

2024-May-09 - Record of Discussion

1. Welcome and Introductions (Jonathan Barr, ISED and Will Gibbons, TBS)

Jonathan Barr (ISED) and Will Gibbons (TBS) welcomed all participants to the sixth meeting of the Strategic Research Network (SRN).

2. Updates from TBS (Sarah Yan Feng, TBS)

Sarah Yan Feng (TBS) provided updates to work happening within DSRD. She presented the BIGS programming dashboard, and BIGS impact analysis work on R&D spending, SMEs, and consortium projects.

Sarah also spoke on ongoing and planned enhancements to the data capacity, including the construction of a new diversity database and an intellectual property database. Additionally, she spoke about planned collection of program data from provinces and crown corporations (EDC and BDC) and linking this to StatCan's B-LFE.

Sarah gave an overview of the conferences and workshops that TBS has co-organized, along with the various analytical products available for viewing.

Sarah discussed DSRD's research agenda, which focuses on BIGS impact analysis and innovation and diversity. Some of the topics include commercialization and export, transformational innovation, survival analysis of BIGS programs, an EDI dashboard and performance index, and visible minority entrepreneurship.

Prior to the meeting, members were asked to indicate their research priorities for fiscal year 2024-25. Priorities identified covered program impact analysis, BIGS program synergies, GBA Plus data and CleanTech data. **Please see Annex A for a detailed list of priorities.**

3. Overview of modelling techniques in the Analytical Studies and Modelling Branch (Mark Brown and Jackson Chung, StatCan)

Mark Brown and Jackson Chung (StatCan), presented the various modelling techniques used in the Analytical Studies and Modelling Branch (ASMB). They spoke about how modelling fits into the program process, and types of models, including microsimulation models.

They also discussed how modelling can contribute to disaggregate data development, using the example of applying models to allocate firm-level output to operation locations.

They spoke about the Social Policy Simulation Database and Model, a computer-based tax and transfer microsimulation model used to analyze financial transactions between governments and individuals, and how this model applies to policymaking.

Additionally, they spoke about the PASSAGES Initiative, a microsimulation model focused on the Canadian retirement income system, and how it is applied, using a scenario based on CPI rate of increase.

Participants commented on the value of looking at microsimulation in a policy context, and asked about the program used for PASSAGES, to which presenters noted that OpenM is written in C++ code but that PASSAGE programming is in OpenM (mpp) code. Participants asked if they have looked at firm behaviour related to policy changes within microsimulation.

4. Linkable File Environments at Statistics Canada (Julio Rosa, Bjenk Ellefsen, and Chantal Poirier, StatCan)

Julio Rosa, Bjenk Ellefsen and Chantal Poirier (StatCan) presented the various data linkable environments at Statistics Canada:

- The Business Linkable File Environment (B-LFE) provides micro data demographic and characteristics information on businesses, Entrepreneurship and Ownership at the enterprise level.
- The Social Data Linkage Environment (SDLE) enables linkage at the individual level across multiple data sets in the social domain to facilitate pan-Canadian social and economic statistical research.
- The Linkable Open Data Environment (LODE) provides open micro data to the public on a variety of services, amenities and infrastructures at the location and geographic level.

The presenters provided information about how data gaps are filled using the linkable environments, and examples of linkage projects such as The Open Database of Infrastructure. The group concluded by explaining the process to initiate a linkable project.

5. Scale-ups and Canada's Innovation Policy Suite: Usage and Impacts (Ryan Kelly, ISED and Carlos Rosell, Finance)

Ryan Kelly (ISED) and Carlos Rosell (Finance) presented their work on *Scale-ups and Canada's Innovation Policy Suite: Usage and Impacts*. They presented their current questions for the scale-up universe which are:

- Who receives direct support?
- How much support do firms receive, and from which programs?
- When are firms getting support – is it before/after scaling?
- What is the impact of direct support on firm behavior?

Some of the key findings were that the majority of scale-ups don't receive BIGS or SR&ED support, coverage and intensity of BIGS support to scale-ups varies by program, and that for most supported scale-ups, BIGS came only after initial scaling.

The study concluded that many scale-ups do not receive support, but more innovative scale-ups do (i.e., exporters, R&D spenders or patenting firms), and much of the government support comes after initial scaling. Finally, results show positive impacts on supported scalers and continuous scaling. However, support was not associated with increased labour productivity in the near-term.

Participants asked questions about treatment groups using both BIGS and SR&ED, and presenters identified that SRED support is controlled in the fixed effects regression.

6. Closing Remarks (Jonathan Barr, ISED and Will Gibbons, TBS)

Jonathan Barr (ISED) and Will Gibbons (TBS) thanked all presenters and indicated that the fall meeting would be focused on productivity. They invited members to reach out if they would like to present any work.