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STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER SURVEY ON THE LOCAL UNITS OF LARGE AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to introduce Workshop's participants with methods of organizing and conducting Statistical Business Register (SBR) Survey of large and medium sized Enterprises in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS). Methods will refer to data collection mode, survey frame, communication with Businesses, reminders, methodology papers and FAQ (responses on Frequently Asked Questions). From IT point of view, methods will refer on web questionnaire design and software solution for monitoring current response rate (during data collection) and the quality of data. This paper will also describe using and combining administrative and statistical sources in conducting SBR, in order to assure expected outcome for SBR users.

SBR in SORS has been established in 2006. It consists of little above 454 000 active Legal units, 448 000 Enterprises, 500 000 Local units and 8398 Enterprise groups. SBR is the main supplier of Business data for various Business statistics in SORS. However, existing administrative and statistical sources are not enough to fulfil the needs of SBR stakeholders. Database on Local unit level is not fully covered with required data. Therefore, the need of establishing an SBR survey is emerged. First SBR survey took place in 2010, and since then survey is carried out on the yearly basis. Data have been collected twofold – by web questionnaire and by filling data in Microsoft office excel format (for large Businesses with an extensive network of local units). The targeted population are big and medium sized Enterprises. Last SBR survey frame gathered 7691 Businesses. Response rate (data provided) was 97%. The task of the main and 15 regional SORS offices, in this survey, was to ensure data flow of certain quality on the territory they are covering. The intention is to collect data on locations on which Enterprises perform their activities, conducted NACE classes on these locations and number of Employees engaged in this NACE classes. The data collected are latter used in determining the principal activity of surveyed Enterprises according to the number of employees (as substitute of value added).

The aim is that all-important Enterprises have to be covered and contacted at least once in two years. It was decided regarding the burden on units, in order to reduce it as much as it is possible, and, at the same time, to provide SBR with accurate data. Plan is to leave web questionnaire open online. In that way, Businesses will be enable to update data when any change in the characteristics occur.

SBR is constantly challenged with: how to fine new administrative and statistical sources that will satisfy the increasing user needs, how to match data from various administrative sources, how to influence other business surveys to add new variables needed for SBR and how to conduct own ad hoc and regular surveys. It still has a lot of improvements to be implemented in order to improve the quality of SBR data. The introduction of the SBR survey is a significant and important step.