

Stacey-Jo Smith
Companies House, UK

Monica Grahn
Swedish Companies Registrations Office



Members of the Working Group

- Hayley E. Clarke, Canada
- Kasper Sengeløv, Denmark
- Celia Johnston, Germany
- Jens Grobelny, Germany
- Rolf König, Germany
- Snežana Tošić, Serbia
- Latha Kunjappa, Singapore
- Annika Bränström, Sweden
- Monica Grahn, Sweden
- Magdalena Norlin Schönfeldt, Sweden
- Stacey-Jo Smith, UK
- Marissa Soto-Ortiz, USA

Changes to the Survey Timeline



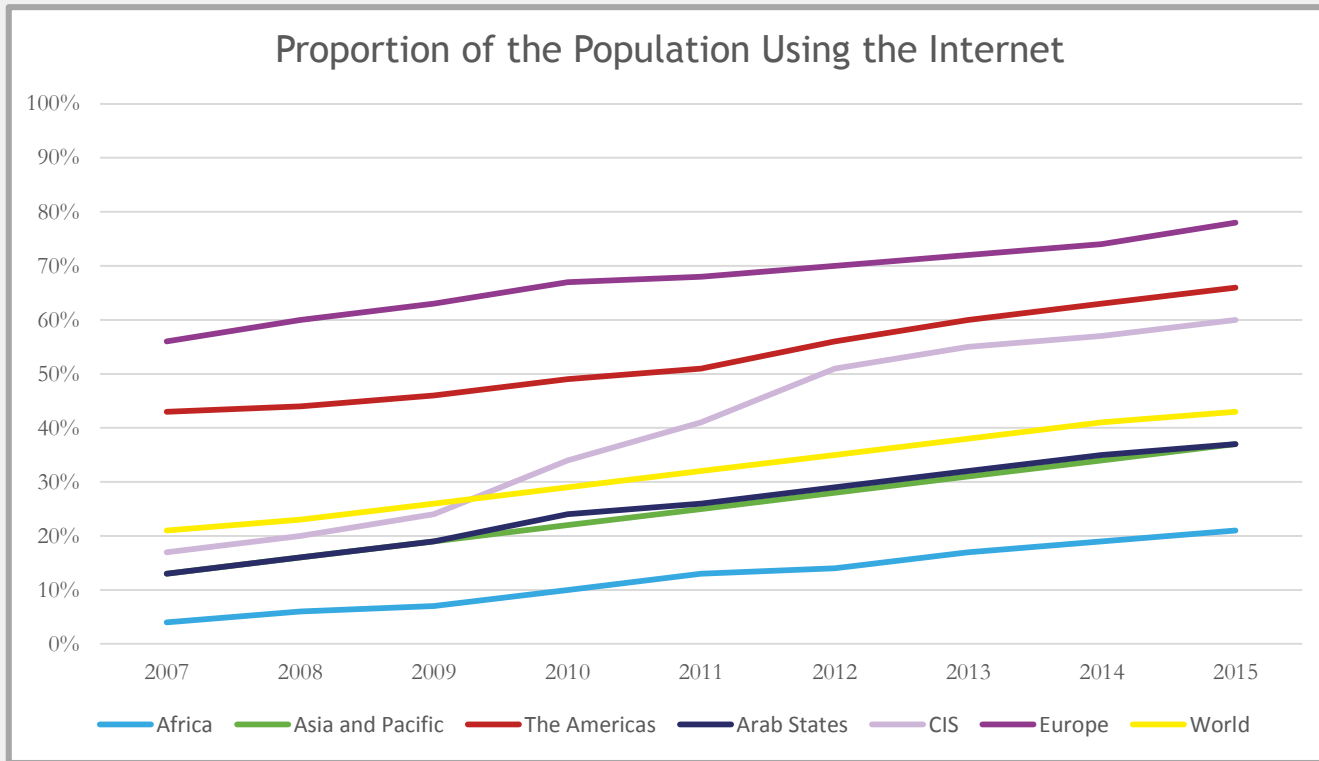
Interim Report The Journey 2007 - 2016



The Digital Journey

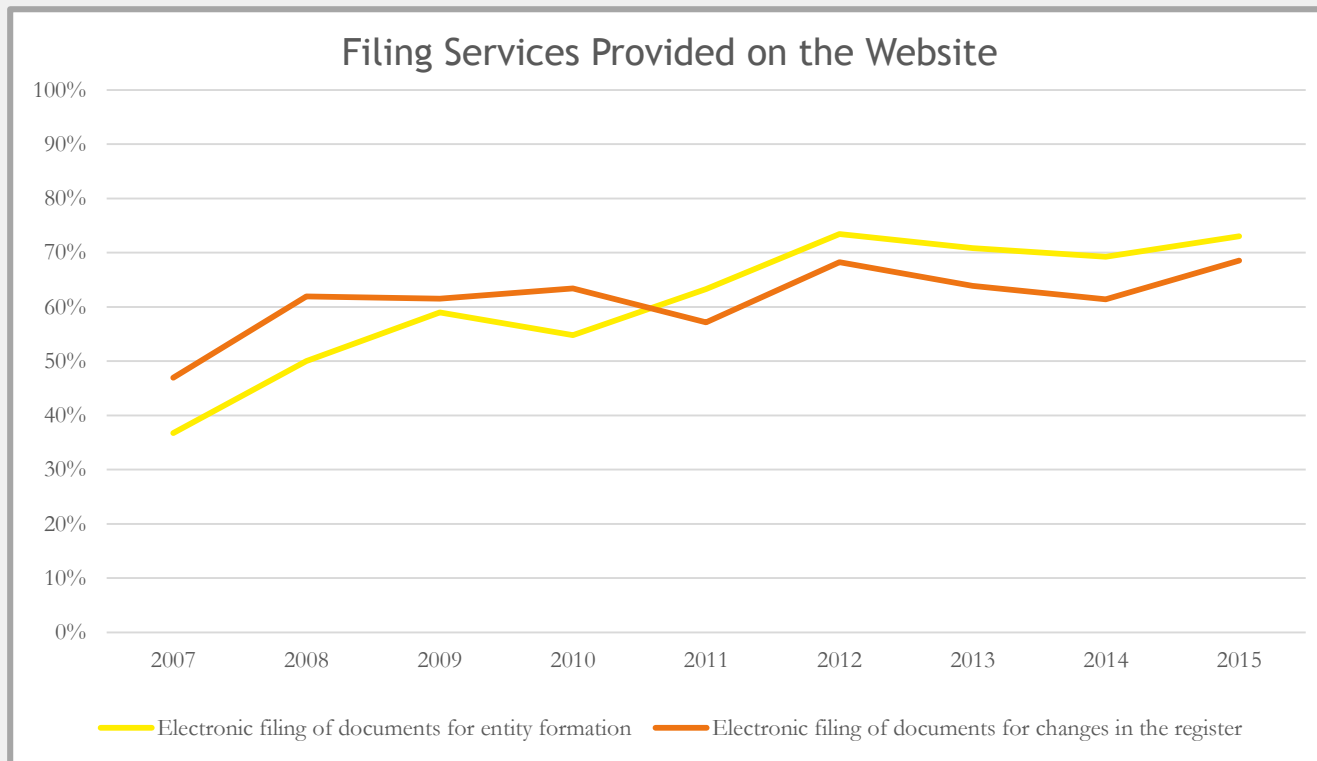


The World is (Becoming) Digitised

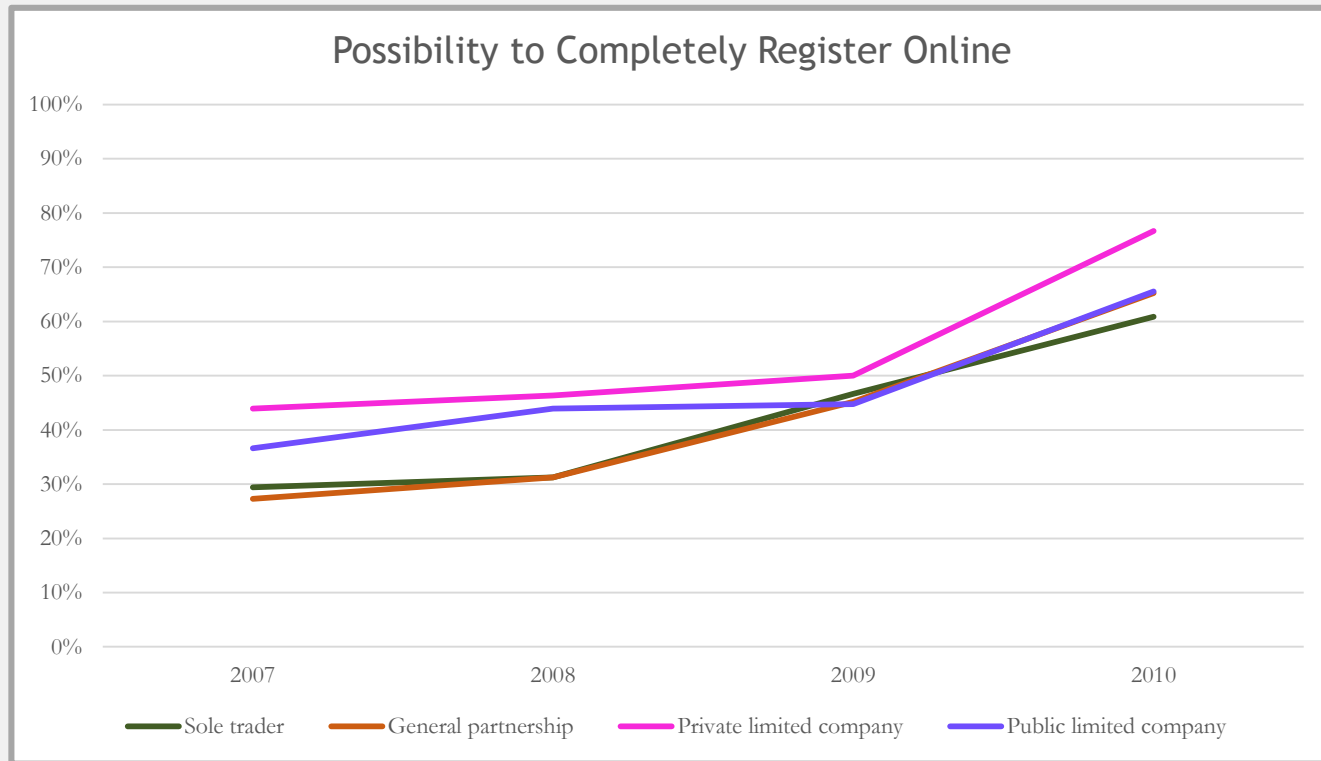


What about Business Registries?

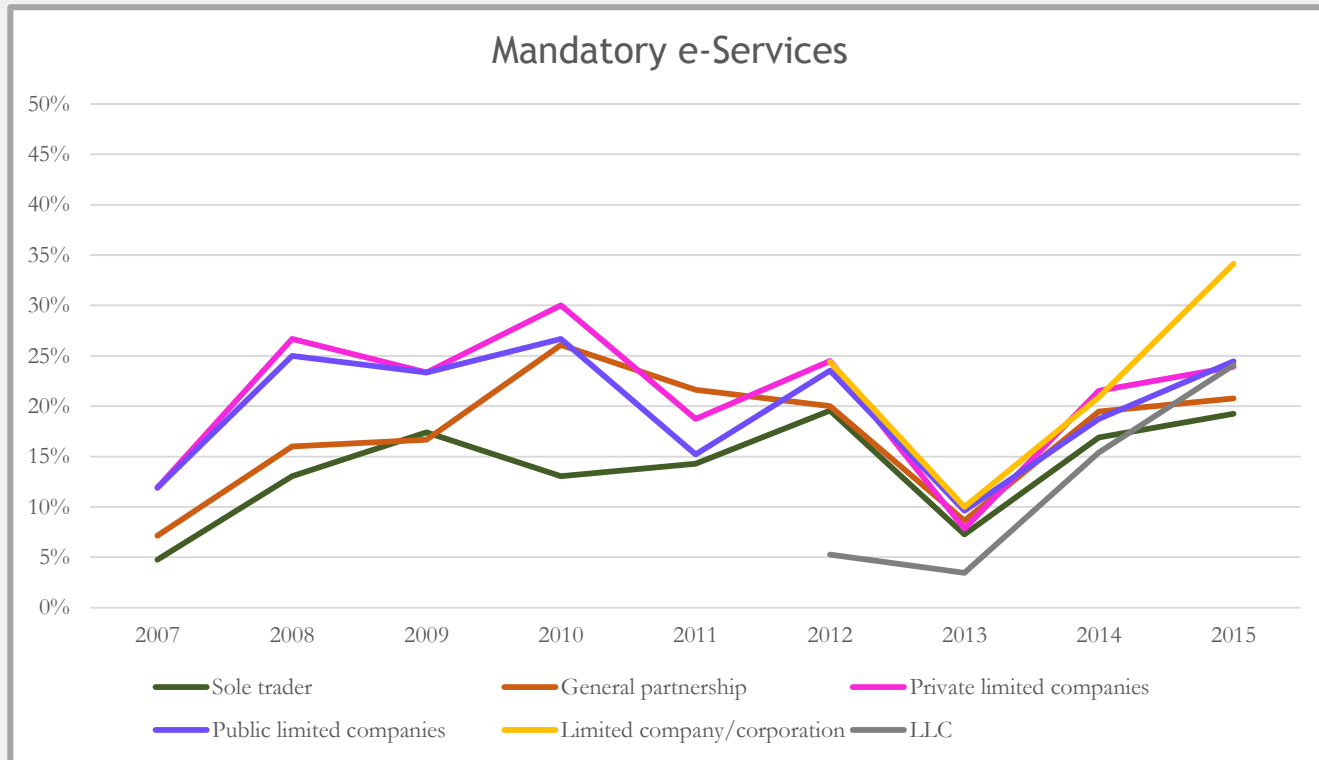
Filing Services



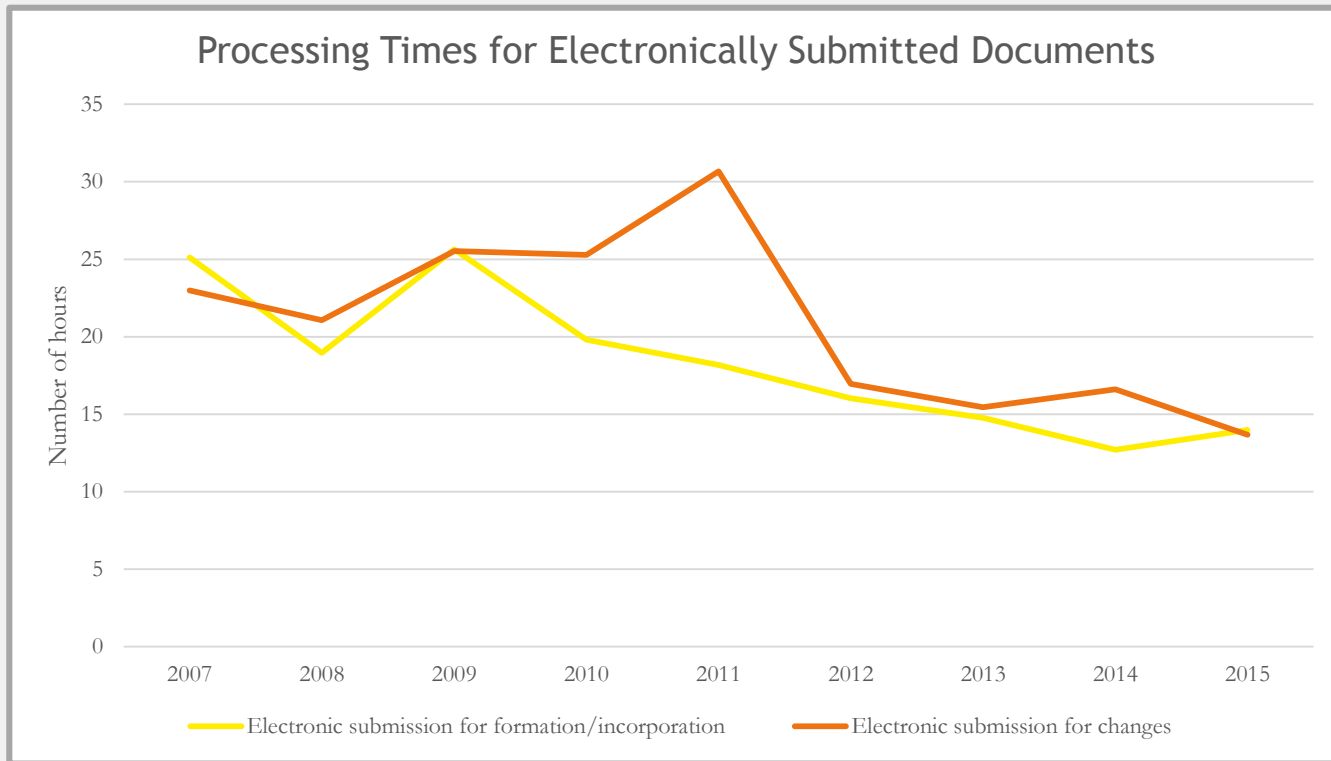
Online Registration



Mandatory e-Services



Positive Effect on Processing Times



Case Studies

Case Studies - We learned that ...

... we need to be digital ready through regulations and legislation.

... we need digital infrastructure and to be prepared for the cost.

... the role of the Business Register's workforce may change.

... we see an overall increase of electronic filing, which results in faster processing times.

Beneficial Ownership



A lack of Corporate Transparency

- Came into sharp focus due to the release of the **Panama papers** in April 2016
- It was a well-known issue before that:
 - G8 summit in Lough Erne in 2013
 - G20 summit in Brisbane 2014
 - FATF Recommendations
 - EU Fourth Anti Money Laundering Directive

What is a Beneficial Owner?

A natural person who directly or indirectly exercises ultimate control over a legal entity or arrangement, and the definition of ownership covers control through other means in addition to legal ownership*.

*Definition provided by Transparency International

Europe

- The main focus is on meeting the transposition deadline of the Fourth AML
- ECRF is hosting bi-annual workshops for its members
- So far Jersey (as a third country) and the UK have implemented Beneficial Ownership registers

Asia-Pacific

- Most jurisdictions have not yet implemented Beneficial Ownership registers
- There are jurisdictions with reporting requirements for certain company types
 - Australia
 - Hong Kong
 - Malaysia
 - New Zealand

Africa and the Middle East

The registration of beneficial ownership details is still a relatively new concept in Africa and the Middle East. Most jurisdictions in Africa are now in the process of discussing and adopting the relevant legislation.

The Americas - USA and Canada

- Business registries in the USA and Canada not required by law to collect beneficial owner information
- Legislation in Canada requires some financial institutions to identify and verify this information.
- Several financial institutions in the USA will be required to do receive and verify beneficial ownership as of May 11, 2018

The Digital Age - Challenges Past and Present

• Past

- Transparency vs. Privacy
- Structure of Business Registries
- Long term data storage
- Economic Crime
- Unique id/Identification
- Automation

• Present

- Beneficial Ownership
- Enforcement and compliance
- Cross border communication and identification
- Open data vs. fees
- Lack of resources

... and in the Future

- The Digital Age
 - Digital filing
 - New technologies
 - Interoperability and Exchange
 - Legislation

Thanks!
Stacey & Monica