# GUIDE TO THE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REGISTERS SURVEY 2023

* *BUSINESS DYNAMICS-*

## Introduction

Thank you for participating in the International Business Registers Survey.

This is the first of two surveys being conducted by the International Business Registers Report Working Group in 2023. In response to the feedback provided by the members of ASORLAC, CRF, EBRA and IACA, we are conducting two short surveys each year instead of one larger survey.

This first survey of 2023 will focus on Business Dynamics. This is similar to the Business Dynamics survey in 2022 and will allow us to collect comparable data. At the end of the survey, you will find open-ended questions about the accomplishments and challenges facing your business register. In this section, we hope to find areas of potential interest for future surveys. This will allow us to customize the survey to meet the needs and interests of the business registries.

This guide is designed to help you complete the survey. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch on communications@ebra.be.

## The Purpose of the Survey

The survey collects information from business registers from around the world to enable you to compare your own business register to the practice and performance of other jurisdictions. The survey results may also help identify obstacles, possibilities for overcoming them and ways to improve performance. The data you provide will be analysed and presented in the first half of 2023 International Business Registers Report.

The Working Group hopes to provide a global perspective to the business registry world. To provide the most up-to-date and accurate information, we rely on the participation of all jurisdictions throughout the globe and are grateful for your participation.

## How to Complete the Survey

The survey questions are the standard business dynamic questions and include:

* entity registration,
* entity incorporation,
* entity termination.

Your responses should be based on the 2022 calendar year, meaning 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

The survey also asks three open-ended questions relating to the challenges and accomplishments of your Business Registry.

Please provide as much information as your registry deems important. The answers to these questions will assist the Working Group in developing future surveys based on topics of particular interest to the business registries.

Saving your Progress

**IMPORTANT! To save your progress, please skip all the way to the end of the survey\* and press ‘Submit’. This will save your data. You can go back and complete the survey at a later date.**

***\*You do not need to complete all questions to skip forward.***

**To go back and complete the survey, click on the same link. This will take you back into your original survey with your saved data.**

**If you have any questions, please contact communications@ebra.be.**

## Timing

The Business Dynamics survey will be launched in February 2023. The deadline for the submission is 3 March 2023.

The information you provide will be used in a brief report by the Working Group.

We appreciate your effort in submitting your answers before the deadline as this gives the Working Group adequate time for analysis, preparation and publication. This allows the report to be available for presentation at the annual conferences around the world.

## Definitions

## As this is a global survey, the Working Group have drafted the following definitions to provide universal meaning to these areas. However, if you have any questions or concerns as to a specific term or question, please email a member of the Working Group who will provide clarity.

Company – means an incorporated entity and is used interchangeably with the term corporation. A company may be public or private. This term is not intended to include an unincorporated liability company (LLC).

Corporation – means an incorporated entity and is used interchangeably with the term company. A corporation may be public or private. This term is not intended to include an unincorporated liability company (LLC).

Entity – any type of business structure, including limited liability company or corporation, LLC, general partnership or sole trader.

General Partnership – means two or more persons carrying on business in common with a view to a profit. In a general partnership, there is no limit on the partners’ liability. Other types of partnership offer some limited liability, but they are presently beyond the scope of the survey.

Limited Liability Company (LLC) – refers to an unincorporated association. It is a hybrid business entity having characteristics of both a corporation and a sole proprietorship or partnership (depending on the number of owners). The primary characteristic an LLC shares with a corporation is limited liability for its owners, called members. The primary characteristic an LLC shares with a sole proprietorship or partnership is the availability of pass-through income taxation (although an LLC may choose to be taxed as a corporation).

Private limited company or corporation – means a company or corporation with restrictions on its ownership which are defined in the company’s constitution (i.e. articles, bylaws). Shareholders of a private limited company or corporation cannot sell or transfer their shares to the general public.

Public limited company or corporation – means a company or corporation which is permitted to sell or transfer its shares to the general public.

Sole trader – means a natural person carrying on business alone as the sole owner. It is unincorporated and has no limit on personal liability. This is sometimes referred to as a sole proprietorship.

## Still have questions?

For general queries about completing the survey, please contact Helen at communications@ebra.be.

Contacts from each Association:

EBRA – Chiara Gaffuri, secretary@ebra.be

CRF – Martin Fidler Jones, secretary@corporateregistersforum.org

IACA – Marissa Soto-Ortiz, marissa.soto-ortiz@sec.state.ma.us

ASORLAC - **Andrés Fernando Rodríguez Olivos,** asorlac@ccb.org.co

The members of the International Business Registers Survey Working Group are:

Hayley Clarke – Nova Scotia, Canada Gaury Sastry - Germany

Angela Doneva – North Macedonia Ljubinka Slaveska – North Macedonia

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 **Administrative Members:**

 Stephen Brandon – Ireland

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## Thank you for your participation!