Introduction (I)

As part of the activities for 2021, the UNCEBTS will organize two global consultations:

- The Core Business and Trade Indicators (proposed by the Task Teams on Business Dynamics, Demography and Entrepreneurship; Globalization and Digitalization and; Wellbeing and Sustainability)

- The SBR Maturity Model (proposed by the Task Teams on Capacity Building and Exhaustive Business Registers)

Introduction (II)

For the development of the Global Consultation of the Core set of Principal Business and Trade Indicators, the Committee has launched a Pilot Survey which aims at obtaining feedback on the capturing instrument and the proposed indicators for their application in the Global Consultation which is planned for the third quarter of 2021

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Strategy for the Pilot Survey (I)

The Task Teams on Business Dynamics, Demography, and Entrepreneurship; Globalization and Digitalization; Wellbeing and Sustainability, in coordination with UNSD prepared the pilot survey with the following elements:

a) Development of the conceptual and methodological framework on the interest topics

b) Identification of the core indicators based on their relevance, measurability and international comparability

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Strategy for the Pilot Survey (II)

c) Drafting of the Methodological Sheets that include the features for the production of the selected core indicators (these documents are supportive for answering the pilot survey)

d) Elaboration of the questionnaire

e) Translation into Spanish of the questionnaire and the methodological sheets

f) Preparation of the website for the online version of the questionnaire

g) Inviting selected countries to the Pilot Survey

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Pilot Survey: Period and participating countries

- Period: From April 12 to May 21, 2021. Nevertheless, the deadline for submitting answers was extended two weeks more by Friday, June 4, 2021

- Participating countries (18):

UNCEBTS Members		ECLAC Countries	
Brazil	Indonesia	Argentina	Panama
Canada	Italy	Costa Rica	Paraguay
Colombia	Mexico	Cuba	Peru
Denmark	Netherlands	Chile	
France	United Kingdom	Dominican Republic	

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Content of the Pilot Survey

- <u>Sections</u>
  - ❑ Section A: Indicators on Business Dynamics, Demography and Entrepreneurship
  - ❑ Section B: Indicators on Globalization and Digitalization
  - ❑ Section C: Indicators on Well-being and Sustainability

- For each section there is a set of 8 questions that covers the availability of the indicators in the country, the compilation methods, as well as other issues on the core set of indicators

- The questionnaire includes three additional questions on the availability of metadata in the country and if there are comments to the proposed indicators and the functionality of the questionnaire

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UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

Summary of Responses to the Pilot Survey

UNSD

Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts
on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS)

23-24 June and 7-8 July 2021

Topics of the Summary

- About the respondents

- Survey form

- Compilation status

- Common challenges

- Core indicators

- Additional comments

- What next

About the respondents

- From 15 April to 18 June 2021, UNSD received 15 complete responses out of 18 participating countries

UNCEBTS Members		Voluntary ECLAC participants	
Brazil	Italy	Costa Rica	Peru
Canada	Mexico	Cuba	
Colombia	Netherlands	Chile	
Denmark	United Kingdom	Dominican Republic	
France		Paraguay	

Survey form

For each set of indicators, the survey form asked the following set of questions:

- If the indicator was compiled in the country (and by which institutions)
- Which statistical units is used for the compilation of the indicators
- Frequency of compilation of the indicators
- If compilation methods are aligned with the methodological sheets prepared by the Task Teams
- Availability of breakdowns
- Challenges in compilation
- If the indicators should be in the recommended core list

Compilation Status

- All the 56 proposed indicators are already being compiled by some countries.

- No country is compiling the entire suite of indicators.

- In general, more countries are compiling indicators on business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship than the other two groups of indicators

Most Commonly Compiled Indicators

Indicators on business dynamics, demography, and entrepreneurship	Indicators on globalization and digitalization	Indicators on well-being and sustainability
#1 - Number of active enterprises (13 compiling countries, whether by NSO or by a different institution)	#24 - Percentage of businesses with fixed broadband connection (12)	#39 - Proportion of women in managerial positions (12)
#8 - Employment in the population of active enterprises (13)	#31 - Percentage of businesses engaged in sales via e-commerce (12)	#51 - Research and development expenditure as a proportion of gross value added (11)
#15 - Labour compensation paid by active enterprises (13)	#18 - Number of trading businesses by number of partner countries (10)	#44 - Sector employment as a proportion of total employment (10)
	#32 - Value of e-commerce sales by businesses (10)	#48 - Energy efficiency in businesses (10)

Statistical Units

- For the indicators of BDDE, generally the countries reported that they use enterprises or establishment as the statistical unit for the compilation of these indicators.

- For the indicators on globalization and digitalization and those on well-being and sustainability, the most commonly used statistical unit is the enterprise.

Compilation Frequency

- Most indicators are compiled annually.
- Some indicators related to <u>international trade and employment</u> are compiled with significantly higher frequency. For example:

Indicator	Frequency
17 - Total exports of businesses as a percentage of businesses' gross value added	Monthly
19 - Export intensity of businesses	
44 - Sector employment as a proportion of total employment	
42 - Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Monthly/Quarterly
54 - Job openings (vacancies)	Quarterly

Alignment with the methodological sheets

- In most cases, country practices are aligned with the methodological sheets.

- Some of the reported differences include:

  ➢ Less detailed breakdowns

  ➢ Narrower coverage of ISIC sections

  ➢ Scope of the "ICT sector", and the "sustainability reports".

Industry Classification

- Most countries use an up-to-date industry classification that is largely comparable to ISIC, Rev. 4 (e.g., NAICS, NACE).

- Some countries only use the 1-digit level (section) for dissemination.

- Several countries raised concerns over possible breaches of confidentiality if data disaggregation exceed certain limitations.

Common challenges in the compilation of indicators

- Identify correctly the demographic events.
- Improving periodicity, reduce data gaps, and provide more detailed breakdowns.
- Harmonize data from different administrative sources for statistical purposes.
- Insufficient coverage of the informal sector.
- …

Are the indicators considered "core"?

- The pilot survey provides an input in the review of the list of core indicators proposed by the task teams

- Overall, all indicators were recognized by some of the respondents as forming a core set of business and trade statistics

- However, some indicators were recognized more than others

Core status of indicators, by number of countries expressing support

Indicators on business dynamics, demography, and entrepreneurship	Indicators on globalization and digitalization	Indicators on well-being and sustainability
#1 - Number of active enterprises (15 countries)	#24 - Percentage of businesses with fixed broadband connection (11)	#41 - Average hourly earnings for employees in businesses by sex (11)
#2 - Number of enterprise births (15)	#31 - Percentage of businesses engaged in sales via e-commerce (11)	#39 - Proportion of women in managerial positions (10)
#3 - Employment created by enterprise births (15)	#17 - Total exports of businesses as a percentage of businesses' gross value added (10)	#44 - Sector employment as a proportion of total employment (10)
#4 - Number of enterprise deaths (15)	#18 - Number of trading businesses by number of partner countries (10)	#42 - Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (9)
#5 - Loss of employment due to enterprise deaths (15)	#19 - Export intensity of businesses (10)	#45 - Water-use efficiency in businesses (9)
…	…	…

What's next

- The results of the pilot survey will be further analyzed with the 3 task teams
- The feedback will be incorporated in the methodological sheets as necessary prior to the global consultation
- UNSD conducted also further internal consultations with UNSD experts in international trade, national accounts, environmental accounts, environment statistics, energy statistics, demography and will also include their feedback into the discussion

Additional findings of the Pilot Survey

o Hard to complete the indicators list

o The Methodological Sheets were useful for supporting the answering of the Pilot Survey

o It was necessary contacting different government agencies within the country to answer all questions

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Issues reported in the Pilot Survey

○ The questionnaire is complex and broad. It is necessary identifying the responsible agencies for requesting information on a given indicator

○ The questionnaire is "rigid"; for instance, it is assumed that the indicator comes from only one information source

○ The time for submitting the survey is short due to its length

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UNCEBTS Pilot Survey
Recommendations and Conclusions

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Recommendations for preparing the Global Consultation (I)

- Inform NSOs in advance about the Global Consultation (through organizing webinars, sending emails to participants, posting the event in the website of the UNCEBTS and NSOs)

- Extend the period to submit answers (two months for answering the Global Consultation, particularly to give enough time for coordination among NSOs and the involved agencies in each country)

- Prepare a presentation/document for informing on the purpose and goals of the questionnaire as well as the activities of UNCEBTS to the countries which will participate in the Global Consultation

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Recommendations for preparing the Global Consultation (II)

- Elaborate a document with Frequent Questions and Answers (available on the website of the UNSD) to solve possible issues that may arise from informants

- Take advantage of the UN Regional Offices to promote the Global Consultation with its members

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Conclusions (I)

- The usefulness of Methodological Sheets is evident for supporting the fill in of the questionnaire by countries

- The Pilot Survey was successful to identify opportunity areas for strengthening the Global Consultation

- The Global Consultation will help to select the indicators that will be included in the Handbook on the Core Business and Trade Indicators

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Conclusions (II)

- In many cases several agencies are involved in the compilation of information to produce the core indicators, so it is necessary to encourage countries to strength the communication and coordination among the different 'players' as part of their National Statistical System

- For example, in Mexico the National Statistical and Geographic Information System (SNIEG) provides the legal framework for the governance on data production, and it also facilitates the communication for elaborating information of national interest

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Thank you!

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