Micro Data Linking

2nd Webinar on the Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses
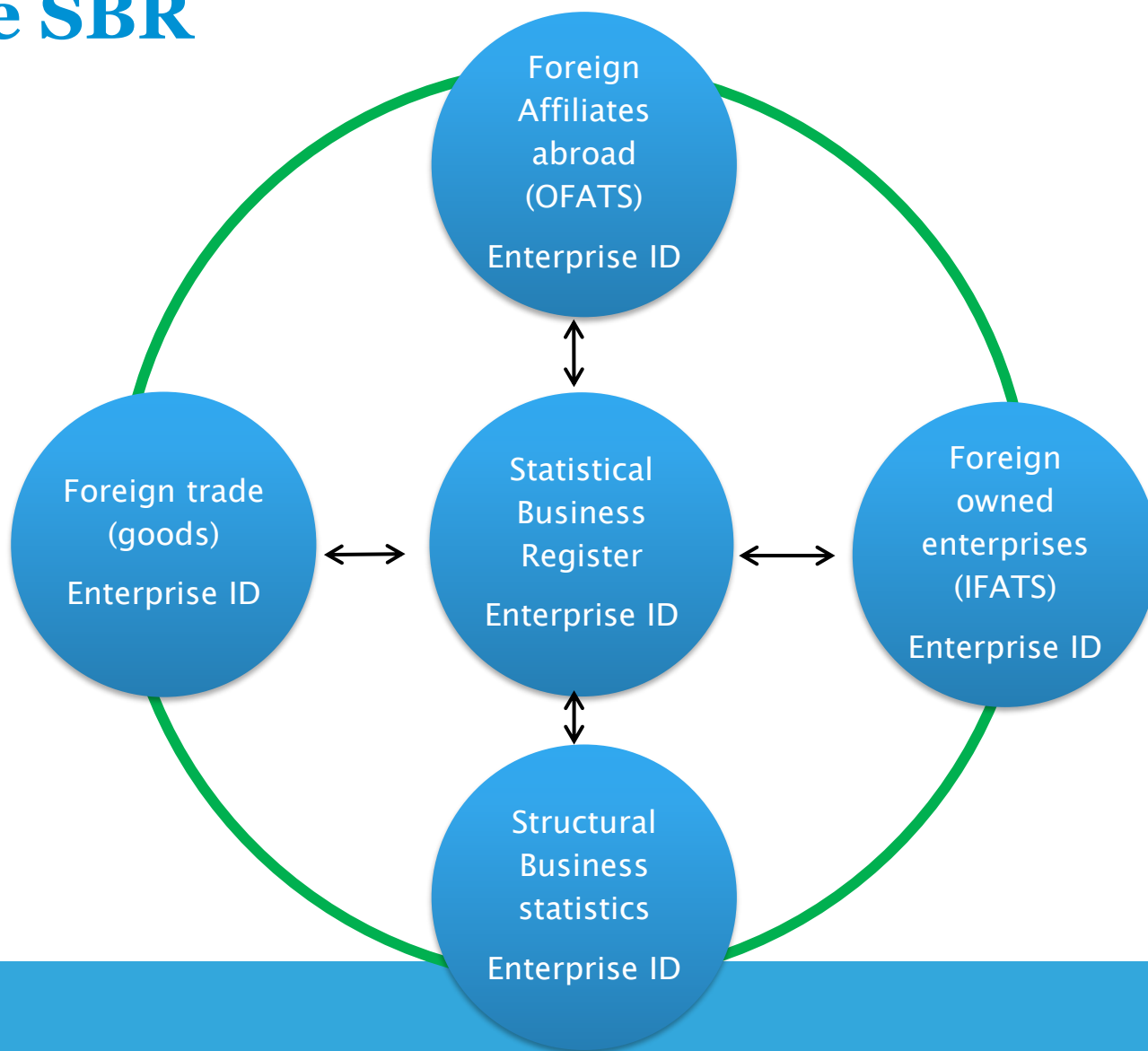
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What is Micro data Linking?
Linking of statistical registers at unit level via the SBR

Reasons for Micro Data Linking

Need for breaking down the stove pipe production approach to get a more holistic view of businesses and their behaviour, e.g. are exporting businesses creating more jobs than non-exporters

Tool to meet new and emerging user needs in a swift and cost efficient way.
MDL also offers the possibility of more granular statistics than published versions => making official statistics more valuable

Increasing value of existing, already collected data – without raising respondent burden by launching new surveys

Example from official statistics: TEC statistics is based on MDL

Some Methodological Issues

Fundament: Identical ID number used in the SBR and across statistical domains

Unit consistency: businesses with complex legal structures (enterprise groups) might use different ID no.s for reporting to different statistics (example: SBS and ITGS)

Sampling frame and populations differ across the statistics in question due to scope in terms of activity and/or size class

Data consistency: Checks for reported values to different statistics. Inconsistency might be due to different reference periods, different definitions or simply reporting of incorrect values
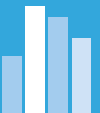
Official or experimental statistics? If official statistics, reweighting is an issue, if experimental statistics only using the observed units, representativity can be an issue
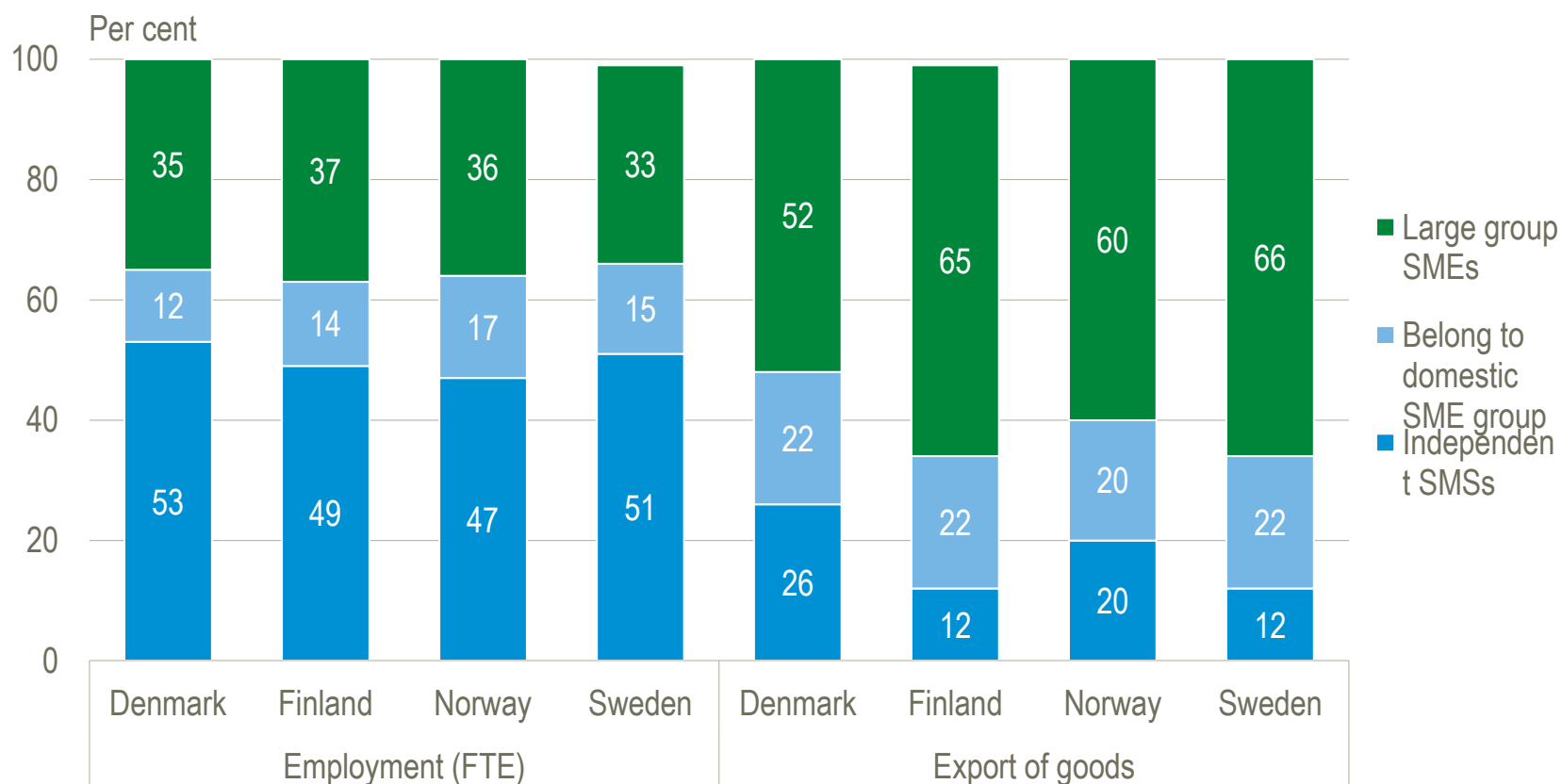
Output example: Redefining the definition of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

- Defining SMEs by two criteria: *size and control*
  - *Traditional approach: Employment size classes*
  - *Separate the population of SMEs into SMEs belonging to a an enterprise group (called dependent) and independent SMEs, as the framework conditions for SMEs belonging to a group are different from independent SMEs*

- Justification for analysis: SMEs are considered the main source for employment growth and consequently there is a policy focus on framework conditions for SMEs
- The possibility of micro data linking offers new ways of measuring the importance of SMEs

Example 1: Linking SBR and SBS and ITGS : New information revising the importance of SMEs for exports

Per cent

	Employment (FTE)				Export of goods			
	Denmark	Finland	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland	Norway	Sweden
Large group SMEs	35	37	36	33	52	65	60	66
Belong to domestic SME group	12	14	17	15	22	22	20	22
Independent SMSs	53	49	47	51	26	12	20	12

Legend:
- Large group SMEs
- Belong to domestic SME group
- Independent SMSs

Example 2: Linking SBR, SBS and IFATS Scaleup ownership across the Nordics

Domestic Ownership:

Scaleups mainly domestically owned more than 80 %, highest in Finland 88 %

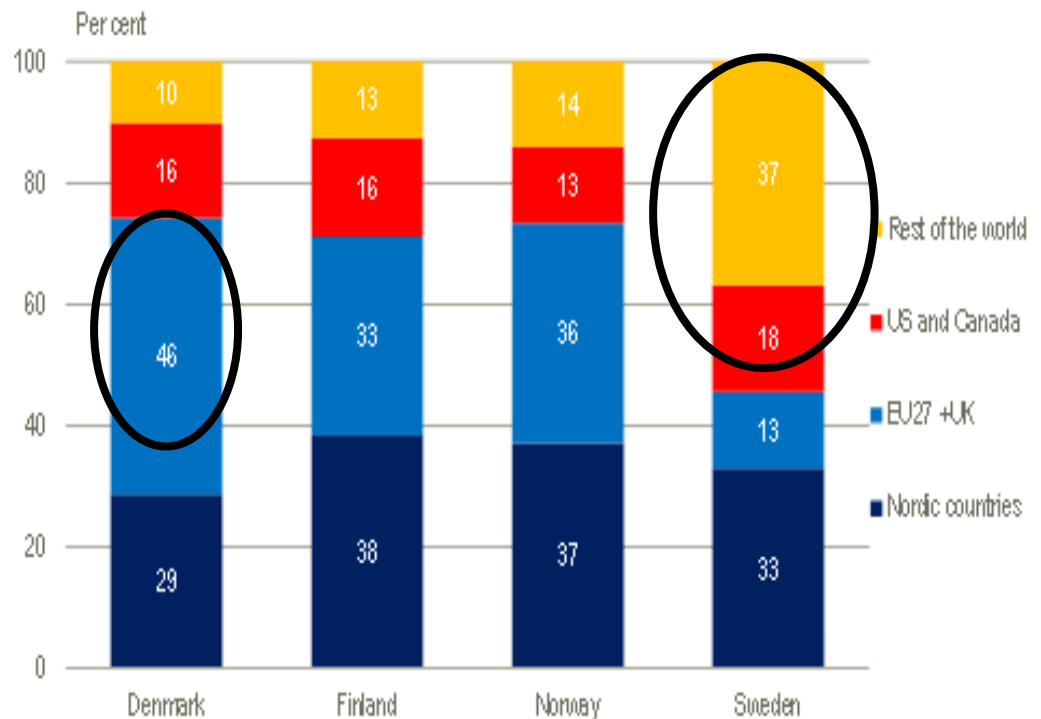**Foreign Ownership:**

FI and NO with dominance Nordic ownership

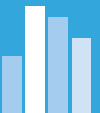Denmark having high share of owners from EU countries

Sweden dominated by ownership from Rest of the world (37 %) – different from the other countries – if including the US and Canada more than 50 % are owned from outside Europe

Ownership location start year (- Domestic)

Linking not only to national SBR but also to global/international SBRs (e.g. EGR)

- Add extra dimension to the available information in the national micro data infrastructure:
  - Size of Global Enterprise Group (GEG)
  - Global reach of the GEG (e.g. Intra-EU only)
  - Position of national business within the value chain of the GEG

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