



Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses

Recap first two webinars

Hank Hermans – Statistics Netherlands

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Main objectives initiative

- To strengthen the transparency on businesses in countries by improving their registration.
- To improve the availability of unique business identifiers in administrative data sources in countries.
- To promote access to and sharing of administrative data for statistical business registers.

54th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2023 endorsed the initiative and encouraged countries and relevant organizations to coordinate their activities in this area in an effort to provide a solid infrastructure for statistical business registers.



Webinar sessions

- Create awareness of the Global Initiative and establish a collaborative environment for countries and international organizations to strengthen the registration system in countries
- Identify possible pilot projects to demonstrate the importance of a sound registration system to improve Statistical Business Registers and the benefits of mapping to a global unique identifier (LEI) and their use to jump start their national systems of unique business identifiers
- Elaborate a work plan to further guide this initiative by adapting the UN Legal Identity Agenda to the business registration and seeking synergies between the business registers and civil registration registers.

First webinar 11 October 2023

1. [Why a Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses?](#) - Julian Chow, UNSD
2. [UN Legal Identity Agenda- Similarities with civil registration and population registers](#) - Predrag Savic, UNSD
3. [UNCITRAL recommendations on business registration](#) - Monica Canafoglia, UNCITRAL
4. [Leveraging on LEI - How can LEI can support strengthening of unique identifiers for businesses](#) - Ricco Dun, GLEIF
5. [Reflections on unique identifiers for businesses for SBR](#) - Arthur Giesberts, World Bank



Second webinar 7 November 2023

1. [How do the business registries around the world operate; what are the major similarities and differences?](#) - Ricco Dun, GLEIF
2. [Business registries in developing countries](#) - Monica Canafoglia, UNCITRAL
3. [Experience from Uganda in setting up business registries and use of unique identifiers](#) - Arthur Kwesiga, Uganda Registration Services Bureau
4. [Business Registers vs Statistical Business Registers: How do NSO use the business registries information in their statistical business registers](#) - Rico Konen, Statistics Netherlands
5. [Micro data linking using statistical business registers](#) - Peter Bøegh Nielsen, Statistics Denmark

Main takeaways



Statistical Business Registers

- Statistics Business Register has many roles
- Important for linking information
 - Necessary for meeting new and emerging user needs in a swift and cost efficient way.
- Lack of unique identifier in this sense is problematic

Business Registers

- Improving the registration of businesses and the identity management system for businesses greatly facilitates the establishment and the maintenance of Statistical Business Registers
- Similarities with the approach to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- Civil registration establishes the existence of a person under the law and is fundamental to granting legal identity. It is recognized as the ultimate source for production of comprehensive, regular, reliable, vital statistics.

Business Registers (2)

- One example came by of conducting an establishment census
 - 165.000 establishments identified and registered
 - UBI would help in aggregating branches into enterprises, use of admin data,
 - Biggest lesson: you need to start somewhere
- Having a UI leads to multiple advantages:
 - Improved tax tracking for businesses operating across borders, reducing tax evasion
 - Streamlining legal business registration processes

Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

- In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, regulators worldwide acknowledged their inability to identify parties to transactions across markets, products, and regions.
- In 2011, the G-20 leaders supported "the creation of a global legal entity identifier (LEI) which uniquely identifies parties to financial transactions."
- LEI: A machine-readable 20-character alpha-numeric code
- New possibilities:
 - Linking not only to national SBR but also to global/international SBRs



125 years
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