

A Successful European Establishment Statistics Workshop

The European Establishment Statistics Workshop (EESW09), gathering practitioners and researchers active in the various areas of the value chain in establishment statistics (i.e. statistics on businesses, organisations or on economy, produced from surveys or from administrative data), was held from 7-9 September 2009 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Drawing on experiences of more than 50 participants from statistical institutes, research centres and universities of 15 European countries and Eurostat, the workshop offered 27 papers. These were presented and discussed in seven paper sessions, their topics covering registers, data integration, data collection, editing, sampling and estimation, as well as emerging issues like estimation in recession. A panel session gave an overview of related establishment statistics initiatives – forums and projects – that are busy working together either on a European or wider international basis. Four small group discussions provided opportunities for those with a particular interest to focus on the topics of administrative data sources, data collection, editing and data validation, and burden reductions.

Participants of EESW09 have recognised the strong and enduring drivers on establishment statistics: Operational efficiency, integrated production systems, business burden reduction and use of administrative data. Reflecting these drivers and the success of the Stockholm workshop, they have expressed support for the work towards (i) Organising a second European establishment statistics workshop in September 2011, EESW11, (ii) Establishing a virtual collaboration platform for exchange in the period up to the workshop.

The workshop in (i) is aimed to last three days (somewhat longer than the 2009 one). Its likely format will be paper sessions, poster sessions and small group discussions. Broadening the scope to somewhat more countries and somewhat more academic participants, balanced by maintaining a workshop format, will be another goal of the second workshop.

The platform in (ii) can provide the exchange of experiences and other forms of virtual collaboration between interested parties engaged in establishment statistics production or research in Europe. Its likely functions are to include: (i) Providing a repository of technical papers, workshop presentations and other material, (ii) Providing pointers to related initiatives within establishment statistics (their URLs, contact persons, repositories if any, etc.), (iii) Enabling creation of virtual groups focused on specific topics within establishment statistics (resembling small group discussions).

Short papers and/or presentations prepared for the workshop are posted on the workshop website, www.eesw09.eu, since November 2009.