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# Collaboration between UNSD and OECD on Global Groups Register

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Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

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<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/GGR/>



# Outline of the presentation

- Part 1. Background
- Part 2. Main elements of the UNSD-OECD collaboration on a joint GGR-ADIMA product
- Part 3. Looking ahead

# Part 1. Background

- In 2015, the UN Statistical Commission established the UN Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics to address measurement challenges emerging from globalization



- In decision 46/107, the Statistical Commission agreed with the proposed work plan of the Expert Group to promote and advance the creation of a global enterprise group register, building on and taking into account lessons learned from the EuroGroups Register project

# Uses of global registers of multinational enterprises (MNEs)

- To facilitate analysis of globalization and global value chains (GVCs)
- To help countries improve the coverage of their statistical business registers and compile better, more detailed business and trade statistics
- To help statistical offices better profile their national part in a complex MNE group and to see the non-national part of MNEs in their country
- To facilitate data sharing among countries, using the GGR as a common, public source

## 2021 UN Statistical Commission



- In Decision 52/107, welcomed the release of the Global Group Register to address issues of globalization and the role of MNEs
- Noted that the need for sharing of data among countries and agencies is essential for comprehensive and coherent measurement of GVCs
- **Welcomed the collaboration** with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the Analytical Database on Individual Multinationals and Affiliates (ADIMA)



## First steps

- UNSD and OECD began collaborations in Dec. 2021
- Did a thorough comparison of the GGR and ADIMA (sources, coverage, methods, validation, etc.)
- Identified how best to combine the two project building on the strengths of each database and how work would be shared
- Wrote up a Terms of Collaboration to document the decisions



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## Part 2. Main elements of the UNSD-OECD collaboration on a joint product





## Similarities of GGR and ADIMA

- Similar data sources (i.e., annual reports, financial filings, GLEIF, company websites)
- Compatible methodologies in terms of identifying locations of MNE global head and affiliates
- Both can be used for profiling
- Comparable in terms of coverage, based on first assessment

## Differences of GGR and ADIMA

- GGR has hierarchical relationships and detailed ownership percentages, when available
- ADIMA currently has larger scope (500+ MNEs)
- ADIMA includes a Digital Register based on websites and digital presence (e.g., social media)
- ADIMA monitors events that could affect MNEs



## Lessons learned from GGR and ADIMA

- It is a **very** resource intensive exercise.
- The approaches used to build GGR and ADIMA are **similar**.
- Important to focus on a limited set of variables that are key to users
  - From initial consultation, it seems the key information is: country of location, address, relationship to the MNE group head.
  - Other relevant variables are employment, revenues, detailed addresses, digital presence, etc.
- In this respect, countries, through the UNCEBTS, can provide input into the selection of these key variables.



## Benefits of collaboration on a joint product

- Provide a consistent picture of the MNEs globally (avoid conflicting information).
- Raise the quality of, and confidence in, the product.
- Although there are continuous efforts being made to automate the process, sharing resources among the organizations will allow for a more efficient and effective process, which can be extremely resource intensive.
- Can explore more rapidly extensions and expansions of the common register can be explored more rapidly.



## Combine the best elements of both GGR and ADIMA

- Automated API searches through Python scripts
- Collect ownership percentages Maintain hierarchy of direct and ultimate parents
- Validations for duplicates and relationships
- Utilize a graph database to store and visualize data
- Guidance from UNCEBTS
- UN Global Platform to host database

- Automated data collection procedures in R scripts
- Collect data on larger scope of MNEs
- Collection of digital presence information
- Validation tool
- Utilize a graph database to store and visualize data
- Oversight from Working Party on Trade in Goods and Services



## Outcome of the collaboration so far

- Identified same list of MNE Group Heads
- Agreed on scope of the GGR (i.e., controlled/non-controlled subsidiaries, branches, state-owned enterprises)
- Agreed on scope in terms of variables
- Sharing resources to collect and verify the data
- Agreed on a set of validation rules for the profiled companies
- Continuously searching for new data sources, including possibly linking to national SBRs when they are publicly available and exploring the possibility of contacting MNEs directly
- Developing a common system for data validation by the two organizations
- UNSD and OECD have the aim of releasing a joint product at the end of 2022

## Part 3. Looking ahead

## Continuous Improvement



- The development of this common register is seen as a global public good and it will be developed with input from the UNCEBTS and WPTGS.
- Planning to take an **incremental approach** to improvements in future releases, which may include:
  - Adding more sources and variables
  - Expanding the list of MNEs
  - Seeking broader partnerships (possibly linking to national SBRs (or parts of them) when they are publicly available; partners in SDG and non-financial reporting, such as UN Global Compact)
  - Exploring the possibility of hosting the database and even validation tools on the UN Global Platform (a cloud-service collaborative environment to work together as a global statistical community which allows documentation and source code to be made public and supports statistical methods, AI and machine learning)

Thank you!