

2022-May-05 - Record of Discussion

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

Co-chairs Will Gibbons (TBS) and Emmanuel Mongin (ISED) welcomed all participants to the second meeting of the Strategic Research Network (SRN). Participants approved the record of discussion for the SRN meeting on December 5th, 2021.

2. Analytical Results from BIGS 2019-20 (Sarah Feng)

Sarah Feng (TBS) presented results and analysis of business innovation and growth support (BIGS) program data from fiscal year 2019-20. The presentation highlighted key BIGS program characteristics such as size, region, industry, type of support, and performance. Data results included:

- 95% of beneficiaries were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), receiving \$1.8 billion (or 65% of BIGS funding) in total.
- 23% of beneficiaries were in the manufacturing sector, receiving \$0.7 billion (or 26% of BIGS funding) in total.
- 11% of BIGS funding was provided to beneficiaries through intermediaries.

In the following discussion, SRN members:

- Identified a need to continue efforts to disaggregate information at the program level, to inform program design and program improvements. Ongoing work to expand the Diversity and Skills Database (DSD) will support these efforts.
- Contemplated further exploration and development of the geographical analysis of BIGS programs (e.g., linkages to census metropolitan areas).
- Noted challenges with performing econometric analysis for BIGS programs due to the heterogeneity of the programs within the scope of the BIGS universe.

3. Business Innovation Funding Continuum Study (Melissa Micu)

Melissa Micu (ISED) presented ISED's Federal Business Innovation Funding Continuum study. This study, covering FY17-18 to FY20-21, highlighted the following:

- During the period of study, most business innovation project funding was distributed to agreements under \$5M and over \$20M.
- During the period of study, SIF average agreement values have more than doubled.
- There is sustained demand for project funding in the \$10M-\$20M range.

4. Demystifying Accessing Business Microdata (Shelley Jeglic)

Shelley Jeglic (StatCan) gave a presentation on accessing StatCan microdata. This presentation covered the continuum of access, Public Use Microdata Files (PUMF) and Real Time Remote Access (RTRA).

Business Innovation and Growth Support - Strategic Research Network

Shelley reviewed the process for submitting new microdata project proposals through the Microdata Access Portal (MAP). The project approval process was also discussed, including eligibility criteria, and how researchers are made deemed employees.

5. Research Planning: FY 2022-23 (Sarah Feng)

a. Proposed Research Agenda – Results of Consultation with Strategic Research Network Members

Sarah Feng (TBS) discussed the proposed research agenda for the SRN. She shared the results of consultations with SRN members, which revealed a need to develop BIGS data and the understanding of beneficiaries. The consultation also highlighted the need to measure impact and explore new research.

Sarah detailed reporting elements and program impact analyses that form the 2022-23 Research Agenda, including the BIGS program profile database, the diversity and skills database, and other statistical tables and reports.

b. Discussion and Next Steps

Members suggested the following actions:

- StatCan's Centre for Special Business Projects could look into providing guidance with respect to data usage and organization.
- A specific point of contact should be identified for each proposed research project on the 2022-23 Research Agenda.
- A dedicated pool of experts could be identified to better facilitate peer-review of SRN member research.
- TBS and StatCan should continue to collaborate to identify which projects should be prioritized.