

The German Business Register

- Overview
- Internal and external users
- Dataflow
- Cooperation with data providers
- Quality checks of administrative data sources
- Functionalities



Overview ⁽¹⁾

Role of the business register

Infrastructure for economic statistics

- » Basis for planning, realisation and preparation of surveys
- » Reduction of response burden
 - » Replacement of censuses and specific surveys
 - » Use of administrative data in short-term statistics
 - » Steering of survey participation

Basis for analyses and evaluations

» Structural data for the economy as a whole
Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)

» Important data source / calculation base for National Accounts

Overview (2)

National characteristics

Germany: federal state

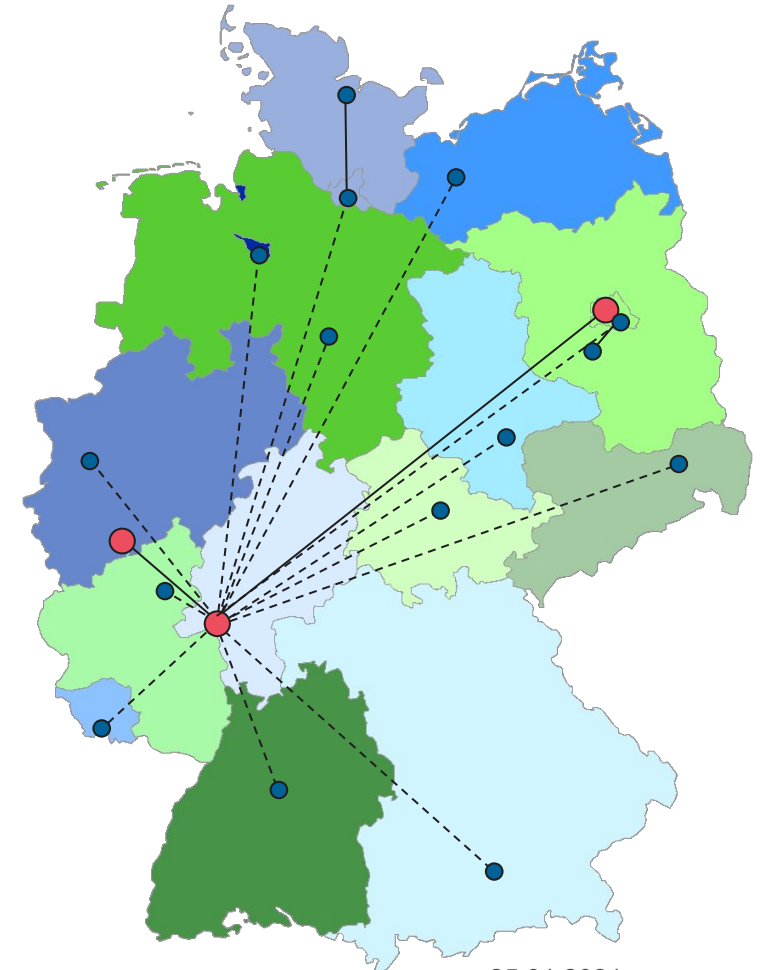
- » 15 statistical offices
 - » Federal Statistical Office
 - » 14 independent statistical offices of the Länder (federal states)

Maintenance of the business register

- » Central data base
- » Methodology and coordination
 - » Federal Statistical Office

 Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)

- » Continuous updating of the data



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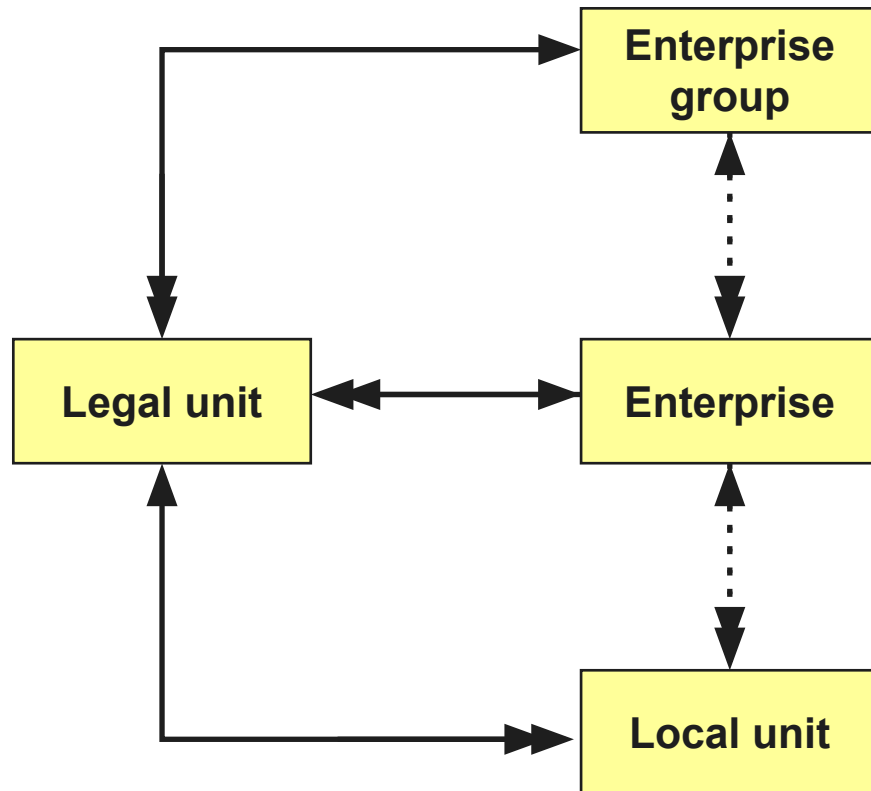
Overview (3)

Data Sources

- » Monthly data of the [Federal Employment Agency](#)
- » Monthly data of the [financial administration](#) (turnover)
- » Data of the [Federal Central Tax Office](#) (on tax groups)
- » Data of the [Chamber of Crafts](#)
- » Information from the [trade register](#)
- » [Commercial data provider](#) for the maintenance of enterprise groups

Overview (4)

Units and characteristics



- » Name, address and geographical code information
- » Identification variables (IDs)
- » Regional code, economic activity code, legal form
- » Institutional sector according to ESA, public enterprise, ...
- » Information on size (employees, turnover)
- » Demographic information
- » Information on ownership and control (enterprise groups)

Overview (5)

Some figures

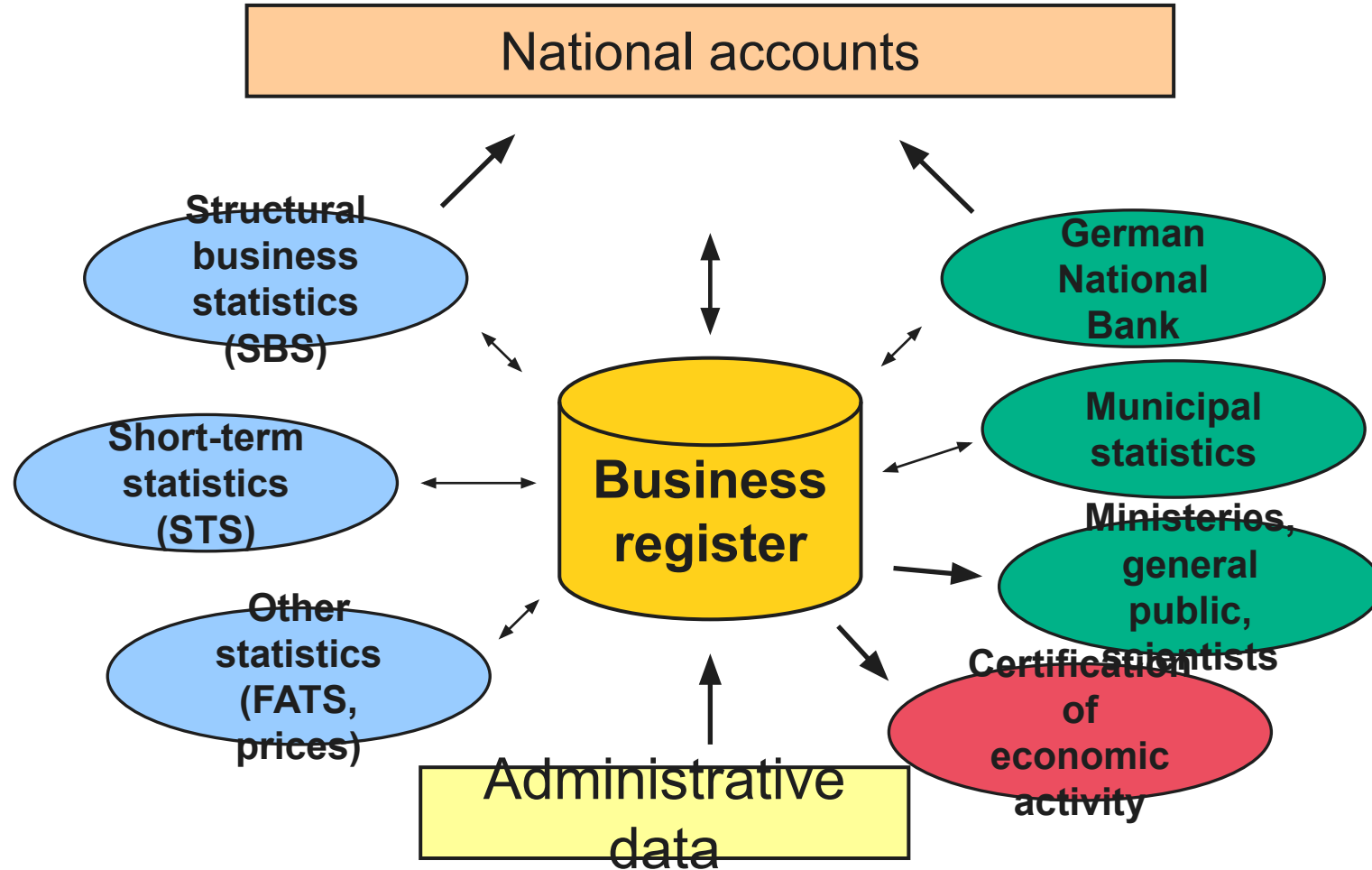
- » 3.2 million legal units
 - » Very small businesses (e.g. no employees, no advance turnover tax return) are not covered
- » 3.7 million local units
- » 212,000 enterprise groups

Overview (6)

Challenges

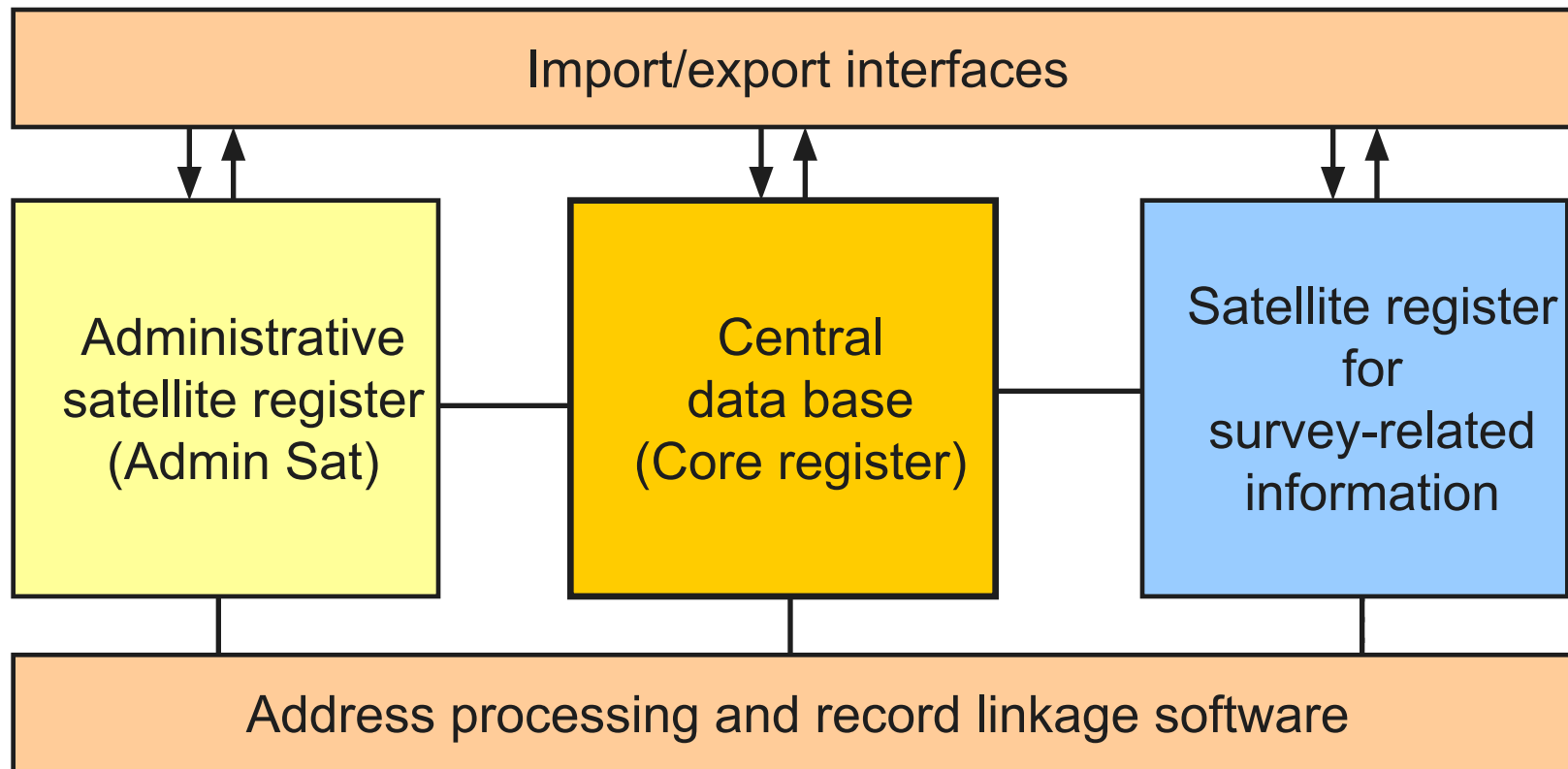
- » No unique identifier across administrations in Germany (so far)
 - » In certain cases, data matching has to be carried out on the basis of name, address, economic activity code, etc.
- » Administrative versus statistical units
 - » Concepts are not always the same
- » No data source for enterprises as defined by official statistics
 - » Profiling needed

Internal and external users of BR



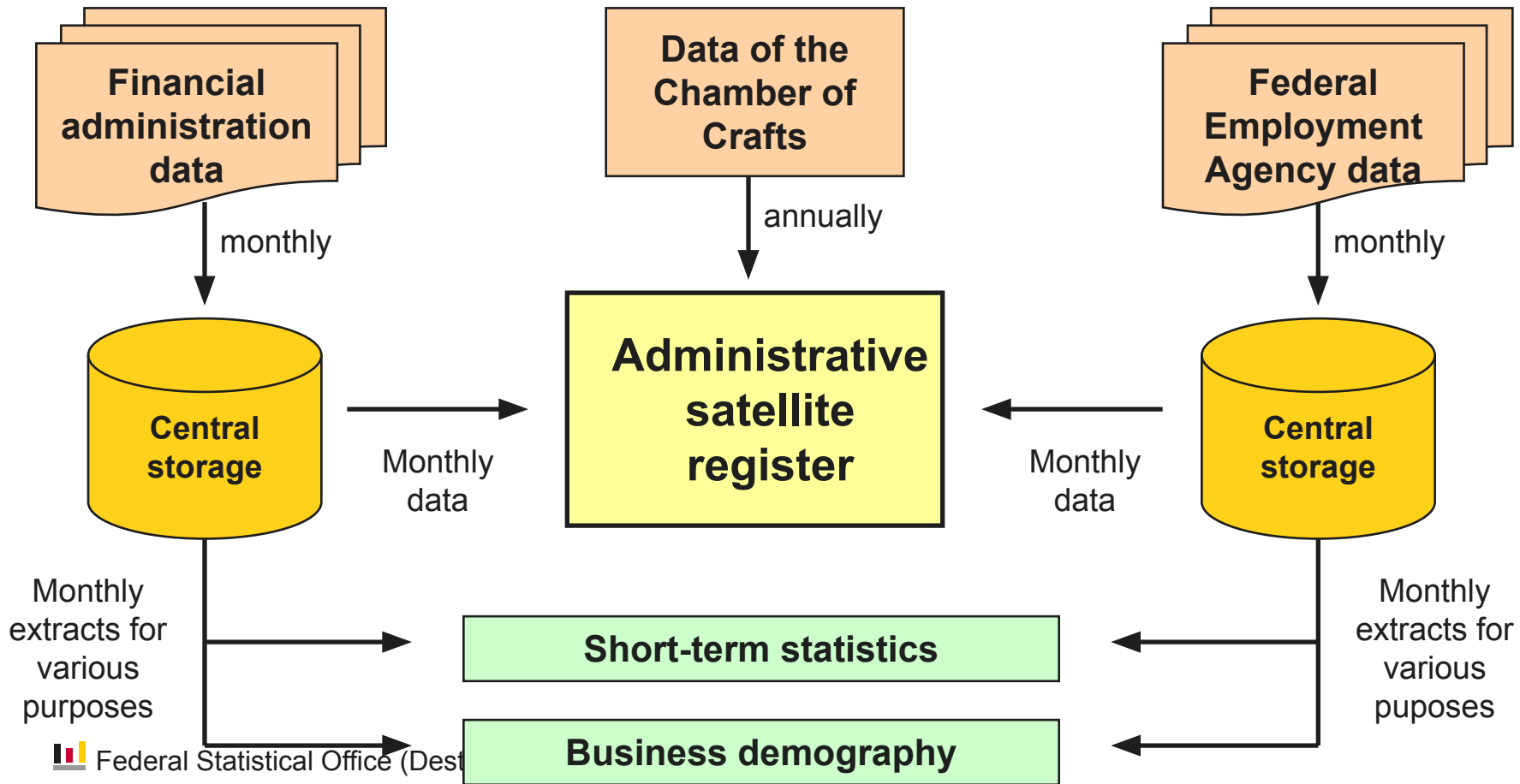
Data flow (1)

Structure of the business register



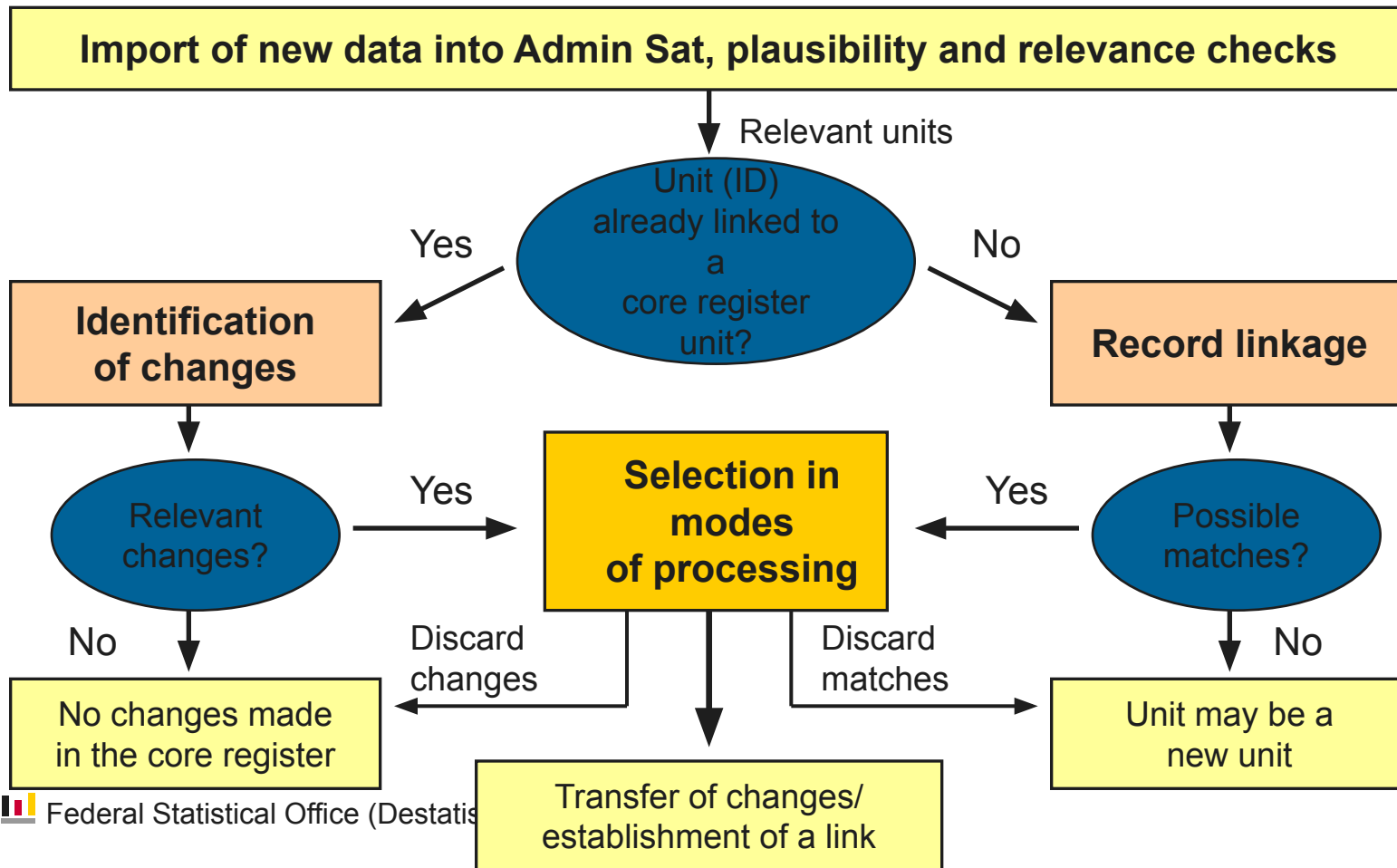
Data flow (2)

Data flow in AdminSat



Data flow (3)

Process of monthly updating



Data flow (4)

Modes of processing

» Automatic

- » Automatic transfer of all changes/automatic establishment of a link in all cases (which meet certain criteria)

» Dialogue

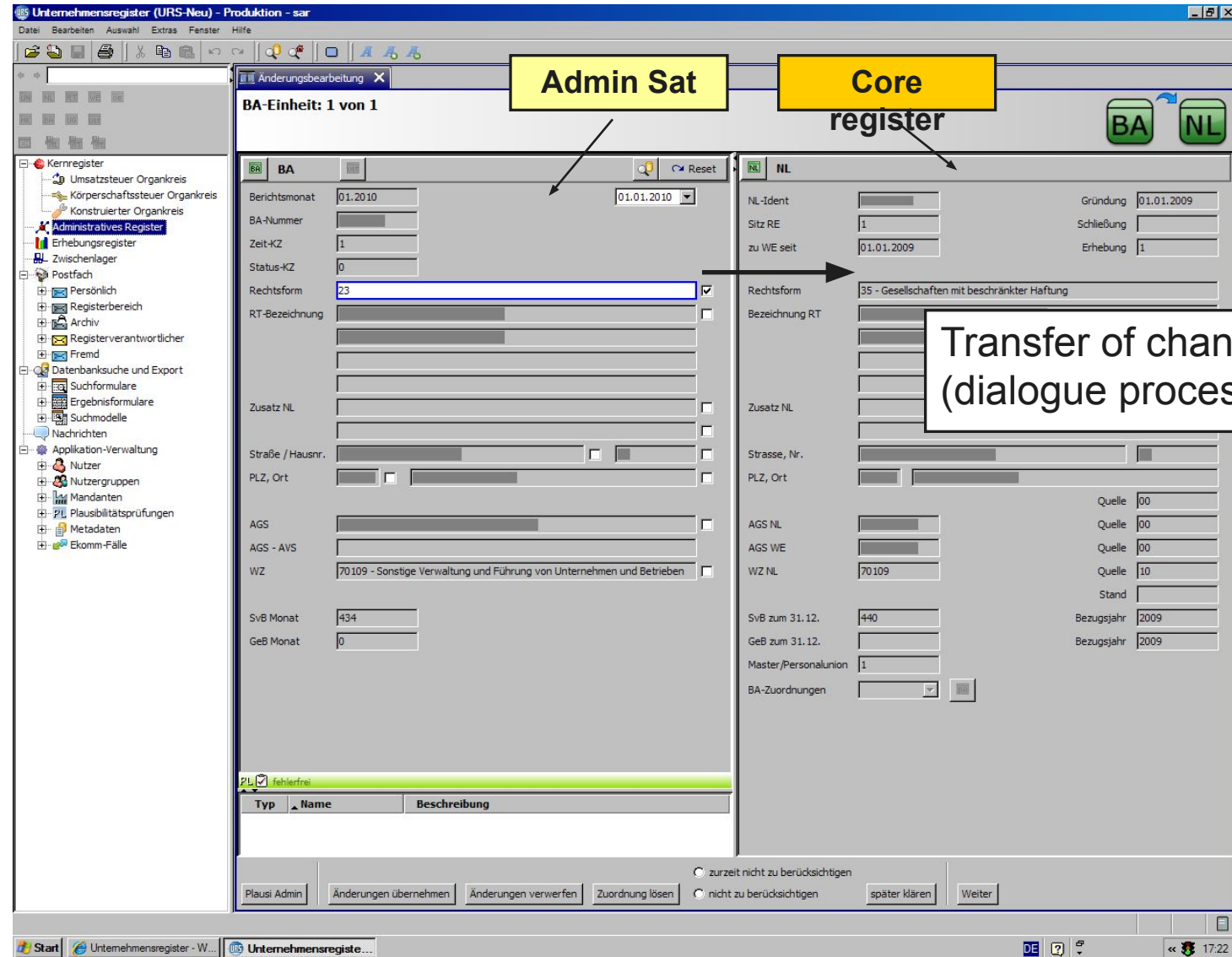
- » Single-case decision (split screen)

» Export

- » External analysis/processing and import of the results

Data flow (5)

Example: split screen



Cooperation with data providers

Data deliveries defined by law

Legal basis

- » Law on the Use of Administrative Data for statistical purposes
- » Statistics Register Law
- » Federal Statistics Law

Specific agreements

- » Fixed contact persons
- » Regular meetings
- » Agreed data set description

- » Reporting of general anomalies

Quality checks of administrative data sources (1)

General guidelines for the use of administrative data


- » Learn about the concepts and definitions of units and characteristics of the source and document the findings
- » Involve data owners in use of their data, so that they understand the use of their data
- » Hold regular meetings and establish a good communication channel
- » Form agreements concerning data format, metadata, delivery terms, contact persons
- » Check timeliness, punctuality of delivery, completeness and comprehensiveness, occurrence of duplicates, and compliance with the agreed standards for every data delivery
- » Provide feedback on the quality of the data on a regular basis and work towards improving data quality

Quality checks of administrative data sources (2)

Quality assurance in the German Business Register

- » Establishing the connection from legal unit (data of the tax administration) to local unit (data of the Federal Employment Agency)
- » Controlling heads of tax groups without data delivery from tax administration
- » Controlling of high turnover values without data delivery from Federal Employment Agency
- » Controlling data from Federal Employment Agency without data delivery from tax administration
- » Estimation of turnover of entities belonging to tax groups
- » Correction of extreme values, that are a result of input errors
- » Controlling for identifier from trade registry that must be available for certain legal forms

Functionalities

- » Communication system for reconciliation of changes with surveys
- » Split screen to show data source and destination
- » Annual frozen frame to be used by survey for sampling
- » Measurement and steering of response burden
- » Flexible search tools which enable users to find a specific unit or to find all units that meet certain criteria
- » Import/export functionalities
- » Possibility to specify requirements data has to meet in order to be allowed into the database (on the level of characteristics)
- »  Creation of informative log files, especially for monitoring the mass processing of data

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