

Using administrative data for the maintenance of SBR in TUNISIA

CONTENT

1. Introduction
2. Legal Framework
3. Administrative data
 - 3.1. Why and for what?
 - 3.2. Main sources
 - 3.3. Problems and solutions
4. Process of creating SBR using administrative data
5. Dissemination
6. conclusion

- The SBR represents the backbone of all business statistics. It is not only used as sampling frame for business surveys, but also as statistical database for dissemination. For this reason, it must have a high coverage, a good quality and a continuous updating.
- To ensure the coverage and the continuity of the SBR, preference was given to the use of administrative data rather than economic censuses, which are very expensive.
- As for the quality of the SBR, it will be strongly linked to the quality of administrative data. However, administrative data must be subject to control rules.
- Regarding the access to administrative data, a legal framework must be established.

2

Legal Framework

- Legislation must organize relations between the Statistical Institute and suppliers of administrative data:
 - Allow the access of the Statistical Institute to all the data held by other administrations.
 - Set the terms of exchange (content, dates, periodicity, classifications, concepts and definitions, etc.)
 - Ensure the superiority of the statistical secret over all other secrets (fiscal, social, banking, etc.)
 - Guarantee the confidentiality of individual data collected from other administrations.
- Tunisian legislation ensures the access of the statistical institute to all administrative data, while respecting confidentiality, through different legal texts:
 - Decree of creation of the National Business Register (1994)
 - Law relating to the National Statistics System (1999)
 - Order of the Minister for Development and International Cooperation (2010)

Decree n°94-780 related to the creation of the National Business Register (1994)

Article 6: The services of the Ministry of Finance, the national social security fund, any administration and any other public organization having information relating to companies, are required to regularly provide the national institute of statistics with the creation of companies as well as any modification of information related to the register, or which concerns companies.

Law relating to the National Statistics System (1999)

Article 5: Individual data may not be used for purposes related to tax, economic or social control.

Article 7: Administrations and public organizations must transmit to the National Institute of Statistics, exclusively for statistical purposes, the information in their possession and which has been collected as part of their missions.

Order of the Minister for Development and International Cooperation (2010)

Article 3: Based on the identification of the administrations or public structures that manage the information to be transmitted to the national institute of statistics, a memorandum of understanding concerning this transmission is signed between the minister in charge of the statistics sector, on the one hand, and the minister or ministers responsible for these public administrations and structures, on the other hand.

Order of the Minister for Development and International Cooperation (2010)

Article 5: Following the memorandum of understanding cited in article 3, an agreement is signed between the national institute of statistics and the administration or public structure holding the information requested, specifying the conditions and procedures for transmitting this information. This agreement must include the following elements:

- the statistical objective targeted by the transmission,
- the nature and characteristics of the files and information requested,
- the practical terms of the transmission,
- the timetable and frequency of the transmission.

3.1 Administrative data : why and for what?

Why to use administrative data?

- High coverage,
- Availability,
- Continuous update,
- Reduced cost, etc.

For what administrative data are used?

- To identify all units : identifier, name, legal form, address, date of registration, date of end, etc.
- To have more economic attributes : activity, number of employees, wages, turnover, benefits, etc.

3.2 Administrative data : main sources

Source		Main variables	Frequency	Identifier	Classifications
Finance Ministry (Tax files)		Identification, Name, Activity, Legal form, Address, Turnover, Benefits	Bi-annual	Fiscal code	Fiscal classifications for : Addresses Activities Legal form
Social Security	Employers	Identification, Activity, Address, Number of employees, Wages	Bi-annual	Social security code for employers	Social security classifications for : Addresses, Activities Professions
	Self-employed workers	Identification, Profession, Address	Bi-annual	Social security code for self- employed workers	
	Employees	Identification, Address, Wages	Quarterly	Social security code for employees	
Customs		Identification, products, transaction type (import/export), value, quantity	Annual	Fiscal code	NSH product classification

3.3 Administrative data : Problems and solutions

Which limitations of administrative data?

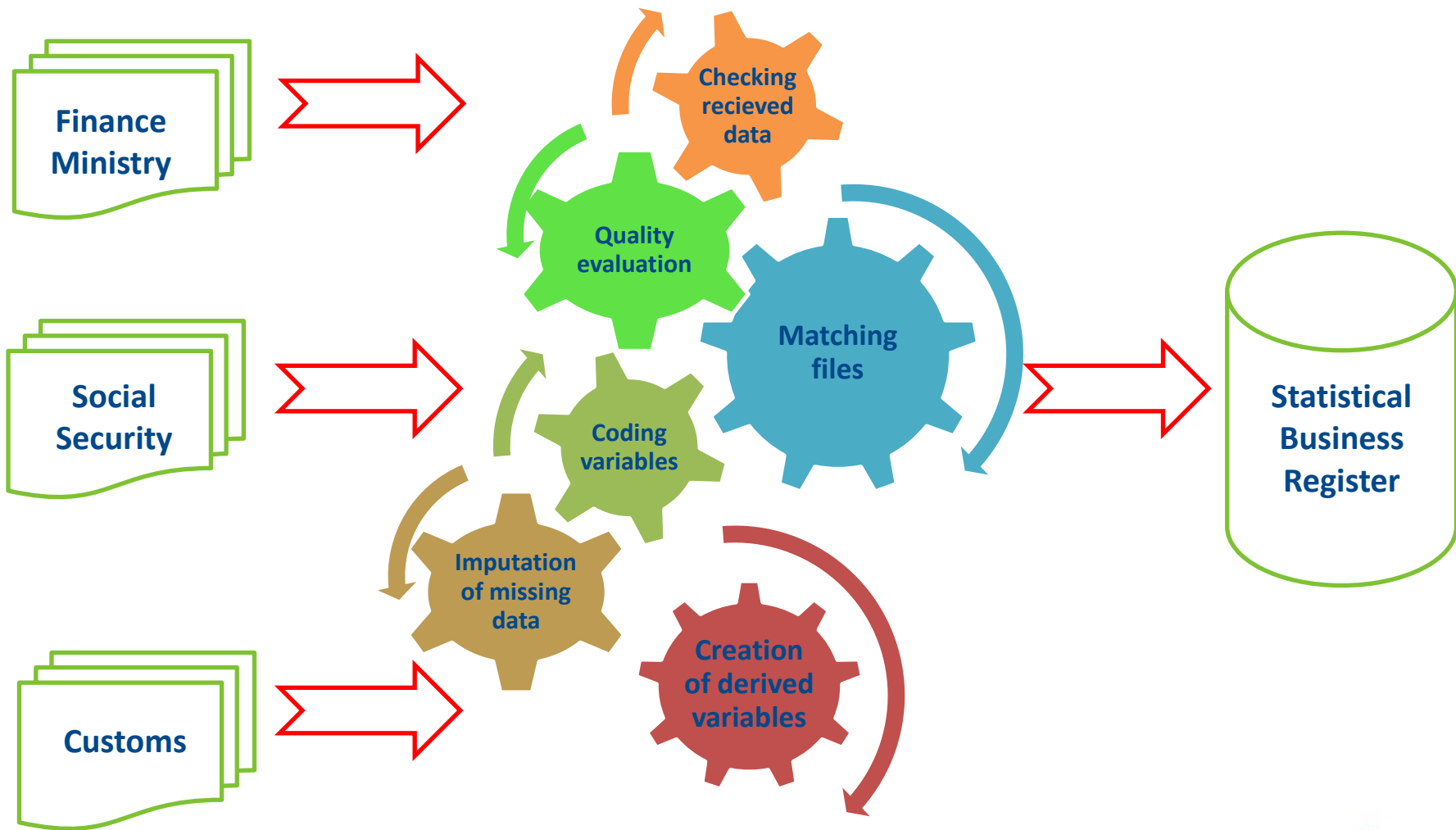
- No common identifier,
- Diverse classifications,
- Lack of detail on declarations,
- No standard writings,
- Delay or absence of update, etc.

What kind of solutions?

- Data check (Completeness, Validity, Plausibility),
- Automatic matching using “Soundex” function of SAS Software (based on Name, activity and address),
- Diversification of sources of update, including survey results,
- Statistical methodologies for imputation of missing data, etc.

4

Process for creating SBR using administrative data



5

Dissemination

ins.tn/en/publication/statistics-compiled-tunisian-business-register-2021

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6

Conclusion

- Using administrative data has several advantages such as reducing costs and earlier producing of statistics. But it can also have some drawbacks related essentially to the quality of the data.
- Regarding the access to administrative data, a legal framework must be established. But this is often not enough, it is however necessary to establish a relational framework with partners.
- Statistical Business Register based on administrative data can be used not only as sampling frame for business surveys, but also for dissemination of business statistics including business demography.

Thank You For Your Attention

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