Measuring entrepreneurship: where do we come from

- Until the early 2000s, statistics on self-employment were typically used as proxies for describing entrepreneurship

- A few countries (e.g. France, the United States) compiled business demography indicators based on national specifications
  - Limited or no cross-country comparability

- Academic initiatives: GEM
  - Survey of individuals; non-official statistics

- 2006: Eurostat and the OECD launched the **Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme (EIP)** to develop policy-relevant and internationally-comparable measures of entrepreneurship
The role of the EIP

The programme developed:

- Concepts: entrepreneurship, entrepreneur
- Conceptual framework for the development of indicators of entrepreneurial:
  - Determinants
  - Performance:
    - Focus on business demography
  - Impact
- Methodological tool:
• **Set of key demographic business statistics**, e.g. birth, death, survival and growth of businesses now regularly produced by NSOs of countries in the European Statistical System and of OECD member and partner countries, based on the *Eurostat-OECD Manual*
  
  — NSOs of some OECD countries have a regular production of BD using definitions and methodology largely comparable with Eurostat-OECD (e.g. Australia)
  
  — Breakdowns by activity sector, legal form, sub-national level
  
  — Stream of research on **business dynamism**: the dynamic of business birth and death and its impact on productivity; the employment creation and destruction associated to business birth and death; and the contribution to employment creation by young and mature businesses
Where we are – data dissemination

- Databases publicly available (NSOs websites, Eurostat and OECD respective data portals)
- Publications by Eurostat, OECD (notably, *Entrepreneurship at a Glance*), NSOs statistical bulletins, etc.
Developments: New statistical tool

- **UNECE Guidelines on the use of business registers for business demography statistics and entrepreneurship indicators** (2019)

- It expands the content of 2007 Eurostat-OECD Manual, in particular:
  - New indicators based on microdata linking, e.g.:
    - Business demography by gender, by origin of business owner profile of entrepreneurs
    - Business demography and trade status of businesses
  - Examples of approaches to the production of business demography statistics not based on the business register (Korea, Mexico)
Thank you for your attention!

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