

3.2 – Implementation of ISIC, Rev 5

Implementation of an economic activity classification in Business Registers and Backcasting

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Implementation into the SBR - introduction

Basic elements to be taken in consideration in the framework of the implementation of a new classifications of economic activities into a Statistical Business Register (SBR):

- the new classification must be complete (-> structure, explanatory notes, correspondence table, and introductory guidelines)
- what about national versions of the classification?
- double coding and backcasting
- planning of the new classification in the statistical products

Implementation into the SBR - basics

- Fundamental: a classification like ISIC should never be exclusively defined by the classification team, but must involve a wide range of stakeholders (SBR people, producers of official statistics, administration, trade associations, universities ...)
- The first concrete step in integrating a new classification into the statistical production process is its implementation in the SBR
- This means recoding of the SBR, and this can only be done with the support and guidance of the explanatory notes, correspondence tables and the introductory guidelines

Implementation into the SBR – national versions

- What about the regional/national versions of a classification?
- In many cases “central” classifications are adapted in order to obtain classifications more suited to the regional/national realities?
- This adaptation takes the form of the definition of new classifications, which are generally linked to the “central” classification via the code structure or correspondence tables
- Thereby, SBR are not always coded with the “central classification”, in our case ISIC Rev 5, but with derived classifications
- This influences in parallel the implementation period of a classification into a SBR

Implementation into the SBR - recoding

- SBR are a basic source for the production of data on statistics which concern establishments, enterprises, enterprise groups, multinational enterprises ...
- The implementation of a new classification of economic activities implies changing the unit codes in the SBR
- Recoding of units in an SBR are done
 - based on correspondence tables and explanatory notes
 - manually or with the help of information technology
- Recoding of SBRs with the help of information technology are mainly based on machines learning algorithms, however there are also different AI approaches, e.g. combined with web scraping etc.

Implementation into the SBR – correspondence tables

- Correspondence tables are created mostly manually and present the following relations
 - 1:1
 - 1:N
 - N:1
 - M:N
- Depending on the relations between the codes of the old and the new classification, units in the SBR may be recoded automatically or need a more in-depth analysis and approach that is generally done manually

Implementation into the SBR – double coding

- In order to serve the needs of statistics producers and to ensure their authoritative role, SBRs should provide users with double coding according to both the old and the new classification for defined reference year(s)
- Double coding in SBRs often leads also to greater control of the units they contain. Thus, errors might be spotted for how a unit has been encoded in the old version of the classification. This will normally be corrected directly in the business register

Implementation into the SBR - backcasting

- The transition from one classification version to another influences considerably the existing statistical time series. Through backcasting techniques (for which double coding is an essential precondition), the coherence of time series can be ensured
- Data series are expressed in terms of the new classification, and the lengths of these backcasting periods have to be defined by the different statistic products
- Based on the need for methodological guidance, Eurostat has published a first Backcasting manual in 2008, which has been considerably revamped in 2025 ([link ...](#))

Implementation of the new classification in statistical products (example of Eurostat)

Group	Statistical product/register	Reference period ^a	Provision time
BSDG	Statistical Business Registers (SBRs)	2025	2025/12/31 ^b
BSDG	Information society - households and individuals	2025	2025/10/05
BSDG	PRODCOM	2025	2026/06/30
BSDG	Structural Business Statistics	2025	2026/10/31 (prel) 2027/06/30 (final)
BSDG	Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics	2025	2026/12/31
BSDG	Research and development	2025	2027/06/30
BSDG	Services trade by enterprise characteristics	2025	2027/06/30
BSDG	Foreign affiliates statistics	2025	2027/08/31
BSDG	Foreign direct investments	2025	2027/09/30
BSDG	Short Term Statistics	2025	2028/12/31 ^c
BSDG	Tourism Statistics	2025	?
DIMESA	Integrated Farm Survey	2025	?
DIMESA	Material flows and resource productivity accounts	2025	2027/04/30
BSDG	Information society – enterprises	2026	2026/10/05
BSDG	Innovation	2026	2028/06/30
DIMESA	Road freight survey - quarterly data	2026	2026/08/31 ^d
DIMESA	Waste statistics	2026	2028/06/30
DIMESA	Forest accounts	2026	2028/09/30
DIMESA	Environmental subsidies and similar transfers (ESST) accounts	2026	2028/12/31
DIMESA	Water statistics	2026	2028/12/31
DSS	Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)	2026	2026/05/31
DSS	EU-Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)	2026	2027/03/31
DSS	Job Vacancy statistics (JVS)	2026	2026/06/10
DSS	Structure of Earnings Survey (SES)	2026	2028/04/30
DIMESA	Energy statistics	2027	2028/09/30 ^e
DSS	Labour Cost Index (LCI)	2027	2027/06/1

Implementation of the new classification in statistical products (example of Eurostat)

Group	Statistical product/register	Reference period ^a	Provision time
DSS	Gender Pay Gap	2027	2029/01/31
DSS	Health Care Expenditure (HCE) (health care providers)	2027	2029/06/30
DSS	European statistics on accidents at work (ESAW)	2027	2029/06/30
DSS	European Occupational Diseases Statistics (EODS)	2027	2029/06/30
DGAS	Agricultural accounts	2028	TBD
DMES	National Accounts	2028 ^f	2029/12/31
DMES	Public Corporations	2028	2029/12/31
DIMESA	Environmental taxes – Environmental taxes by economic activity (ETEA)	2028	?
DIMESA	Environmental expenditure based on SBS – Environmental protection expenditure accounts (EPEA)	2028	?
DIMESA	Environmental goods and services sector (EGSS) accounts	2028	?
DIMESA	Air emission accounts	2028	2028/09/30
DIMESA	Physical energy flow accounts	2028	2029/09/30
DSS	Adult Education Survey (AES)	2028	2029/05/31
DSS	Labour Cost Survey (LCS)	2028	2030/06/30
DSS	Minimum Wages	01/07/2028	2028/07/31
DSS	Labour Cost Levels	2030	2031/03/31
DSS	Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS)	2030	2032/01/31
DSS	Household Budget Survey (HBS)	2030	2032/04/30
DSS	Time Use Survey (HETUS)	2030	2032 at the earliest
DSS	Population and housing census	2031 ^g	TBD
DSS	European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)	2031	2032/10/31
DSS	Gender Based Violence (EU-GBV)	TBD	TBD ^h

