

Global Initiative on the Unique Identifiers for Businesses

Statistics Netherlands, UNSD, GLEIF and
UNCITRAL

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8th Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics
Singapore

Flash back

Strategic roadmap goals:

- Strengthen the transparency on businesses in countries by improving their registration
- Improve the availability of unique business identifiers in administrative data sources in countries
- Promote access to and sharing of administrative data for statistical business registers
- Demonstrate the importance and benefit of linking national identifiers with global identifiers, such as the LEI

Flash back

- Global assessment survey regarding the current implementation and use of unique identifiers in administrative and statistical business registers is planned for Q4 2024
- Outreach, engaging with international and regional organizations, and establishing partnerships to build a broad coalition of stakeholders. Establishment progressive an advisory group to guide and support the initiative
- Pending on resources, conduct webinars and capacity development workshops, in collaboration with other relevant groups, to disseminate best practice and hands-on experience in the implementation and management of unique identifiers
- Concrete practical application of unique identifiers through pilot programs. Seeking for pilot opportunities.

Core Group GIUIB

- The Core Group managing the initiative is now composed of representatives from:
 - Statistics Netherlands (chair)
 - UN Statistics Division
 - GLEIF (Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation)
 - UNCITRAL (UN Commission on International Trade Law)
 - World Bank
 - CRF (Corporate Registers Forum)

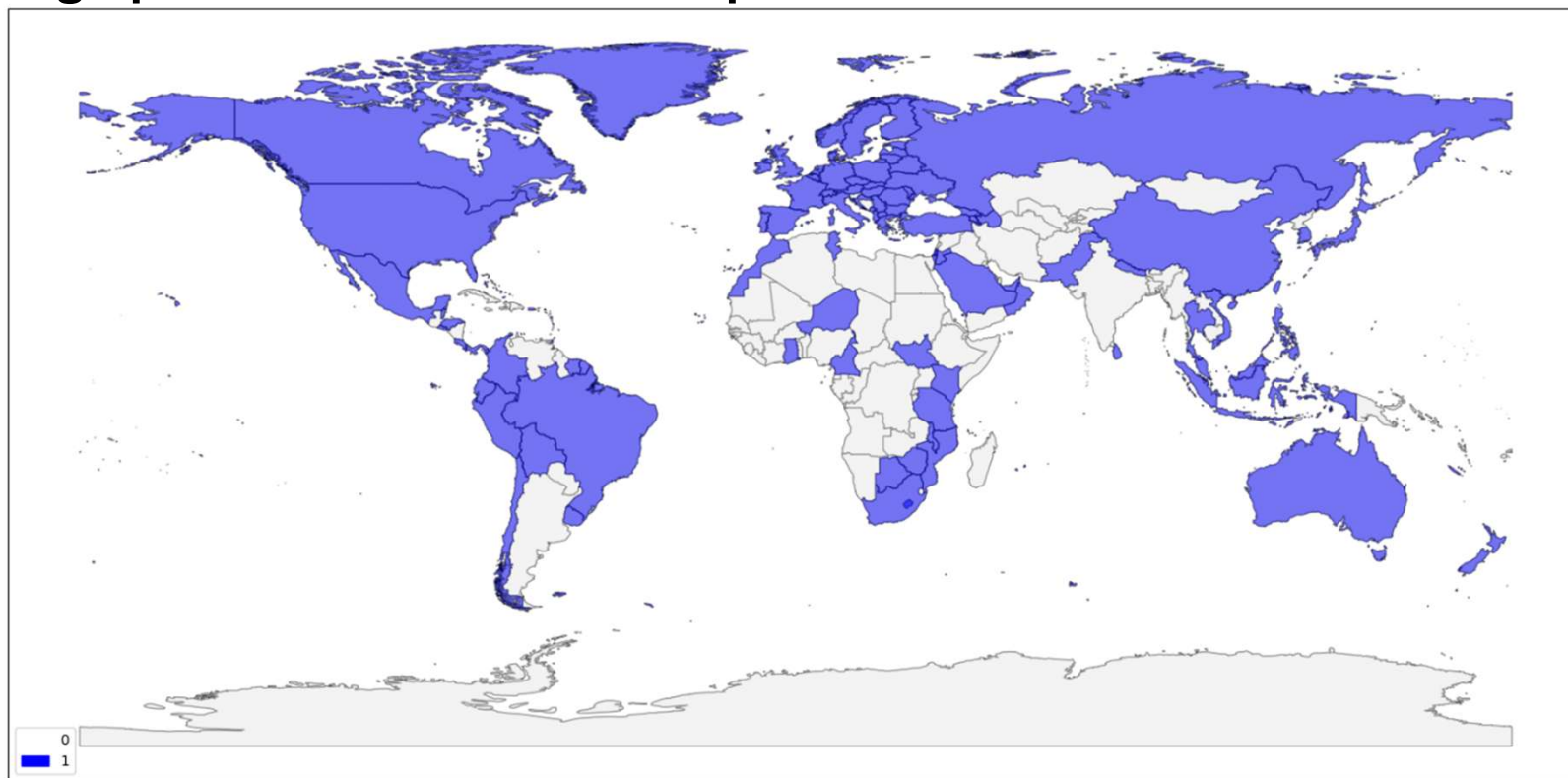
Update of the Report on the Global Assessment on GIUIB

Based on the results of the questionnaire

Overview of the Global Assessment on GIUIB

- Conducted by the UNSD under the auspices of the UNCEBTS to evaluate the current state of business registration systems in countries, both administrative and statistical, on the use of unique identifiers for businesses.
- The Global Assessment was administered through a questionnaire during the period from 15 January until 14 March 2025
- Received 160 responses (105 countries or jurisdictions) in total
 - A. Public institutions that are legally responsible for the registration of companies and/or businesses (business registrars): **48** responses (**40** countries or jurisdictions)
 - B. Public institutions that maintain a business register for the performance of legal tasks (e.g., Inland Revenue, Social Security): **17** responses (**10** countries or jurisdictions)
 - C. National statistical offices (NSO): **95** responses (**93** countries or jurisdictions)

Fig1. Geographical Distribution of Responses from 105 Countries or Jurisdictions



* The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Outline of the Report

Main Insights

- There is room for countries to adopt a national unique identifiers for use by majority and government agencies, as only 45.8% of the respondent indicating the availability of such unique identifiers.

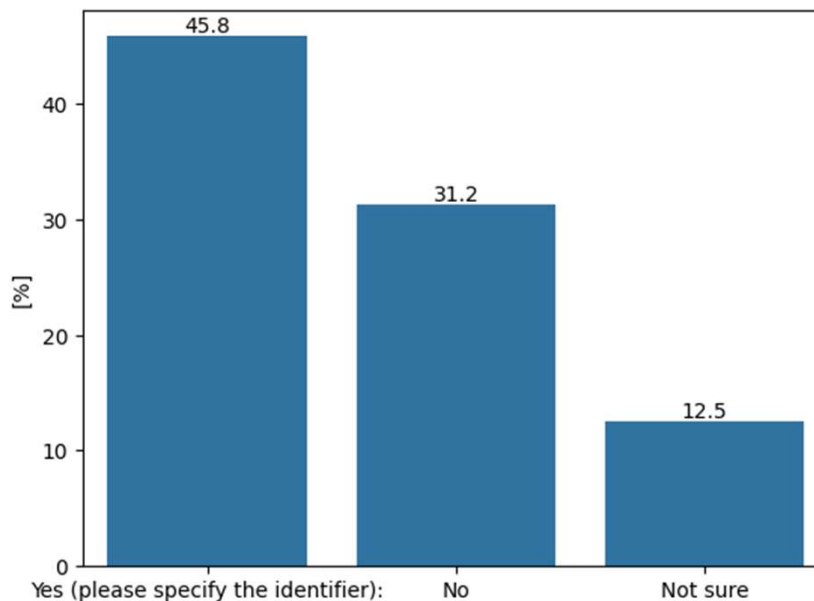


Fig 2. Q19: If there are multiple identifiers in use in your country, is there one identifier used by all (or the majority of) institutions and government agencies to identify an entity or to connect the different identifiers?

Outline of the Report (continued)

Main Insights (continued)

- There is also room for countries to improve the SBR maintenance by building the foundation of cooperation between administrative authorities and NSO through implementing MoU or other legal basis.

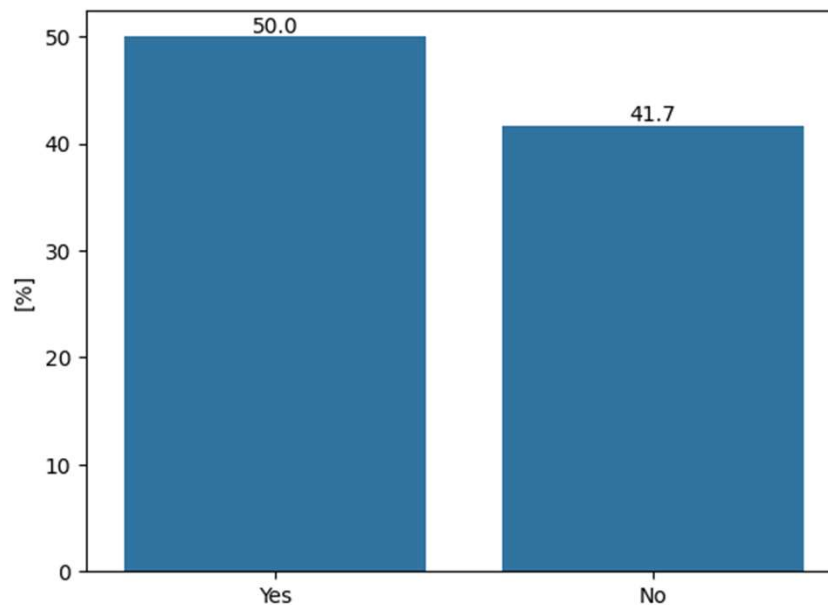


Fig 3. Q22: Does your institution have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or other types of cooperation agreement with the National Statistical Office?

Outline of the Report (continued)

Main Insights (continued)

- Among NSOs, more than 88% of respondents utilize unique identifiers.
- 64% use unique identifiers assigned by the NSO, while the other 24% use a different identifier system.

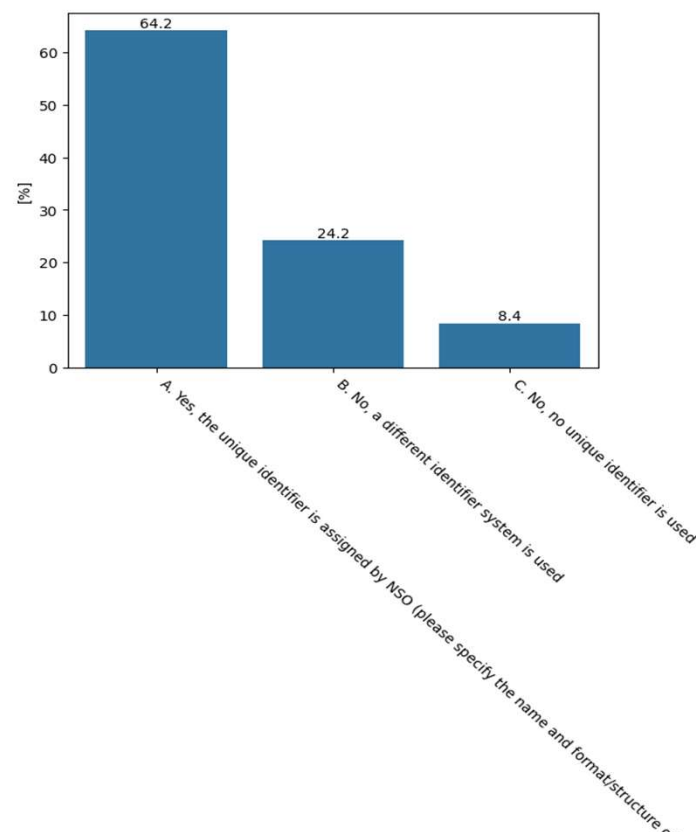


Fig 4. Q39: Does your institution assign its own unique identifiers to units in the SBR?

Outline of the Report (continued)

Main Insights (continued)

- Among NSOs, more than 70% of respondents say their unique identifiers enable data linkage with other systems within their country, while only about 1/3 enable data linkage with other systems on a global/regional level.

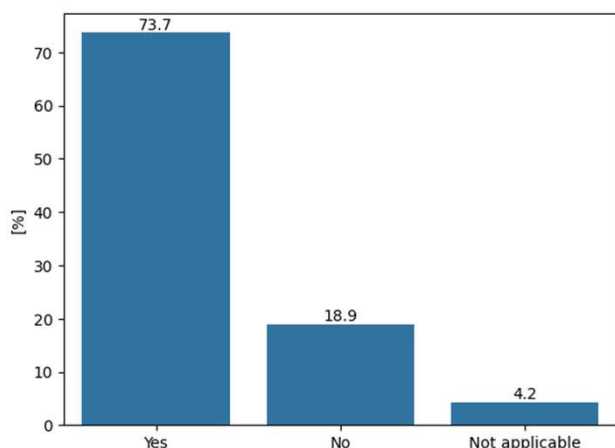


Fig5. Q49: Are the identifiers used for the SBR enable data linkage with other systems/platforms within your country (i.e. administrative records)?

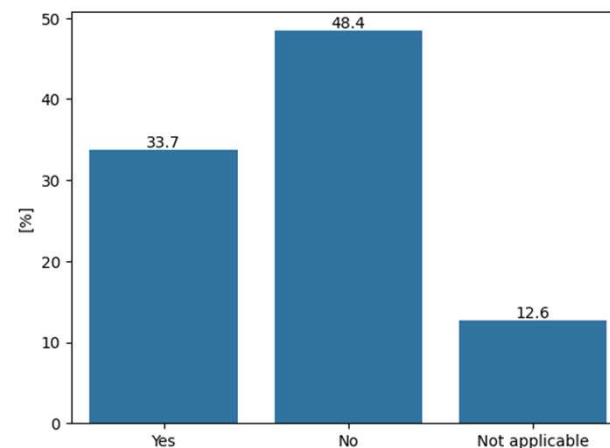


Fig6. Q51: Do the identifiers used for the SBR enable data linkage with other systems/platforms on a global/regional level, e.g. the EuroGroups Register?

Outline of the Report (continued)

Main Insights (continued)

- Although different definitions of units between the statistical and administrative sides is the most frequent problem, even in Europe, countries have faced a wide range of challenges, which means the initiative needs holistic approaches.

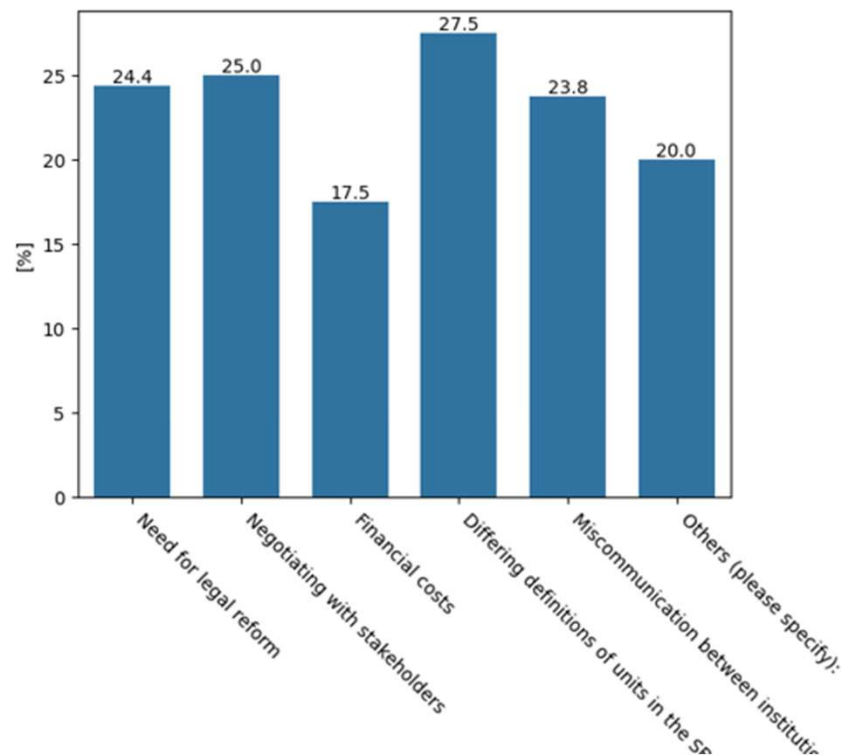


Fig7. Q53: Challenges in implementing/utilizing a unique identifier for businesses

Outline of the Report (continued)

Main Insights (continued)

- There is a lot of interest in joining the Advisory group on GIUIB (65 countries and jurisdictions) and/or participating in a pilot project on implementing national unique identifiers (61 countries and jurisdictions). GIUIB needs to select a couple of countries to seek cooperation. This is clear proof of the need for the initiative.

Table1. Interests in Advisory Group and Pilot Project (Q57, 58)

	Advisory Group	Pilot Project
Africa	13 countries or jurisdiction	12 countries or jurisdiction
Americas	15 countries or jurisdiction	17 countries or jurisdiction
Asia	18 countries or jurisdiction	16 countries or jurisdiction
Europe	18 countries or jurisdiction	14 countries or jurisdiction
Oceania	1 countries or jurisdiction	2 countries or jurisdiction

Outline of the Report (continued)

Limitation

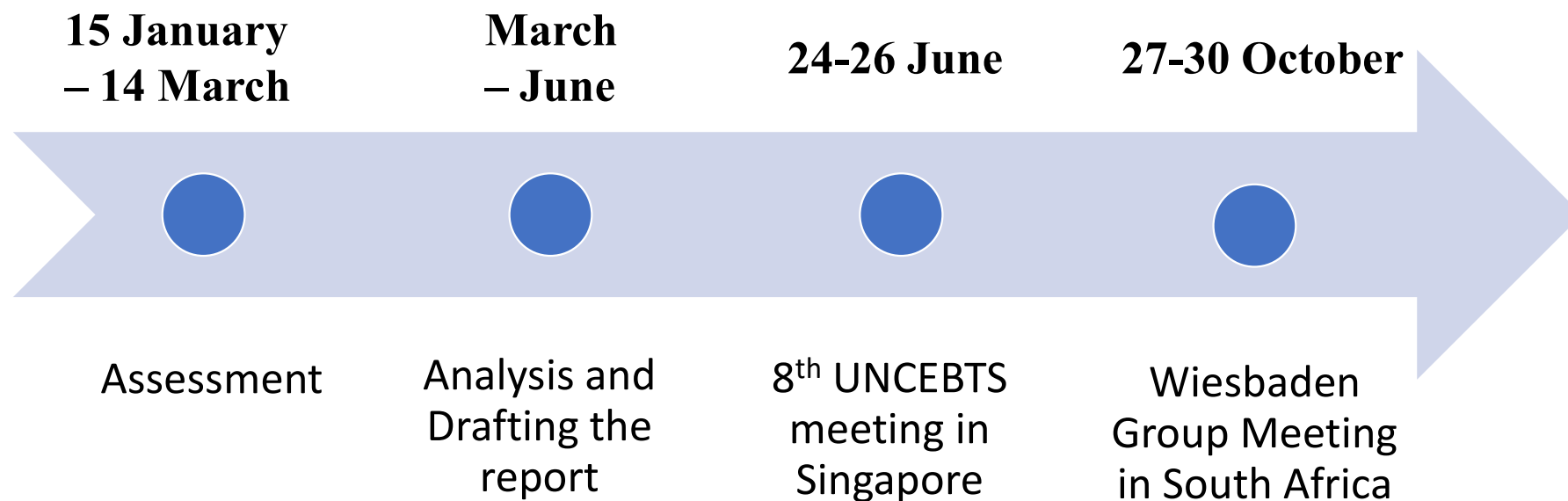
- Contributions from Asian and African countries are limited for this assessment. Also, although we received contributions from the statistical side (target C), contributions from the administrative side (target A and B) are limited. GIUIB needs broader perspectives not only from the statistical side but also the administrative side. For future work, we need to build a close connection with Asian and African countries as well as the administrative side of countries.



In order to deal with this limitation, the initiative is going to follow up with the French speaking African countries using a French translated questionnaire. A request has been sent now through the association of francophone business registers.

Tentative Timeline of the Global Assessment

2025



Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

- The LEI is the globally unique identifier
- Available for all legal entities
- Based on an ISO standard (17442)
- Issued by 40 accredited LEI Issuers
- Global system managed by GLEIF
- Overseen by Regulatory Oversight Committee (70+ regulators)



Enabling global identity
Protecting digital trust

Roadmap and Implementation Guidance

- The Strategic Roadmap for the Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses has been presented to UNCEBTS in September 2024
- An Implementation Guidance for the Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses has been developed and will be finalized shortly

Implementation Guidance

- Purpose: to support countries in:
 - assessing their current systems
 - building institutional and legislative capacity
 - launching practical pilots
 - monitoring progress
- With the objective to adopting national interoperable systems of unique identifiers for businesses and their integration into a globally interoperable identifier system for businesses
- First pilot country to be identified

Implementation Guidance: 4 phases

1. Assessment and outreach
2. Legal and policy framework and capacity building
3. Pilot implementation and LEI integration
4. Monitoring and evaluation (in parallel with phase 3)

Assessment and outreach

- 1. Establish National Coordination Team:** NSO (or other relevant national organization) leads a multi-agency team and plans the assessment using GIUIB tools.
- 2. Engage Stakeholders:** Map and involve relevant institutions (e.g. tax, business registers) through meetings and workshops.
- 3. Administer GIUIB Questionnaire:** Collect data on legal, institutional, and IT frameworks around unique business identifiers.
- 4. Conduct SBR Maturity Assessment:** Evaluate the country's SBR system across 7 components using a structured maturity model.
- 5. Consolidate Results:** Analyze findings to identify gaps and strengths.
- 6. Validate and Discuss Findings:** Share results with stakeholders to confirm insights and gather additional input.
- 7. Report and Plan Next Steps:** Draft final report with findings and proposed actions for technical support and capacity building.

Legal and policy framework and capacity building - 1

Track 1: Legislative and Policy Frameworks

- **Review Legal Frameworks:** Identify gaps preventing the implementation of unique business identifiers.
- **Draft/Amend Laws:** Create or revise legal instruments to support unique IDs and inter-agency data sharing.
- **Consult Stakeholders:** Hold workshops to refine legal proposals and secure buy-in.
- **Adopt Legal Changes:** Finalize and enact necessary legislation and regulations.

Legal and policy framework and capacity building - 2

Track 2: Training and Capacity Development

- **Assess Training Needs:** Identify skill gaps across agencies.
- **Develop Curriculum:** Create modular, tailored content for different audiences (legal, technical, operational).
- **Implement Training Programs:** Deliver workshops and “Training of Trainers” (ToT) sessions nationally.
- **Regional Workshops & Peer Learning:** Promote knowledge exchange and build regional networks.
- **Create Ongoing Training Resources:** Develop e-learning and offline tools for sustainable capacity building.

Track 3: Preparation of Pilots

- **Lay groundwork:** Mobilize national, regional, and international partnerships

Pilot implementation and LEI integration

Track 1: National Pilot Programs

- **Select Pilot Countries:** Choose, based on readiness and commitment.
- **Define Use Cases:** Tailor pilot objectives to national priorities.
- **Develop Pilot Plans:** Map activities, milestones, and responsibilities.
- **Mobilize Resources:** Secure funding and technical support.
- **Establish Teams:** Form national steering and operational teams.
- **Execute Pilot:** Launch the unique ID system, train users, monitor KPIs, and adapt as needed.

Track 2: LEI Integration Program

- **Assess LEI Readiness:** Review national ID systems and alignment with LEI standards considering the cost and confidentiality implications
- **Align with LEI Standards:** Modify systems to accept LEI or enable mapping.
- **Implement LEI Adoption:** Issue LEIs or map to existing IDs, using GLEIF guidance.

Monitoring and evaluation (in parallel with phase 3)

- **Establish M&E System:** Define indicators and monitoring tools.
- **Track Progress:** Monitor pilot implementation and stakeholder feedback.
- **Evaluate Outcomes:** Assess impact, and document lessons learned.
- **Refine Strategy:** Use findings to adjust the roadmap and support long-term sustainability.

TIMELINE

1

**Phase 1:
Assessment and
Outreach
(Months 1–4)**

2

**Phase 2: Legal
Framework and
Capacity
Building (Months
5–18)**

3

**Phase 3: Pilot
Implementation
and LEI
Integration
(Months 19–36)**

4

**Phase 4:
Monitoring and
Evaluation
(Months 24–42)**

Flash forward

- 2nd round of the assessment
- Inventory of training materials
- Building global repository
- Creating criteria for selecting pilot countries
- Select first pilot countries

Thank you!

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