Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses

Questionnaire on the Use of Unique Identifiers

January 2025

The development of effective Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) is crucial for modern economic analytics and governance. However, the lack of a unique business identifier in many countries poses a significant challenge, hindering the full utilization of administrative data and its interoperability such as linking with tax records and register information from legal business entities, employers and employees, and buildings. Recognizing this gap, the [UN Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/SBR/Documents/UN_Guidelines_on_SBR.pdf) recommends adopting and promoting the use of unique identifiers for businesses.

Endorsed at the [54th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission](https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/54) in March 2023, the Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses focuses on strengthening the connection between business registration and statistical business registers, thereby enhancing the availability and utility of business data globally. It encourages countries and relevant organizations to work together to establish a robust interoperable infrastructure for statistical business registers. By improving the transparency of business activities and ensuring the availability of unique business identifiers, the initiative facilitates better access to and sharing administrative data, which is crucial for understanding globalization, environmental and societal impacts and outcomes, and thereby enhancing statistical capabilities for informing a multidimensional approach to business activity.

Overall, the [Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/GIUIB.cshtml) aims to transform the global landscape of business registration and data utilization, promoting better governance and informed economic and the broader sustainable development policies through enhanced statistical capacities. Current members of the Core Group on the GIUIB include Statistics Netherlands, Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and United Nations Statistics Division.

The aim of this global assessment is to evaluate the current state of business registration systems in countries, both administrative and statistical, on the use of unique identifiers for businesses. The feedback from the global assessment will contribute to guiding the prioritization of countries for targeted support and the development of tailored strategies that address specific national needs.

This questionnaire is available in two formats:

* an online form, available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZPDSSR9>; or
* a stand-alone Microsoft Word document, to be sent to [business\_stat@un.org](mailto:business_stat@un.org).

Your response to this questionnaire should be submitted by **28 February 2025**.

For terminology, please refer to the [glossary document](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/giuib/giuib_Assessment/Glossary.pdf).

Your input into this questionnaire is very important and your participation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [business\_stat@un.org](mailto:business_stat@un.org).

**I. Contact information**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Country or jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Institution \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Position \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Name of Institution that handles SBRs, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Link to country’s SBR, if available \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. For which type of institution do you work/are you responding on behalf of?

A. Public institutions that are legally responsible for the registration of companies and/or businesses   
(business registrars)

B. Public institutions that maintain a business register for the performance of legal tasks   
(e.g., Inland Revenue, Social Security)

C. National statistical offices (NSO)

*\*If you responded A., please complete Section II and Section V\**

*\*If you responded B., please complete Section III and Section V\**

*\*If you responded C., please complete Section IV and Section V\**

**II. Questions for A. Business Registrars**

1. Name of the public institution that is legally responsible for the registration of businesses:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Link to the website of the business register, if applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please note which types of entities are covered by the business register:  
   (Please select all that apply)

Incorporated entities (e.g., limited liability companies)

Sole proprietors

Partnerships

Associations

Foundations

Public institutions

Governmental institutions

Joint ventures

Branches of foreign companies

Non-profit institutions

Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please note which types of entities are encompassed by the business register:

\*For terminology, please refer to the glossary from page 13.

(Pleases select all that apply)

Legal entities (stand-alone entities)

Legal entities that are part of a group structure

Branches of local legal entities

Branches of foreign legal entities

Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please note which types of entities are assigned an identifier number by your institution:

(Please select all that apply)

Legal entities (stand-alone entities)

Legal entities that are part of a group structure

Branches of local legal entities

Branches of foreign legal entities

☐ Not applicable

Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please specify the name and format/structure of the identifier in your registry, if applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have website or reference information, please share with us here:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please briefly describe the process of registering a business   
   (or provide a link to a website describing the process in English):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Is the identifier assigned to a legal entity or head office of the institution also used by other institutions?

Yes (please specify the institutions): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No

1. Are there any other institutions in your country also issuing an identifier to entities?

Yes (please specify the institutions): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No

Not sure

*\*If you responded yes to Question 17, please proceed to Question 18\**

*\*If you responded no or not sure to Question 17, please proceed to Question 19\**

1. If yes, for which type of entities is an identifier assigned?

(Please select all that apply)

Legal entities (stand-alone entities)

Legal entities that are part of a group structure

Branches of local legal entities

Branches of foreign legal entities

Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. 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?

Yes (please specify the identifier): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No

Not sure

1. Does your institution utilize identifiers of legal units assigned by other institutions, e.g., population register, tax authorities, GLEIF?

Yes (please specify the institutions): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No

1. Is the business register of your institution used as source of information by the National Statistical Office?

Yes

No

Not sure

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

Yes

No

*\*If you responded yes to Question 22, please proceed to Question 23\**

*\*If you responded no to Question 22, please proceed to Section V\**

1. Please briefly elaborate the cooperation agreement as appropriate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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If you have website or reference information, please share with us here:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Questions for B. Maintainers of Business Registers for Legal Tasks**

1. Name of the public institution that maintains a business register for the performance of legal tasks:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Link to the website of the business register used for performance of legal tasks, if applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please indicate the main tasks/functions of your institution regarding business registers:

(Please select all that apply)

☐ Inland revenue

☐ Social security

☐ Trade

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please note which types of entities are covered by the business register maintained by your institution. (Please select all that apply)

☐ Incorporated entities (e.g., limited liability)

☐ Sole proprietors

☐ Partnerships

​​☐​ Associations

​​☐​ Foundations

☐ Public institutions

☐ Governmental institutions

☐ Joint ventures

☐ Branches of foreign companies

☐ Non-profit institutions

☐ Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Does your institution assign its own unique identifier to legal entities?

☐Yes

☐ No

*\*If you responded yes to Question 28, please answer Question 29\**

*\*If you responded no to Question 28, please proceed to Question 30\**

1. If yes, please specify the name and format/structure of the identifier in your registry:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have website or reference information, please share with us here:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please briefly describe the process of registering a business   
   (or provide a link to a website describing the process in English):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Does your institution utilize identifiers of legal entities assigned by other institutions? (Please select all that apply)

☐ National registrar of businesses

☐ Population register

☐ Tax authority

☐ GLEIF

☐ Other(s) (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Is the business register of your institution used as source of information by the National Statistical Office?

Yes

No

Not sure

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

Yes

No

*\*If you responded yes to Question 33, please proceed to Question 34\**

*\*If you responded no to Question 33, please proceed to Section V\**

1. Please briefly elaborate the cooperation agreement as appropriate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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If you have website or reference information, please share with us here:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Questions for C. National Statistical Offices (NSO)**

1. Does your institution maintain a Statistical Business Register (SBR)?

Yes

No

*\*If you responded yes to Question 35, please proceed to Question 36\* and skip to Question 38\**

*\*If you responded no to Question 35, please proceed to Question 37\**

1. If yes, which kinds of units are included in your SBR? (Please select all that apply)

Legal units

Enterprises

Enterprise groups

Local/Kind of activity units

Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. If no, is it in the process of developing one?

Yes, there exists a plan to develop an SBR

Yes, an SBR is currently under development

No, there exists no plan

*\*If you responded no to Question 37, please proceed to Section V\**

1. Do you use the business register in your country as source of information?

Yes

No

Not sure

1. Does your institution assign its own unique identifiers to units in the SBR?

A. Yes, the unique identifier is assigned by NSO (please specify the name and format/structure of the identifier): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. No, a different identifier system is used

C. No, no unique identifier is used

*\*If you responded A to the question above, please skip to Question 43\**

*\*If you responded B to the question above, please answer all questions below\**

*\*If you responded C to the question above, please skip Questions 40-41 and answer Question 42\**

1. What kind of identifier do you use in the SBR?

Another national unique identifier (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

Links with other IDs

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please specify the name and format/structure of the identifier you answered in question above: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have website or reference information, please share with us here:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Does your institution plan to implement your own unique identifiers for businesses?

Yes

No

1. What other kinds of identifier(s) are included in your SBR? (Please select all that apply):

☐ Identifiers assigned by business registrar(s)

☐ Identifiers assigned/used by other institutions in the country, e.g., Tax office/Inland Revenue

☐ Global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

☐ Identifiers assigned by commercial data providers, e.g., Dun & Bradstreet, Bureau van Dijk

☐ EuroGroups Register (EGR)

☐ Not applicable

☐ Other(s) (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please specify the format/structure of the identifier(s) you answered in question above, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Does your country have a law-based system of unique identifiers of businesses, used across the SBR and administrative business registers? (Please select all that apply):

Yes, identifiers of legal entities in the administrative business registers are assigned by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, identifiers of establishments/local units in the SBR are assigned by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No

1. Is there a provision in the Statistical Law that mandates your institution to have access to administrative data?

Yes

No

1. Are the identifiers used for the SBR non-confidential (i.e. do not include identifying information, and can be shared with other institutions within your country)?

Yes

No

Not applicable

1. Are the identifiers used for the SBR non-meaningful (i.e. portions of the identifier cannot be used to identify the region, sector, etc.)?

Yes

No

Not applicable

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

Yes

No

Not applicable

*\*If you responded yes to the question above, please answer Question 50 below\**

*\*If you responded no or not applicable to the question above, please skip to Question 51\**

1. What is the coverage of SBR that can link data with other system/platforms with your country? (Please select all that apply)

Business register

Tax / Inland revenue

Social security

Trade

Population

Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes

No

Not applicable

**V. General Questions**

1. Is there a provision in the legislation governing the registry that mandates the adoption of a unique identifier in your business register?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

1. Has your institution faced any of the following challenges in implementing/utilizing a unique identifier for businesses in your country? (Please select all that apply)

☐ Need for legal reform

☐ Negotiating with stakeholders

☐ Financial costs

☐ Differing definitions of units in the SBR and administrative data

☐Miscommunication between institutions/agencies because of the use of different identifiers for the same entity

☐ Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please provide any additional comments on the challenges faced in implementing/utilizing a national unique identifier for businesses:

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1. Do you have a plan regarding how to deal with the challenges mentioned above?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Do you have any additional comments relating to unique identifiers for businesses?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Would your institution be interested in joining/participating in the Advisory Group on GIUIB?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1. Would your institution be interested in participating in a pilot project on implementing national unique identifiers for businesses in the SBR and/or mapping to global unique identifiers?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1. In order to maximize transparency, we plan to compile responses to this questionnaire and publish them in an online repository. Do you give consent that your response to this questionnaire can be published? Please note that no email address or personal information will be released.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Thank you for your response!   
If you have any questions/concerns, please contact us at **business\_stat@un.org**

**Glossary**

**Administrative data**

Administrative data are data originally collected for non-statistical purpose. Control of the methods by which the administrative data are collected and processed rests with the administrative agency. In most cases the administrative authority will be a government unit.

**Business**

Business describes a type of enterprise, namely a commercial enterprise or legal unit with commercial economic activity.

**Enterprise**

An enterprise is an institutional unit in its capacity as a producer of goods and services. It is an economic transactor with autonomy in respect of financial and investment decision-making, as well as authority and responsibility for allocating resources for the production of goods and services. It may be engaged in one or more productive activities. An enterprise may be a corporation (or quasi-corporation), an NPI or an unincorporated enterprise. The enterprise is the level of statistical unit at which information relating to its transactions, including financial and balance-sheet accounts, are maintained, and from which international transactions, an international investment position (when applicable), consolidated financial position and net worth can be derived.

**Enterprise group**

An enterprise group is an association of enterprises bound together by legal and/ or financial links. A group of enterprises can have more than one decision-making centre, especially for policy on production, sales and profit. It may centralize certain aspects of financial management and taxation. It constitutes an economic unit which is empowered to make choices, in particular concerning the units which it comprises. An enterprise group is a set of enterprises controlled by the group head.

**Establishment**

An establishment is an enterprise or part of an enterprise that is situated in a single location and in which only a single (non-ancillary) productive activity is carried out or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added.

**EuroGroups Register (EGR)**

The EGR builds a framework of registers, consisting of a central register kept at Eurostat and registers in each European Union member state and in EFTA countries. The central register contains information about multinational enterprise groups, which have statistically relevant financial and non-financial transnational operations in at least one of the European countries. Registers in the European Union member States and in EFTA countries contain information regarding multinational enterprise groups active in the respective countries and are fully consistent with the central register.

The aim of the EGR network is to hold a complete, accurate, consistent and up-to-date set of linked and coordinated statistical registers, which offer compilers a common frame of multinational enterprise groups, global as well as truncated national groups, operating in the economy of the European Union and EFTA countries, together with their constituent legal units and enterprises and the ownership and control relationships between legal units.

**Head office**

Historical data come into existence when a unit has ceased and is not dormant (temporary inactive). For the purpose of reconstructing demographic events the record needs to be marked historical and not to be deleted physically.

**Identifier**

An identifier has the purpose of identifying a unit and linking it with other units in the register and with administrative and statistical sources. The identity number of a legal unit can be either specific to the SBR or an external one, common or shared with other institutions in the Member State, a so-called unique identifier.

**Kind-of-activity unit (KAU)**

A KAU is an enterprise or part of an enterprise that engages in only one kind of productive activity or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added. Compared with the establishment, in the case of such a unit, there is no restriction on the geographical area in which the activity is carried out but it is characterized by homogeneity of activity. Compared with the establishment, on the geographic area in which the activity is carried out but it is characterized by homogeneity of activity.

**Legal unit**

Legal units include:

* Legal persons whose existence is recognized by law independently of the individuals or institutions which may own them or are members of them.
* Natural persons who are engaged in an economic activity in their own right.

The legal unit is usually recorded in one or more administrative sources. The sources used for SBRs do not necessarily provide identical views of legal units. These units may vary both between different sources within a country and between countries. Thus, the legal unit is not suitable as a statistical unit, particularly for international comparisons. The characteristics of a legal unit are: it owns goods or assets, it incurs liabilities and it enters into contracts. The legal unit always forms, either by itself or sometimes in combination with other legal units, the basis for the statistical unit known as the “enterprise”

**LEI**

The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-character, alpha-numeric code based on the ISO 17442 standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It connects to key reference information that enables clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial transactions and other official interactions.

**Local unit**

A local unit is an enterprise or part of an enterprise (e.g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) that is engaged in productive activity at or from one location. The definition has only one dimension in that it does not refer to the kind of activity that is carried out.

**Statistical Business Register (SBR)**

The SBR is a comprehensive, regularly updated and structured list of business units engaged in the production of goods and services, which is maintained by national statistical authorities for statistical purposes to assist in the compilation of statistical data and particular as a (backbone) tool for the preparation and coordination of surveys, as a source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, for the use of administrative data, and for the identification and construction of statistical units.

**Unincorporated enterprise**

An unincorporated enterprise represents the production activity of a government unit, NPISH or household that cannot be treated as the production activity of a quasi-corporation. An unincorporated enterprise is a producer unit which is not incorporated as a legal unit separate from the owner (household, government or foreign resident); the fixed and other assets used in unincorporated enterprises do not belong to the enterprises but to their owners, the enterprises as such cannot engage in transactions with other economic units nor can they enter into contractual relationships with other units nor incur liabilities on their own behalf; in addition, their owners are personally liable, without limit, for any debts or obligations incurred in the course of production.