Twinning Project

Contract: GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System

Component 3: *"Development of Business Statistics"*

Sub-component 3.2: "Statistical Business Register (SBR)"

MISSION REPORT
Activity: 3.2.E (RS) "Further implementation of specific changes"

Mission carried out by
Mr. Steen Eiberg Jørgensen, Statistics Denmark
Mr. Christian Flies Bendtsen, Statistics Denmark

March 5th – April 12th 2021

Version: Final

Expert contact information

Mr. Steen Eiberg Jørgensen
Deputy Head of Division for Data collection and registers
Statistics Denmark
Copenhagen, Denmark
Tel: +45 3917 3846
Email: sej@dst.dk

Mr. Christian Flies Bendtsen
IT-Specialist
Statistics Denmark
Copenhagen, Denmark
Tel: +45 3917 3034
Email: chb@dst.dk

Table of contents

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacity of Georgian Statistical System". This was the fifth mission within the sub-component 3.2: "Statistical Business Register (SBR)" and was mainly devoted to discuss the new test version of the IT system and to discuss how to test and revise the system.

The purposes of the mission were:

Discussion of current situation and outline of a work plan and thereby;
- New IT system – test version
- Testing and revising the IT system
- Use cases for the IT system
- Plan to go in to production mode – when, how, challenges..?
- Decisions made on Cash machine data
- Outstanding issues identified and a planning of the work

The consultants would like to express their gratitude to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Georgia and which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of the European Union, Geostat, Statistics Denmark, or other statistical institutions involved in the implementation of the project.

2. Assessment and results

Since the fourth mission, the SBR team at Geostat, including IT, have been working with the topics and recommendations made at the latest mission. Work has been concentrated around the new data model and new variables and introducing the new historical model on some of the most central tables. In addition, work is also ongoing within National Accounts, to assign correct Sector codes for all legal units. Finally, there is ongoing work to plan how to get information about how to include Enterprise Groups in SBR and how many Groups that are needed.

New IT system

Status of the new SBR IT system is that it is ready for test by IT and rules for updating is ready from the SBR team. The work that has been done is good, but also characterized by a covid time with a lot of working from home, which resulted in too little communication between IT and SBR, and other tasks taking up valuable time.

There are still issues that need to be clarified,

First of all it's important to have a test database. Now the test is ongoing in the production system and that is only possible because the system is not in production. It's very important to have the test database available, so that moving newly developed (and tested) programs from a testing environment to production can become routine. It sounds simple and most often it is, but sometimes you have to be able to go back to the previous version, which demands that a "Historical" version is available, helping you to "roll back" changes, if the system breaks down.

Recommendations from the experts are:

Make it possible to make tests on production data. (Transfer data only from production to test)

- Make it possible to "roll back", so that it´s possible to test the same thing again and again
- The SBR team must be involved in the test process – for purpose of understanding of the system and posing good questions. Only the SBR team understands the data – The IT understands the datamodel
- Creation of organized test-cases is important. The first structure was presented on the third meeting day.
  - It's needed to create testcases using the excel sheets we have been working with
  - It's needed also to test updates as the data comes from NAPR or RS

Examples for test

The experts suggest that the SBR team makes a plan to perform the tests created, based on the excel sheets and the described rules. This is meant to ensure that all scenarios will be tested.

There must be a test of:

- Receiving data (both from NAPR and RS)
  - IT system identifies differences and will update them in SBR
    - Does the system identify correct rows for…
      - New units
      - Removed units
      - Changes in name
      - Changes in address
      - Changes in other data elements
      - Change in name and address
      - Do we read the correct date
    - Will data go to the correct table?
    - Will data be correct in the tables?
    - Is it only changed variables which will be updated?
    - Do we save the source
  - What happen if Geostat has changed? recently, will it stop an administrative update
  - A new legal unit - does it create Enterprise and Local unit
  - A closed legal unit - what effect does it have on Enterprise and Local unit
- In the same way as the above, other types of updates must be tested.

Activity Code for all units

It was discussed whether all units should have an activity code. The experts clearly recommend that an active (alive) unit should have an activity code. As the activity code is not given from an administrative source, it is proposed to set the code to unknown activity until CATI has clarified the activity. This will help ensure a more stringent data model.

Discussion about "holes" in the dates, for activity codes specifically:

- DST suggested that there should always be an activity code for as long as the unit is alive.
- When a unit is created from the NAPR, it will not get an activity code.
- Suggestion: Give it 9999. If there's a hole, give it either 9999 or give it the activity code it had before.
- Reasoning: If the unit has no activity code, it cannot be selected. But if it has 9999 we know we have explicitly considered it and decided to give it an unknown activity code.
- Decison: Geostat decided to use 9999 for unknown. For holes, the previous activity code will be used instead. :)

Sector Code

The work on Sector codes has been carried out very well and is in production. There are still a few issues that need to be handled. These outstanding issues need to be clarified between experts, National Account and SBR.

Size class

At the final mission , it needs to be discussed why it can be a good idea to have one more size class and if Geostat possess the data for it.

Enterprise Groups

Enterprise Groups were not discussed. But the database is ready to have information about groups.

Active Status – live cyclus

The experts recommend that if a legal unit/ Enterprise has been "not active" for two years or more it must be shown in the database that it has been not active for a period. It is possible to show it in the table for active status or life cyclus.

3. Conclusions and follow up

Making a new business register is a big and difficult task. It is impressive that the Geostat team have come as far as they actually have. The team and our assessment is that the new SBR will be able to go into production at the end of the ongoing project, if hours are still set aside for the project.

Simultaneously with this work, the database has been made ready to contain data on Enterprise Groups. There are some old data on Groups and one can consider whether they should be entered in the database, or whether one should wait until 2022, when selected groups can be included in the CATI survey.

The agenda for the 6th and last activity will be status and result of the test, use cases created, status on test database, secondary activities and go to production. We will also handle when to update active status and identifying of Local Units.

Actions needed for moving forward:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
The last outstanding issues are handled for Sector Code together with NA – Zoom meeting	May 2021	Adviser (Steen BP)

Creation of a test database	May 2021	IT (Giorgi)
Get full test database with at least ½ population.	May 2021	IT (Giorgi)
Develop excel sheets for updates from SBR team.	April 2021	IT (Giorgi)
Let the SBR team test updates and results – creation of more usecases. Important also to test what Is not legal	April-August 2021	SBR-TEAM
Understanding of new datamodel – describe influence in how to work with data update and extracts	May 2021	SBR (Manana) with help from IT (Giorgi)
Describe changes for extracts to frozen versions	June 2021	SBR (Manana)
How to indentify Local Units – full coverage, is it needed?	June 2021	SBR (Manana)
Active status code. Make a description of how Active status is set in SBR. When do we update status, how does it influence Business demography, how to handle it in statistics? If possible make some extracts on the setting of Status 9; how often will it be 1 in a period of 2 year, 5 year, >5 year, never active	June 2021	SBR (Manana)

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

March 5th – March 31st 2021

Component 3: Development of Business Statistics

Sub-component 3.2: Statistical Business Register (SBR)

Mandatory results and benchmarks for sub-component 3.2
- Statistical business register (SBR) improved

Indicators of Achievement (baseline and targets):
- Availability of SBR-Storage procedures
  - **Baseline:** 2019 – Updating and storage procedures of SBR are insufficient
  - **Target:** March 2021 – Relevant changes applied for Ownership classifications, Continuity rules, Time stamps, Data changes and activity codes in SBR

Activity 3.2.E (RS): "Further implementation of specific changes"

1. Purpose of the activity
Geostat have been working on different issues since the latest mission. The work performed and the status on the below mentioned subjects will be discussed:
  - New IT system – test version
  - Testing and revising the IT system
  - Use cases for the IT system
  - Plan to go in to production mode – when, how, challenges..?
  - Decisions made on Cash machine data
  - Outstanding issues identified and a planning of the work

2. Expected output of the activity
  - The above mentioned subjects have been discussed and the work performed by Geostat has been reviewed.
  - Revisions and guidelines to further work and progress on the above mentioned subjects have been provided.
  - Is an extra mission needed? Work plan for sub-component 3.2 updated.
  - Mission report written

Annex 2. Persons met

Geostat
Ms. Manana Telia, Head of Business Register Division,
Mr. Giorgi Kartvelishvili, IT-specialist

RTA Twinning Team
Mr. Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen, Resident Twinning Advisor
Ms. Nino Grdzelishvili, Resident Twinning Advisor Translator