coding procedure has to be carried out for instance every month so the number of enterprises which have to be assigned and old code is not too small. The procedure should be quite automatically. If any information about turnover or number of employees of the enterprise is available the biggest enterprises (those which really will have an effect on the result of any statistic) might be controlled manually.

It is recommended to carry out a test, but hopefully this test will show the same result as the test carried out concerning the correspondence tables.

Back casting

The discussions with the sector divisions will include filling out a questionnaire prepared by the Methodological division with the purpose to reveal problems and the need for back casting.

One important result of the questionnaire will be information about the requirements to the back casting of the SBR. It turned out that as the SBR has been organized before 2009 no information about individual enterprises is available. This means that the SBR team and the Methodological division have a big challenge if it is decided to back cast different statistics back before 2009.

The MS experts recommend that the decision is taken within a very short period and no later than 29th June 2012. As it will take much time to prepare these conversion matrices there is a risk that the timetable will be overrun.

The MS experts will stress the importance of the co-ordination between the divisions and the importance of undertake the responsibility for carrying out the work, the common result and respect the agreed timetable.

As already mentioned the Labour division has made their own procedure for back casting and it was possible to compare the results. It showed up that using the matrices gave the best results. The MS consultants recommend presenting this result for the other sector divisions.

When the specific statistics are going to decide which conversion table to use for back casting the most important statistical volume should be used (if it is economic statistics the most important information to use will probably be Turnover, while information related to employees should use number of employee). The most detailed level should be back casted – it being regions and groups of activity codes. If information about an activity does not exist a break in the time series will come into existence, as mentioned above. Totals/figures will differ from old and new Nace.

Access to Statistical Business Register

The possibility for staff in the regions and sector divisions to get access to see information about the individual statistical units as well as administrative units and updating the SBR were discussed. The MS experts do not see any problems to give access to SBR data as long as the security rules are fulfilled. A logging procedure might be used to ensure against abuse.

As the structure in a database as the SBR often is very complicated it is not always a very good idea to let everybody make their own withdrawing from the register. It could result in time-consuming questions which the SBR team has to sort out. The withdrawing from the SBR can have different purposes.

The updating procedures have to be standardised either via on line access or via group updating. It is important to know who (either a given person (initials) or a batch system if it is information transferred from the administrative register) is responsible for the updating and the source (in the form of a code). Rules giving priority to some sources over others (eventually depending on how old the already registered information is) can be set up. It is also useful to be able to see how the register looked before the update.

Frozen versions

The SBR team produces a frozen version of the SBR every 15th November. The version produced year T has to be used for the SBR statistic the same year T and for STS for year T+1.

The sector divisions find that enterprises which start after the 15th November T have to be included when the statistic has to be produced.

The enterprises ought to be included in the SBR (marked as active).

The finance statistics is produced quarterly, but only yearly all enterprises have to fill out the report. In connection with this the SBR is updated with information about which enterprises are active or not. This information can be used to calculate the quality of the information received from the regions about new enterprises. The discussion of this will be a subject for the next mission 1.3.4.

The way to include these enterprises when producing the statistics is a methodical problem. The information received from these enterprises cannot be used when the statistic is produced, because these enterprises are not a part of the sample but the enterprises should count as well as those which ceased their activity. The most important thing to know is: how did the SBR look when the sample was drawn and what do we know when the sample has to be enumerated to the whole population. The frozen version has to ensure comparability between statistics.

Whether or not new frozen versions of the SBR concerning the same period/point in time should be produced is a question about resources and actually also whether it will be possible to use these versions in practice. Information about size classes is needed. As mentioned, the correct use of frozen versions is at methodological question and must be studied in more details.

Both SL and SD have both frozen versions of the SBR and a 'live' SBR. The use of the frozen versions differs in the two countries.

Some slides were presented to reveal the situation.

Even though this subject is a little out of scope it is an important topic as content in the frozen versions – it being addresses or activity codes – is very important for the sector divisions and for the regional offices the MS experts find that a common understanding of the use of these frozen versions is important. It was agreed that the subject should be presented for all sector divisions at the next mission 1.3.4. Later the subject should be looked into in more details.

Surveys

Local Units

SSSU presented how population of the annually survey on Local Units is constructed. The prepared questionnaire was shown. The survey is carried through with the aim to update Local Units in SBR. During the discussion with the experts it was noticed that there is no question on number of employees in the questionnaire. SBR team agreed that this information is important.

Annual Finance statistics report

The finance statistic is produced quarterly. Once a year all enterprises have to fill out the report while only big and medium size enterprises are filling out the report quarterly.

The population of this statistics will be taken from the frozen list. The general population (roughly 350,000-400,000 enterprises) consists of all active business enterprise except non-profit organization and banks.

According to the law each enterprise which has started activity should give the finance statistical report not later than 15 month from starting activity. Some clarifications concerning the special procedure used to take in information about these into the SSSU SBR will be composed and sent to the MS experts before the end of July 2012.

The information received includes turnover and number of employees which is of significance importance for the SBR.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

The consultants would like to acknowledge the huge work done since the previous mission 1.3.1., specially concerning the investigations of the quality of the conversion tables.

The produced time table for double coding and back casting activities has been followed without essential delays.

The time table is still very compressed. A lot of work has to be done during the next few months. Decisions have to be made within very short time too. The Methodological division has work to be done which other sector divisions are depending on. This is a risk factor.

Recommendations

From Nace 1.1 to Nace 2.

1. The MS experts recommend that it is ensured that all sector divisions accept the new Nace Rev. 2 as the common activity code, and that the sector divisions use the new structure for their surveys. This is not a task for the SBR-team or the Methodological division.
2. MS experts recommend preparing information from SBR team and the Methodological division to the sector divisions about the changes in the structure of the KVED and some statistical information about the changes.
3. MS experts recommend that the conversion tables are checked once more to find out why the primary conversion from Nace Rev. 1.1 to Nace Rev. 2 has resulted in a situation where no enterprises will be assigned some specific Nace Rev. 2 activity codes. Has the re-coding been correct? It is obvious that Nace codes concerning public administration etc. cannot be re-coded by using the SBS survey. An analyse has to be carried out. The number of enterprises which have a Nace Rev.1.1 which is converted to a Nace Rev. 2 code where no enterprises have been placed after the conversion has to be calculated. Afterwards the number of enterprises transferred to one of the correspondence Nace Rev. 2 codes are calculated. It has to be decided whether or not the conversion seems reliable.

When calculating the conversion tables the enterprises have to have an activity code Nace Rev. 1.1 and a correspondent activity code Nace Rev. 2. This means the conversion tables should be based that activity code which is accepted as the code for the enterprise the year which is the basic for making the conversion tables.

Double coding

4. Often the new enterprises are small and therefore it is recommended to use the correspondence table for number of enterprises to make the double coding.
 - The assigning of the code to the individual enterprise has to be random. Therefore the double coding procedure has to be carried out for instance every month so the number of enterprises

which have to be assigned and old code is not too small. The procedure should be quite automatically. If any information about turnover or number of employees of the enterprise is available the biggest enterprises (those which really will have an effect on the result of any statistic) might be controlled manually.

- This procedure should also be used in cases of changes in activity codes.
- It is recommended to carry out a test, but hopefully this test will show the same result as the test carried out concerning the correspondence tables.

Back casting

5. The MS consultants recommend presenting the result of the comparison of the back casting prepared by the Labour division itself and the result using the matrices produced by Methodological division the for the other sector divisions.
6. The timetable is very compressed. A lot of work has to be done during the next few months. Even though it is not the responsibility of the Methodological division, the MS experts recommend that the Methodological division during the meetings with each sector division agree on sending an expanded the timetable for the back casting to the Methodological division for coordination. It has to be realized that it is time consuming to make these back castings.
7. The MS experts recommend that the decision about the requirements to the back casting of the SBR is taken within a very short period and no later than 29th June 2012. The decision has to be taken on the basic of the requirements of from the different sector divisions. As it will take much time to prepare the conversion matrices covering the period before 2009, because no information about individual enterprises is available in the SBR before 2009, there is a risk that the timetable will be overrun.
8. The decision should be taken on the base on a prepared methodological paper describing the methods and rules.

Access to Statistical Business Register

9. The MS experts have good experience concerning access to the SBR for staff in the regions and sector divisions. SSSU could think about introducing such a possibility.

Frozen versions

10. Even though MS experts find that this subject is a little out of scope, the SBR team and the sector divisions find that the use of frozen versions is very important. Therefore it is recommended that the experts at the next mission 1.3.4. present an overview of using the frozen version in the statistical production. The purpose should be to give the sector divisions a common understanding on using frozen versions.
11. The MS experts also recommend that an analysis of the frozen versions is carried through. The analysis should unveil how many new enterprises possible could be added to a frozen version out of the actually new enterprises. The information from the annual financial report is going to be used for this analysis.

Surveys

- Local Units
12. MS experts recommend taking in a question on number of employees into the questionnaire when carrying out the annually survey on Local Units. SBR team agreed that this information is important.
- Finance statistics
13. Await the clarifications.

Actions needed for preparing the next mission

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
Take a decision about the requirements to the back	29 th June 2012	

casting of the SBR.		
A summing up of the study visit in Copenhagen, including a translated version of the Conclusions and recommendations made in Copenhagen.	End June	Anton Tovchenko
Analyse the conversion tables for those Nace Rev. 1.1 activities which contain enterprises but where no enterprises are placed in all the correspondence Nace Rev. 2 activity codes.	According to time table	Anton Tovchenko
Revise the methodological document concerning after the discussions with the different sector divisions, taking in answers to their questions	According to time table	Anton Tovchenko
Finish the methodological document concerning back casting.	According to time table	Anton Tovchenko
Draft a methodological document concerning double coding.	According to time table	Anton Tovchenko
Calculate conversional matrices according to the time table	According to time table	Anton Tovchenko
A tool to be used for back casting will be produced.	According to time table	Anton Tovchenko
Revise time table to include a more specific time table for the back casting in the sector division.	End June	Anton Tovchenko together with the heads of sector divisions
The problem concerning 'dormant enterprises' should be described with the intention to get advises to solve this.		
Some clarifications concerning the special procedure used to take in information about these into the SSSU SBR will be composed.	End July	Anton Tovchenko

Subject which have already been agreed for the next mission

The next mission, mission 1.3.4., will take place in Kiev 9th – 12th October 2012.

Some subjects as already been agreed should be on the agenda:

a. Frozen versions

The MS experts present an overview of using the frozen version in the statistical production. The purpose should be to give the sector divisions a common understanding on using frozen versions.

The use of the finance statistics reports to measure quality of the frozen versions SBR might be discussed.

b. SD presents how to decide the secondary activity in Denmark.

SSSU will supplement the list after finishing the summing up of the study visit.

Conclusions/recommendations, which have not been handled before the next mission 1.3.4., will be points for the ToR for that mission.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference**Action 1.3.3. “Recoding of Economic Activities in Statistical Business Register”****Background Information**

Statistics Denmark in partnership with Statistics Finland, Statistics Lithuania, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Statistical Office of Slovak Republic, INE Spain - National Statistical Institute of Spain and Statistics Sweden, implements in Ukraine "Development of New Statistical Methodologies and Indicators in Selected Areas of Statistics in Line with EU Statistical Standards" Twinning Project. The State Statistics Service of Ukraine (State Statistics of Ukraine) is the Beneficiary of this Project.

This action is implemented under Component 1.3. “Statistical Business Register”.

The purpose of this Component is to introduce Classification of economic activities based on NACE rev.2 in statistical business register.

This action will contribute to achieving the abovementioned objective and reference indicators specified in the contract. On the results of the action it is envisaged to draft the document for formalization and description of procedures related to recoding of economic activities for units in statistical business register.

Purpose of the Mission

The prior purpose of the mission is to assess the results of conversion of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises as a result of a special survey conducted at the annual structural survey for 2011.

Using the available statistical and administrative information for the conversion of economic activities of enterprises and local units of double coding and economic activities of enterprises in the statistical register of enterprises.

In addition, at the mission will be discussed arrangements for the retrospective calculation of statistics by type of industry. Also, experts will present for the SSSU experts in order to access the statistical register of enterprises of different categories of users and experts responsible for conducting statistical surveys.

Expected Results

Assessment of conversion of economic activities for units in a statistical register of enterprises and measures to conduct retrospective payments statistics by type of industry.

Questions to the experts

1. Presentation of experience of Statistics Denmark and Statistics Lithuania on access to the statistical register of enterprises for the users and for the professionals who are responsible for conducting the statistical surveys.
2. Discussions on the formation of population of statistical register of enterprises and feedback from users of the register who are responsible for conducting statistical surveys.
3. Discussion of the results of the conversion of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises as a result of a special survey conducted at the annual structural survey for 2011 and use the available statistical and administrative information for the conversion of economic activities.
4. Discussion of issues related to the distribution of economic activity areas and areas of statistics due to changes in the structure of NACE rev.2 classification.
5. Discussion of issues related to retrospective calculations.
6. Discussion of the use of double coding of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises

7. Finalize work plan, recommendations and conclusions.

Actions

The tentative schedule of the mission is the following:

1-t day	09:30 - 16:30
5 June	The current situation and review of programs and mission.
Tuesday	Presentation of statistical experience of Denmark and Lithuania in the organization access to statistical register of enterprises of different categories of users and experts responsible for conducting statistical surveys. Questions and answers
2-d day	09:30 - 16:30
6 June	Discussion conversion of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises as a result of a special survey conducted at the annual structural survey in 2010.
Wednesday	Discussions on the use of existing statistical and administrative information for the conversion of economic activities of enterprises and local units of double coding and economic activities of enterprises in the statistical register of enterprises.
3-d day	09:30 - 16:30
7 June Thursday	Discussion of issues related to the distribution of economic activity areas and areas of statistics due to changes in the structure of NACE rev.2 classification Discussion of issues related to retrospective payment. Questions and answers
4-th day	9:30 - 16:30
June 8 Friday	Discussion of the use of double coding of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises Discussion, Conclusions and Recommendations

Tasks to be fulfilled by the State Statistics to facilitate the mission

The SSSU specialists will get familiarized experts with:

- the program and special questionnaire survey of enterprises for conversion of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises in the annual structural survey;
- The current situation of dual coding of economic activities in the statistical register of enterprises;
- Scheme of distribution of economic activities by sector and field of statistics;
- With the measures undertaken to implement retrospective calculations.

Consultant and Partner

The Mission will be conducted jointly with:

Mrs. Dalia Maciuitiene , Statistics Lithuania
Mrs. Vibeke Skov Moller, Statistics Denmark

The partner from the Country-Beneficiary will be:

Alla Varnidis – Deputy Director of Statistical Methodology Department - Head of Statistical Classifications Unit – Head of Component
Anton Tovchenko – Head of Unit for Mathematical Methods of Statistical Data Processing and Analysis

Olga Ponomarenko – Chief Specialist – Economist of Unit for Statistical Units Registers

Olena Timofeeva – Chief Specialist – Economist of Unit for Generation of Statistical Observation Populations

Olga Sushich – Head of Division for Keeping the Statistical Units Register of Main Inter-Regional Statistics Administration in the City of Kyiv

The specialists of sectoral statistics departments, which are users of statistical business register, will also attend the meetings.

Timing

The mission shall be conducted during 4 days from 5 to 8 June 2012 in Ukraine.

Report

The summary report on the results of the mission should be submitted not later than two weeks after the mission is completed.

Annex 2. Persons met

SSSU:

Alla Varnidis – Deputy Director of Statistical Methodology Department - Head of Statistical Classifications Unit – Head of Component

Anton Tovchenko – Head of Unit for Mathematical Methods of Statistical Data Processing and Analysis

Olga Ponomarenko – Chief Specialist – Economist of Unit for Statistical Units Registers

Olena Timofeeva – Chief Specialist – Economist of Unit for Generation of Statistical Observation Populations

Olga Sushich – Head of Division for Keeping the Statistical Units Register of Main Inter-Regional Statistics Administration in the City of Kyiv

RTA Team:

Irina Bernstein , RTA

Volodymyr Kuzka, RTA Assistant

Svitlana Taranova, Interpreter