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Norwegian Unit Involved in Global Manufacturing. Some Practical and Principal Problems

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Being a small, open economy, Norway is the base of many enterprises involved in global production arrangements. In recent years studies have been initiated to look into principal and practical problems to capture correct and consistent data in cases where enterprises are engaged and operates in a global economy. Statistics Norway established a Large Case Unit (LCU) in 2018 to work with these topics in a systematic manner. In this paper we present a special case related to a unit engaged in developing and producing wireless communication devices and discuss conceptual, as well as practical problems, related to • «National boundaries» and foreign activity recorded in company accounts related to branches • Industry classification • Selected challenges with recording of IPP regarding development and legal ownership of IPP and leasing and export of licenses • Other foreign income and expense transactions We discuss and show how a corporate group's deliveries to end-customers can remain unchanged but with different intra-group company/legal structures across borders and changes in contracts with group companies, suppliers and subcontractors. The group can preserve its revenue and profits but value added, export in goods and services, IPP ownership, and industry classifications within the domestic economies can differ. We also suggest how these challenges can be met.