

Regional Workshop on Business Registers for the Arab countries

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OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND USES OF BUSINESS REGISTERS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES

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OUTLINES

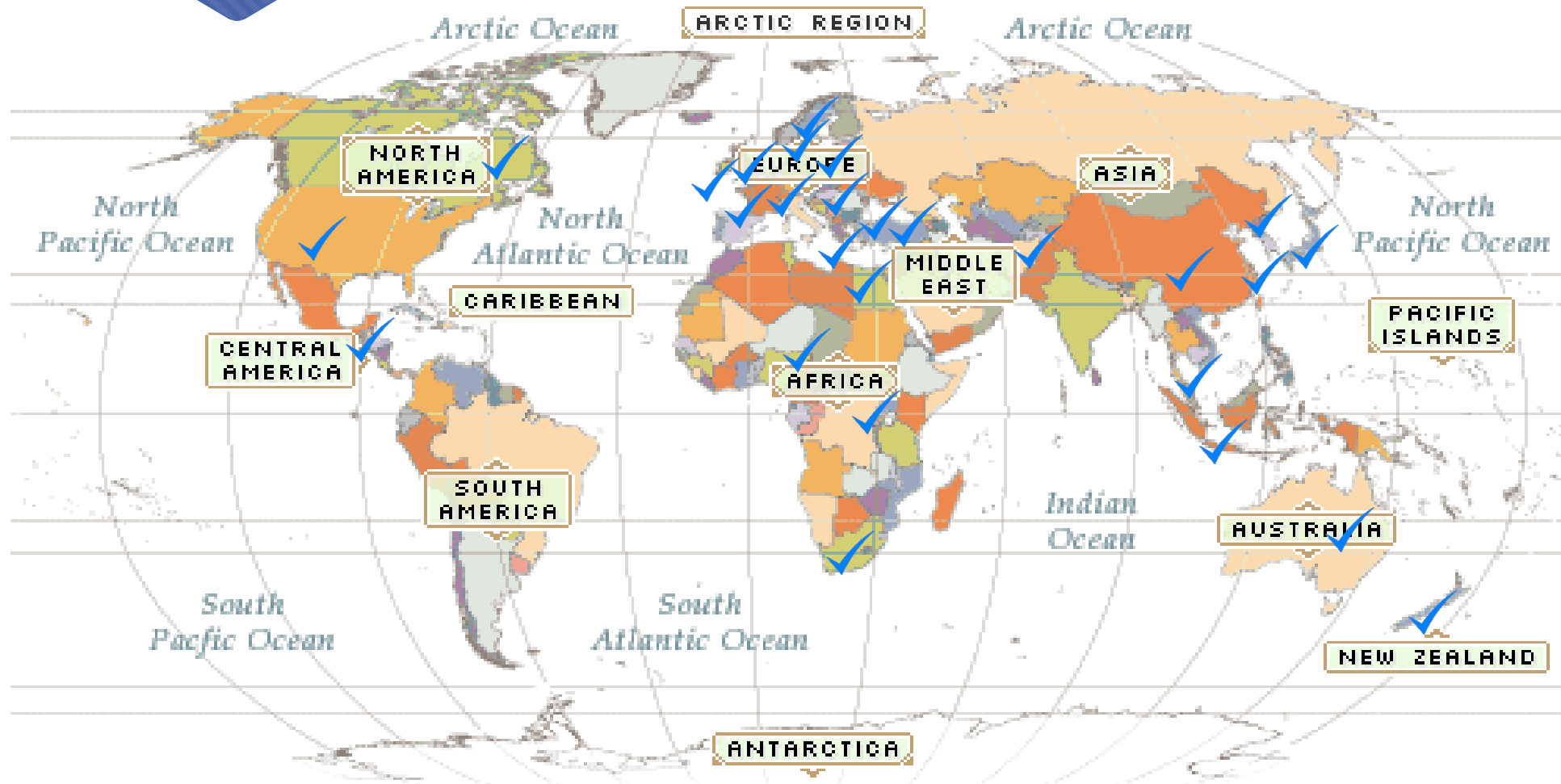
Overview

- **What is Statistical Business Registers?**
- **Statistical Business Registers Characteristics**
- **Some developments of SBR**

Uses of Statistical Business Registers



Statistical Business Register around the world



What is a Statistical Business Register?

A **Statistical Business Register** is a regularly updated, structured database of specific business units in a territorial area, maintained by an National Statistical Institute, and used for statistical purposes.

Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers, UNECE (2015)

A statistical business register is the population of businesses in a nation, with each business classified and recorded in a consistent manner. It is part of the foundation of a national statistical office.

Geoff Mead, Ron McKenzie
Business Register Guidelines and a Prototype Business Register System
for Small Developing Nations (ICES III, 2007)

SBR Characteristics

- Structured database
 - Defined characteristics are stored for each business unit
 - Relationships between units are included for businesses have more than one kind of activity
- Business units
 - Comprise of observation units, statistical unit and legal/administrative unit

SBR Characteristics

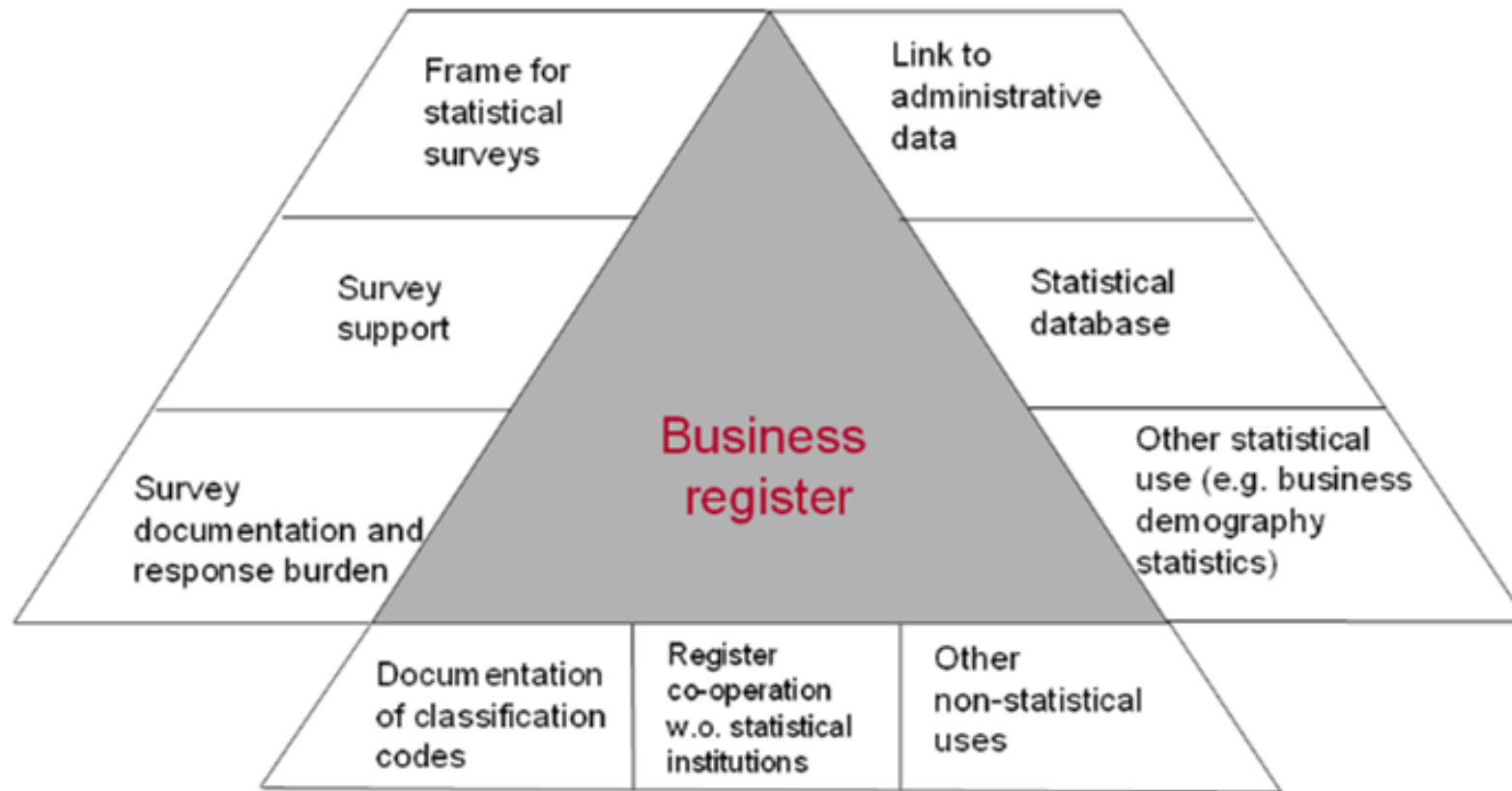
- Regularly updated
 - The frequency of SBR updating depends on data availability
- Territorial area
 - An SBR is established to cover all business units that are resident in a specific territorial area
- Statistical Purposes
 - To provide the frame population for business surveys



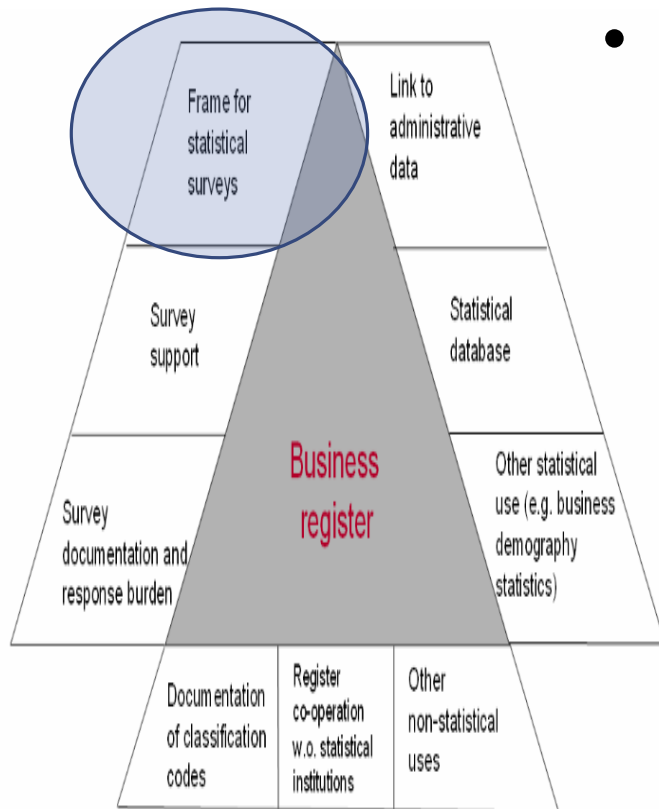
SBR developments

- Business registers Recommendations manual, Eurostats (2010)
- Guidelines for Building Statistical Business Registers in Africa, African Development Bank (2014)
- Pacific Business Register Development Guide, Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014)
- Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers, UNECE (2015)
- Asian Development Bank initiatives on SBR for improved information on SMEs - Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Sri Lanka (2014-2017)
- Linking Trade Statistics to SBR – Costa Rica

Uses of Statistical Business Register



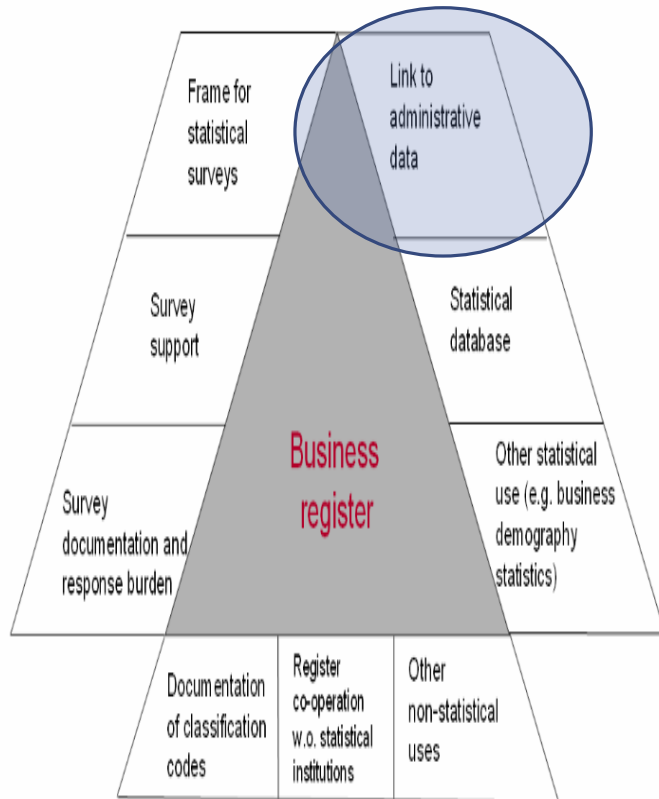
Use of SBR – Frame for statistical surveys



- When sample surveys were the rule instead of complete ones, the business registers had to provide the frame for the sampling and the appropriate grossing-up factors.
 - This meant that the business register had to increase its quality as only a part of the population was still checked by the surveys.
- The business register really served as the overall frame.

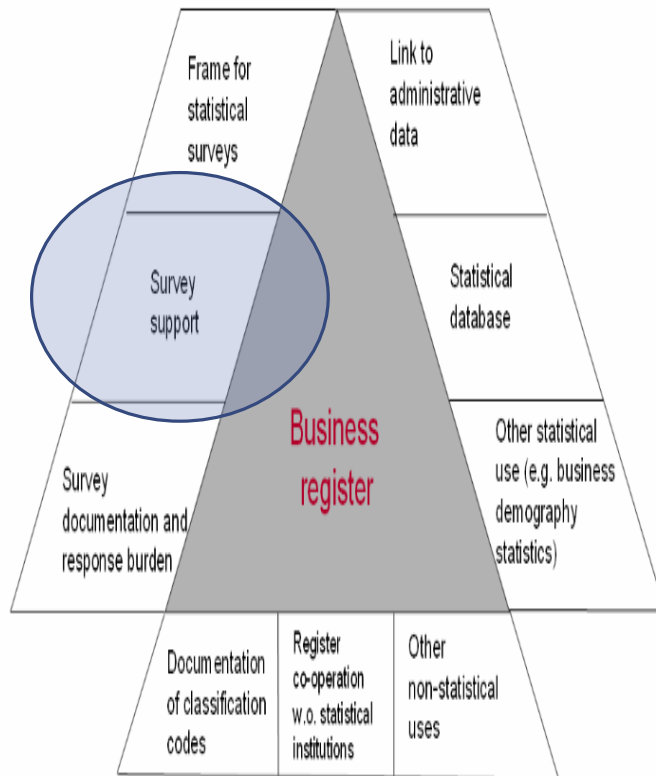
Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

Use of SBR – Link to administrative data



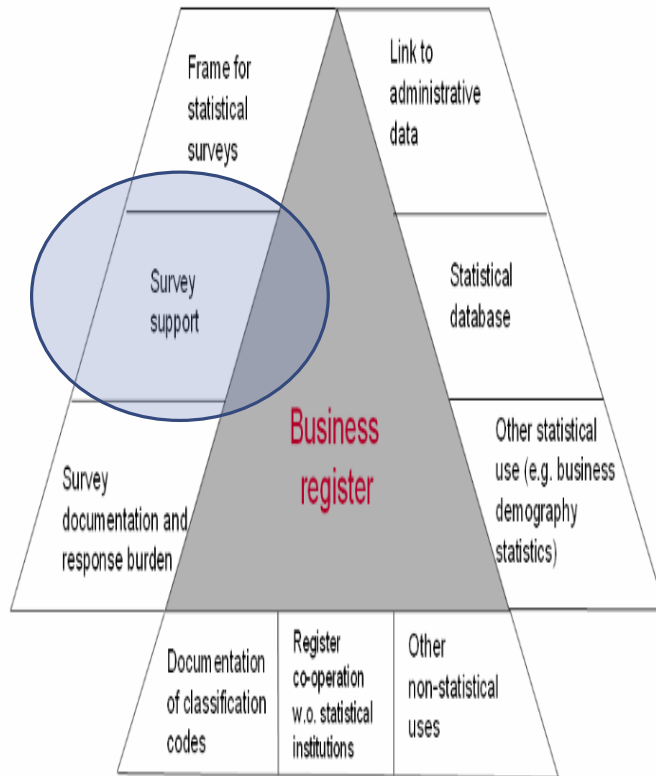
- The maintenance of the business register is today mostly based on administrative sources.
- Normally, more than one source has to be used.
- In many countries the most important sources are
 - tax registers,
 - social security registers,
 - company registers, and
 - registers of the chamber of commerce
 - or similar institutions.
- In addition, a lot of other specific data sources are used, in Austria for instance, the register of non-profit institutions, the school and the hospital register, and others.

Use of SBR – Surveys support



- The SBR store in addition to the postal addresses information on the units which are important contact data, such as telephone, fax number or e-mail address, name of the person responsible in the enterprise for the filling in of the various questionnaires.
- The SBR do also document when a questionnaire has been dispatched to the enterprise, when it came back, support sending reminders, or other information in connection with the conduction of a survey.

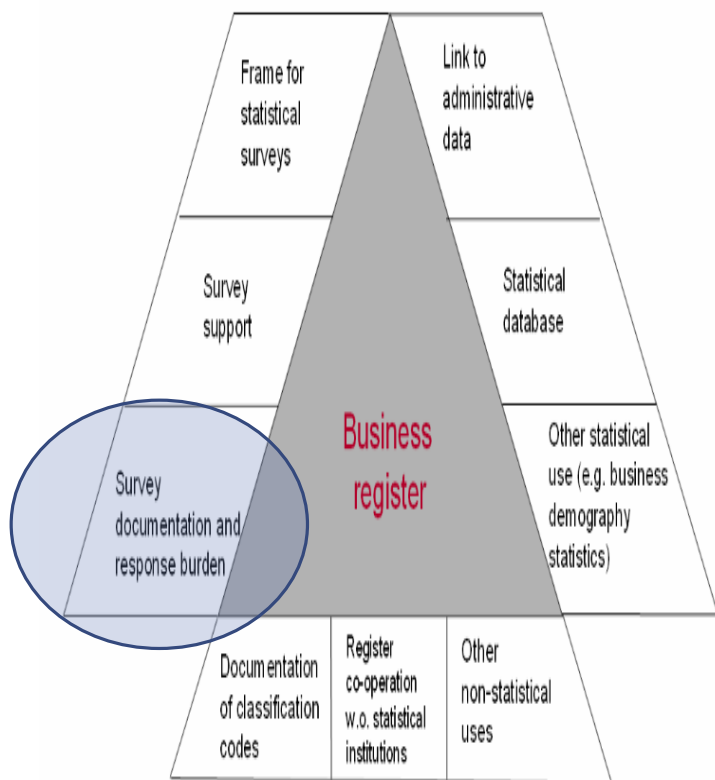
Use of SBR – Surveys support



- As many bigger enterprises have to report data for various surveys this function of the business register is also important from a coordination point of view within the statistical institute. Different surveys are conducted by different organisational units in the NSI and thus the contact data are available for all organisational units of the NSI

Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

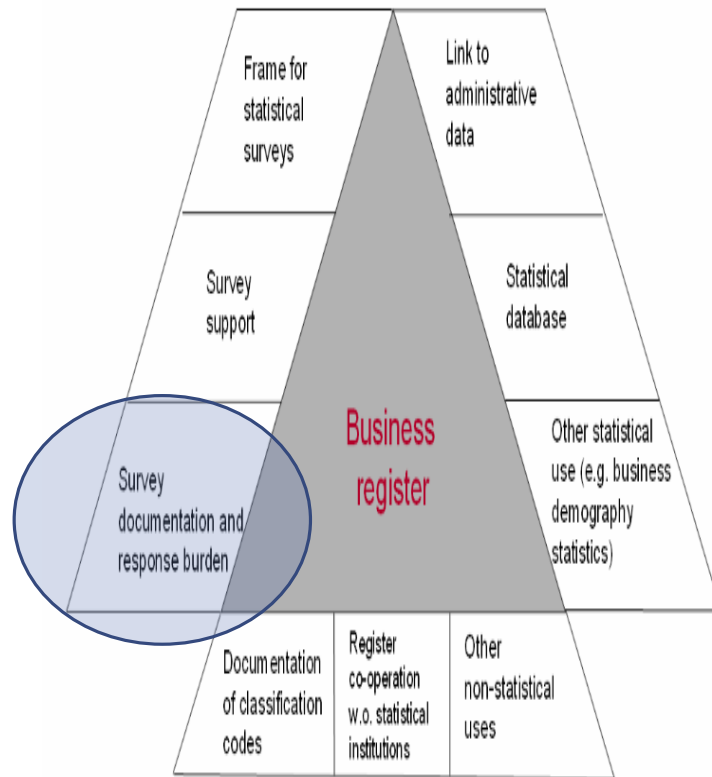
Use of SBR – Survey documentation and response burden



Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

- Such survey documentation will record over time which units were selected for which surveys.
 - This should be done preferably for all surveys, also for those not under direct responsibility of the NSI, (irrespective whether the surveys were obligatory or voluntary).

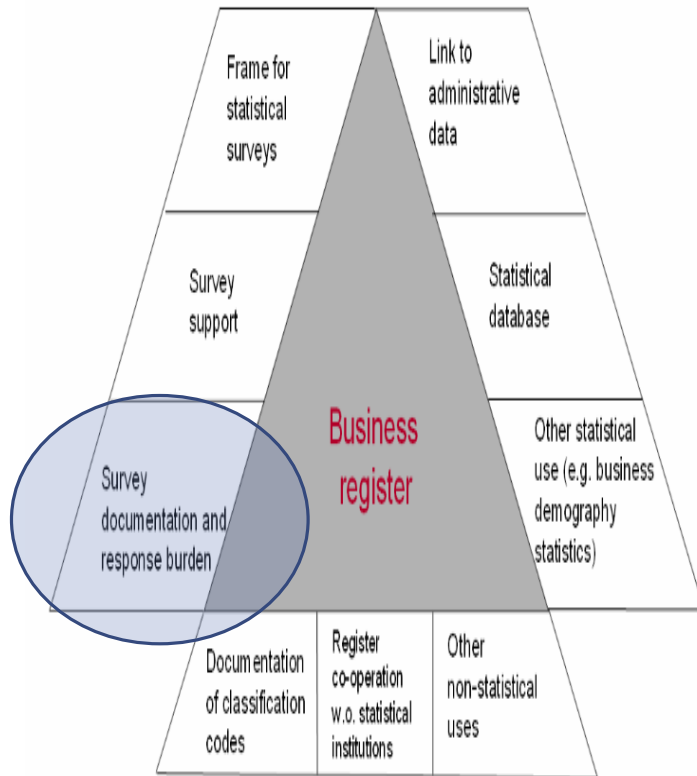
Use of SBR – Survey documentation and response burden



Sources: Kainer, N. Business registers as a tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

- On that basis appropriate analysis of the distribution of survey obligations over the enterprises and the other statistical units can be performed and appropriate survey policies based upon. For instance, a policy of certain survey holidays can be established and with the help of the SBR performed and monitored.

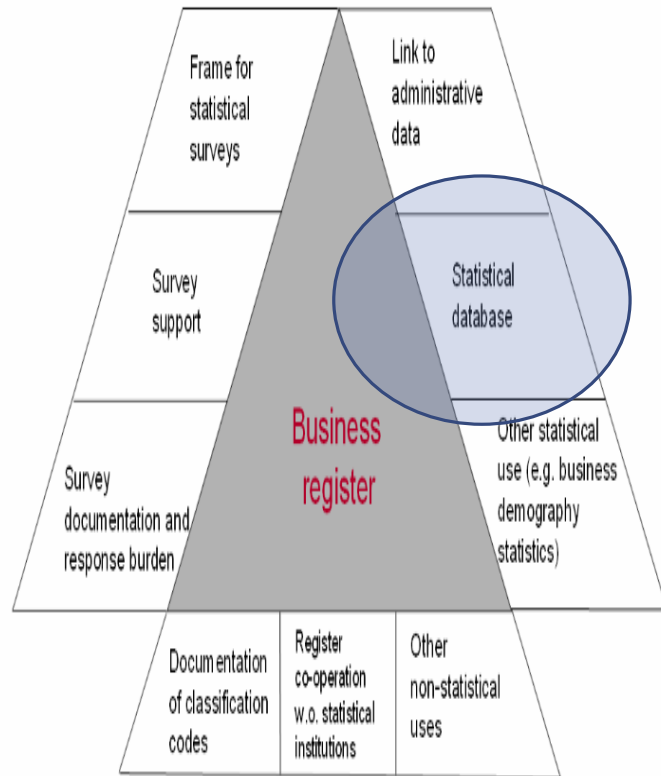
Use of SBR – Survey documentation and response burden



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- Can also be enlarged by covering information on the response burden itself,
 - such as the time needed to fulfil the survey obligation, or the costs of the time consumed in the enterprises.
- This can be used for the calculation and monitoring of total response burden over time, either for each single survey, for each economic branch, for each size class, or all in all for the grand total of response burden

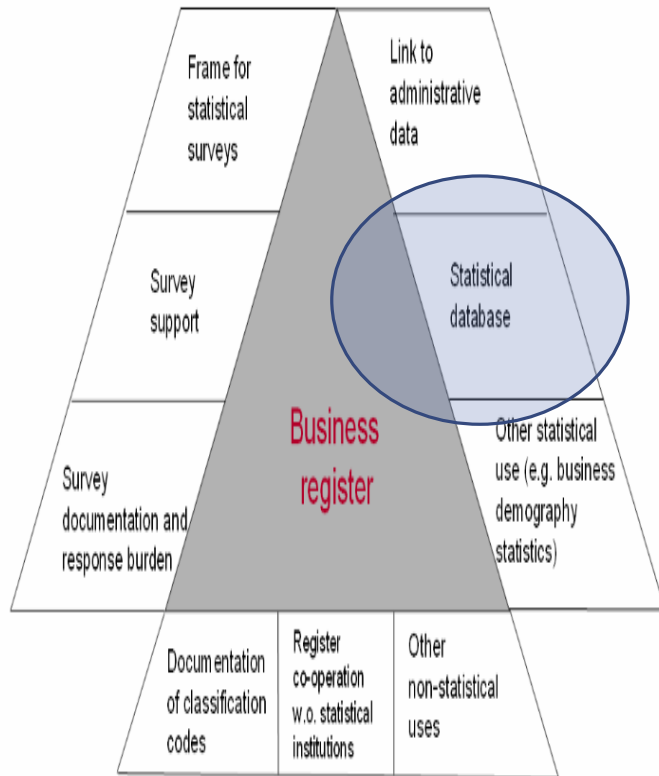
Use of SBR – Statistical database



Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

- As the business registers are mostly maintained by administrative sources, the coverage of the business register is very high with respect to activity and size classes.
- Depending on the sources available, the business register may cover not only enterprises, but also local units or other statistical units (new development: enterprise groups).

Use of SBR – Statistical database



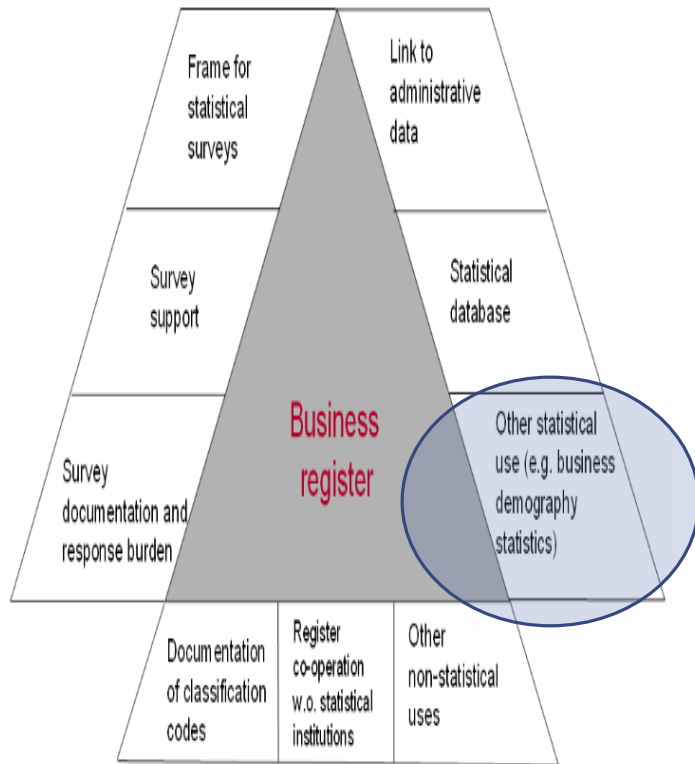
- Having up-to-date links to administrative sources, data on turnover and employment may also be available in a very timely frame.



All this together transformed the business register from a survey frame system to a powerful statistical database.

Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

Use of SBR – Other statistical use (e.g Business Demography)

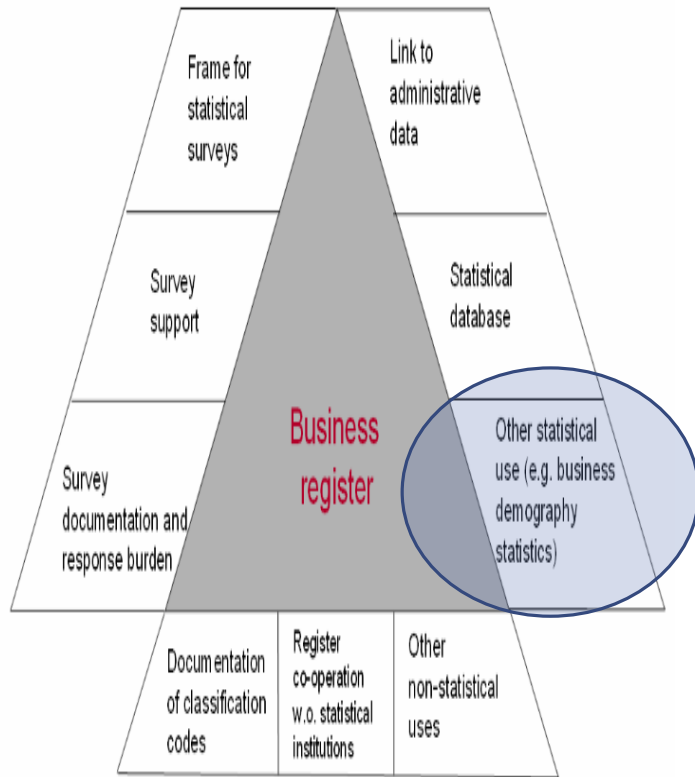


One recent example is business demography statistics.

- While data in the business register provide information on newly established enterprises or closed enterprises, these data might not be sufficient from the business demography point of view.
- According to the business demography concept, real births and deaths are only those events where no other enterprises are involved.
- The creation of a new legal unit is not a sufficient criterion for an enterprise birth.

Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

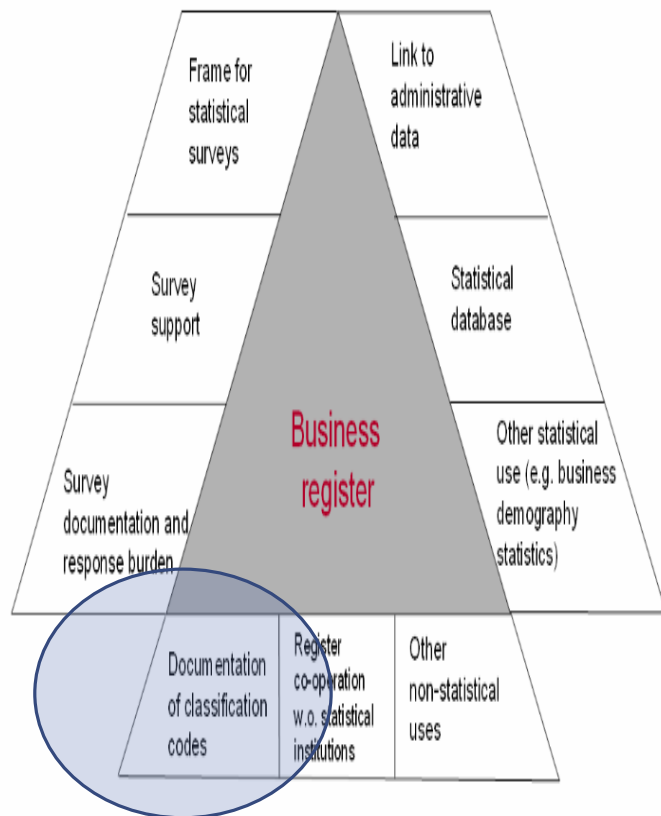
Use of SBR – Other statistical use (e.g Business Demography)



Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

- For an enterprise birth new factors of production, especially new jobs, have to be created.
- New enterprises created by
 - break-ups,
 - mergers,
 - split-offs,
 - take-overs or
 - restructuringare not considered as newly born enterprises.
- Even if the business register cannot fulfil these requirements in total, the Eurostat Manual recommends to use the database of the business register as an important starting point for the derivation of business demography statistics (see Eurostat – OECD, 2007; for the Austrian situation see Haslinger and Rainer, 2009).

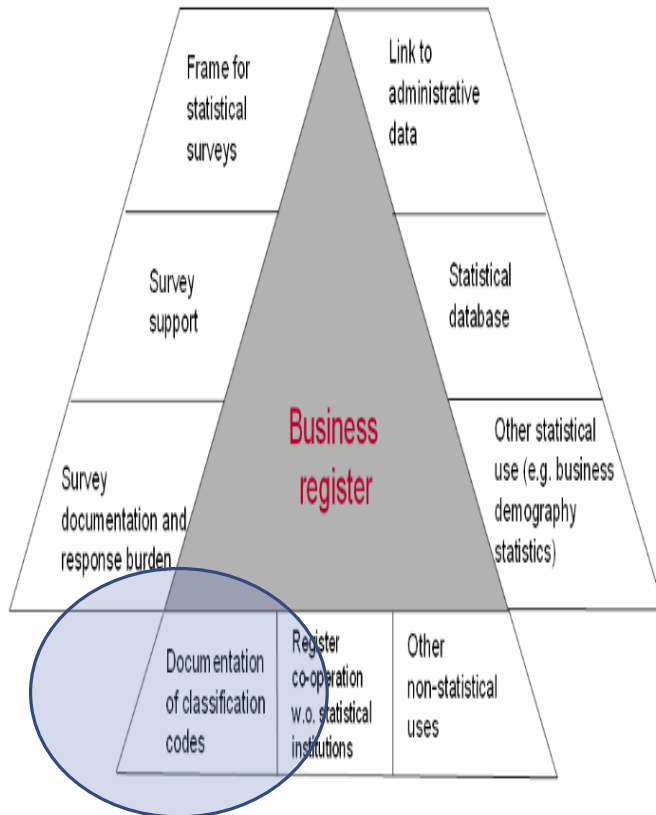
Use of SBR – Documentation of classification codes



Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

- One of the most important stratification variables of the business register is the **activity code** of the enterprise and the other statistical units.
 - The activity codes not only determine the structure of the industries and branches in the survey frame, also the coverage of many surveys is defined on the basis of the activity classification. Therefore, from the enterprises' point of view the activity code quite often determines their reporting obligations.

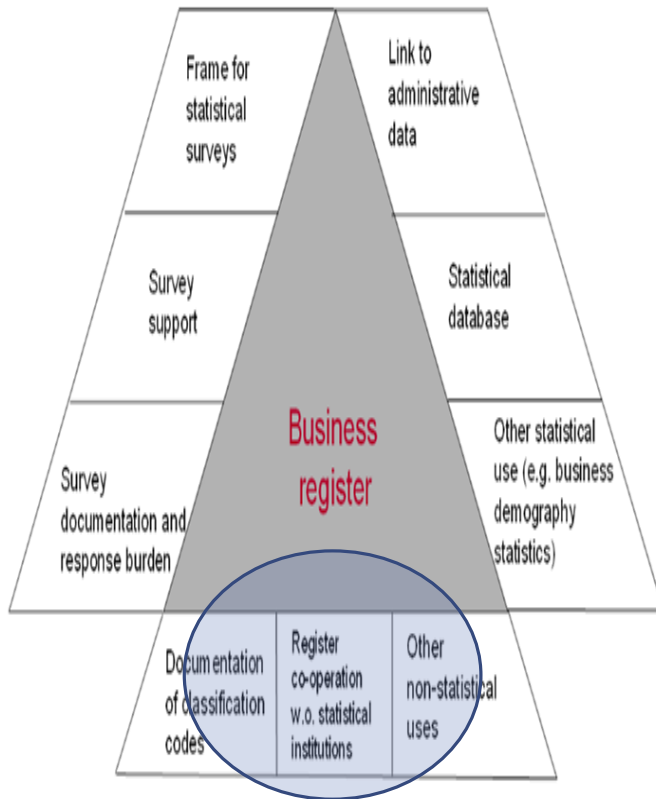
Use of SBR – Documentation of classification codes



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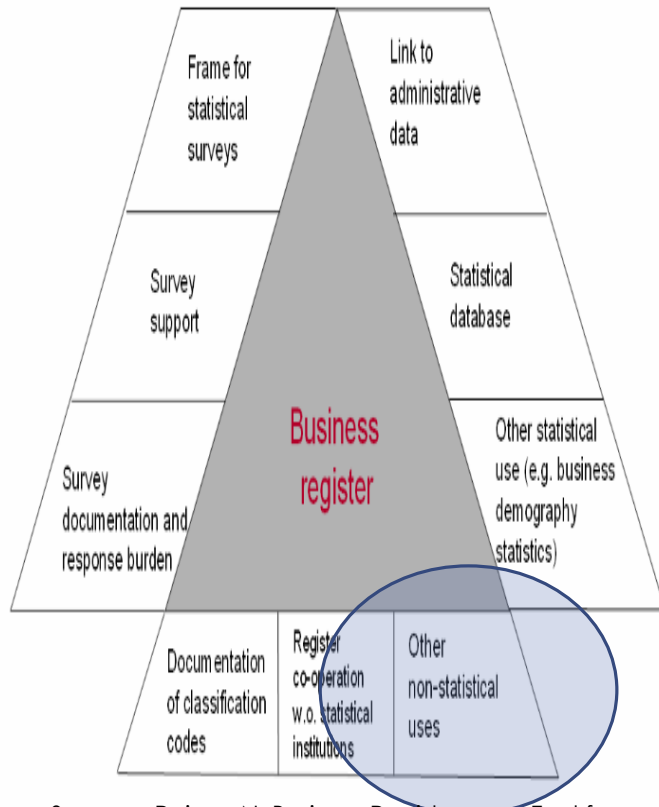
- Very important that the activity codes in the business register are of **high quality**.
 - The determination of the activity code needs empirical and up-to-date information on the production structure of the enterprise and an indication on the relative importance of each of the activities performed. This could be data on employment or preferable data on the production value or turnover.

Use of SBR – Register co-operation with other statistical institutions



Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

- Co-operation with other institutions of the statistical system might result in the need to document the exchange of data or to maintain additional IDs from the partner system(s).
- A new form of register co-operation is currently under development between the NSIs of the member states and Eurostat in the case of the EuroGroup Register.
 - This co-operation is based on the new EU Business Register Regulation set. The aim is to develop and maintain a register of the most important European enterprise groups.
 - The co-operation includes the exchange as well as the checking of data on the European enterprise groups and their constituent legal units.
 - This cooperation shall also comprise the European System of National Banks and their relevant data sources.



Sources: Rainer, N. Business Registers as a Tool for Linking various Administrative Data Sources

- Depending on the legal basis, data of the business register may also be used for non-statistical purposes.
- In some countries the register data are even publishable or are provided for administrative purposes.
 - Whether this is the case or not depends on a number of circumstances, the legal basis is certainly the most important one. In other countries the statistical business register can only be used for statistical purposes.

Users of SBR

Areas of NSOs that could use the SBR

Direct user

Subject matter area	Use the SBR for
Production statistics	Identifying and characterising establishments that produce goods and services
Labour statistics	Identifying and characterising enterprises that have employees
Tourism statistics	Identifying and characterising establishments that operate with the tourism industry
Research and development statistics	Identifying and characterising enterprises that undertake research and development

Users of SBR

Areas of NSOs that could use the SBR

Direct user

Subject matter area	Use the SBR for
Environmental statistics	Identifying and characterising establishments with certain environmental attributes
International trade statistics	Identifying and characterising enterprises that trade internationally in goods and services
Government statistics	Identifying and characterising enterprises that belong to the government sector

Users of SBR

Indirect user

Subject matter area	Use the SBR for
National Account	The outputs of many statistical collections are used in the compilation of national accounts. Unusual movements or changes in national accounts can often be caused by changes in survey frames. National accounts staff will be able to query the business register to investigate major changes that might have contributed to these movements, and be better able to explain unusual figures

THANK YOU