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Economic statistics: Round Table on Business Survey Frames

Report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fourth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames. The Commission is requested to review the work undertaken by the Round Table.

* E/CN.3/2004/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 4 (E/2003/24)*, chap. I.A.

Report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames

Purpose

To provide a forum for the exchange of views and experience and the conduct of joint experiments related to the development, maintenance and use of sampling frames for business surveys (business registers). The Round Table is an informal body and participation is on a voluntary basis. Participants, however, are required to contribute to the programme of the annual meeting. Although its mandate does not emanate from a formal body, the Round Table could, on the basis of its discussions and/or experiments, make recommendations to a formal body (e.g., the Statistical Commission) regarding the consideration and/or adoption of certain practices or standards.

Year organized

1986 (Ottawa).

Participating statistical agencies (2003 meeting)

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Statistical Office of the European Communities, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Economic Commission for Europe, United Kingdom, United States.

Meetings (held annually)

First meeting: Ottawa, May 1986.

Most recent meeting: Rome 26-31 October 2003.

Topics discussed at the Rome meeting:

- Business register profile issues
- Administrative and statistical units
- Business register system enhancements
- Globalization and the proposed multinational enterprises project
- Business register quality indicators
- Improving business register coverage and business demography
- Business register dissemination issues

Products

The host agency updates an Internet site with the most recent documentation after each meeting. Papers from the Rome meeting are available at <http://petra1.istat.it/17roundtable>. Documents from previous meetings and links to still existing web sites are available at <http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/businesssurvey/info/data/links.htm>.

Planned activities

Next meeting: Beijing, October 2004.

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Contact for information on the next meeting, to be held in Beijing in October 2004

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