The Central Business Register (CVR)

A new era in business registration

The Central Business Register (CVR) has started a new era in registration of businesses in Denmark. CVR is a central element in the ICT-strategy of the Danish government, and it will be essential in reducing the administrative burdens on especially the small and medium-sized enterprises. CVR was established on the basis of legislation and Statistics Denmark is responsible for the operation of CVR. It is a general administrative register based mainly on data from the following sources: The Central Customs and Tax Administration, The Danish Commerce and Companies Agency, The National Labour Market Authority, The National Working Environment Authority and Statistics Denmark.

C V R — DET CENTRALE VIRKSOMHEDS REGISTER

Each unit is assigned an unambiguous identifier

In CVR, each legal unit is assigned one and only one identification-number, the CVR-number. This number is unique for each legal unit. The information in the register is basic data on the legal unit such as name, address, phone number, activity code, employment etc. as well as information about the local units belonging to the legal unit. Also the local units are assigned a unique identification-number. When both the legal and the local units are defined, the unambiguous link between a legal unit and its local units can be registered. Both historical and current data is available in the new register.

Up-to-date information

The authorities collecting and updating the information are integrated on-line with the CVR to ensure that the information is always up-to-date and of high quality. Most data in CVR are publicly accessible.

Within the field of business the register corresponds to the Central Population Register in structure as well as in use. It is by law mandatory for all public authorities to use the CVR-number whenever they are in contact with businesses. Furthermore data extracts from CVR are used for many other purposes by both public and private institutions.

CVR facilitates reduction of the burden of response

The unambiguous identifier facilitates the development of registers containing basic data from CVR as well as more specific data in use by a particular public institution or private enterprise. The register also makes it possible to keep track of the pressure put on units to respond to various questionnaires from different public institutions. This registration is essential in order to reduce the amount of data a legal unit has to submit to the government.

The statistical register (ESR) has also been redesigned

The statistical business register (ESR) is also managed by Statistics Denmark. Since it is integrated with CVR the ESR has been redesigned too and it is still under development. It covers the administrative units from CVR, the statistical units required by EU - e.g. the economic unit - the taxation units as well as the relations between the units over time - also called business demography.