

**Merchants and International Processors in the context of SNA 2008:
A strategy to capture the activities of Multinationals in Ireland**

Michael Connolly
CSO - Ireland

The practical steps that NSIs need to take in order to capture the activities of Multinational Enterprises in particular “Merchanting” and “Processing” in line with the standards of SNA 2008 and BPM6 are discussed in this paper. Ireland’s Central Statistics Office established a Large Cases Unit in late 2009. The objective was to build on and further develop the work of the Consistency Unit which existed since the mid 1990s. The focus of the Large Cases Unit is on all aspects of the activities of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) operating in Ireland, in particular data collection. The benefits of the Institutional environment in Ireland which greatly supports this work is discussed with the co-occurrence of a number of key sets of statistics (Balance of Payments, Trade, Admin Data on Corporation Tax etc.)being compiled within the NSI. In addition, for these MNEs, the integration of survey data with administrative data covering International Trade, Corporation Tax and Profits is discussed. Recent work of the Unit covering appropriate strategies for the identification of trading arrangements in MNEs such as Merchanting and Goods for Processing (which have received considerable attention in the recent SNA 2008 and BPM6) are discussed in detail. The paper concludes with an assessment of progress to date and future plans.