

## **Denmark**

In 1999, the merging of several administrative registers may have led to some over-coverage; this has also caused some problems in identifying the continuity of units between 1998 and 1999; data for enterprise deaths are provisional.

## **Estonia**

Sole proprietorships with less than 20 employees have been excluded from the data collection up to 2002 for quality reasons.

## **France**

Financial intermediation (NACE Rev. 1.1 Section J) is not covered.

## **Italy**

The quality of the 1998 data is affected by the reintegration into the business register of some units that had previously existed; this has led to artificially high numbers of enterprise births and deaths in that year.

## **Latvia**

The exceptionally high birth rate of 2002 is due to the first inclusion of natural persons and difficulties of classification into the correct year of birth.

## **Lithuania**

Self-employed without employees are not yet included in the Business Register.

## **Luxembourg**

The coverage of the self-employed without employees is thought to be under estimated; coverage is thought to be between 66% and 75%.

## **Netherlands**

In the current working procedures, all enterprises that do not meet the selection criteria as defined by activity are classified as inactive. This may lead to a considerable underestimation of the active population and survivals, because of delays in the availability of administrative data that allow to determine whether an enterprise is active or not.

## **Portugal**

Birth rates for 2001, 2002 and 2003, as well as death rates for 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 do not include Sole Proprietors (SP), which account for the largest share of the enterprise population. Comparability with previous years and other countries is therefore limited. From 2004 onwards, SP are included in the population. Survival rates are not available for 2001 and 2002, because of the gap in 2000 (SP not included), and also not available for 2004 and 2005 because of the other gap in 2004 (SP included)."

## **Finland**

Time lags in the registration of the information about enterprises' creations can cause under-coverage in the business register. At the same time, time lags in the registration of the information about enterprises' death can cause some over-coverage.

## **Sweden**

Since 1 January 1996 there has not been a threshold for paying VAT; this means that demographic variables such as birth, death, survival and growth are in general not directly affected by changes in the threshold; however,

the elimination of the threshold resulted in many enterprises appearing on the register in 1996 and 1997 that had previously been below the threshold; these enterprises had not previously been checked and as this was progressively done many of these enterprises turned out to be inactive enterprises; this does not affect enterprise births, but the effects can be seen in the figures on enterprise deaths, where real enterprise deaths are considerably higher in 1997 than in 1998 and 1999.