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ACRONYM: Data without Boundaries

DELIVERABLE D6.2

First European Data Access Forum for Access to Confidential Microdata

WORK PACKAGE 6

Enlarging Cooperation: Conferences & Training Sessions

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OVERALL DESCRIPTION

The 1st European Data Access Forum (EDAF) was held on 27 and 28 March 2012 in Luxembourg, and hosted in the Jean Monnet building. The objective of the EDAF is to involve in discussion and agreements about how to enhance access to official microdata the larger community of National Statistical Institutes and other members of the European Statistical System (National statistical administrations, central banks, Eurostat), all Data Archives, the research community as well as other stakeholders such as research councils and authorities in charge of privacy protection.

Through a series of presentations, business cases, working sessions, roundtables, the 1st European Data Access Forum focussed mainly on the legal frameworks and the research accreditation process for transnational access, also covering other important issues such as technical and methodological issues about remote access for confidential microdata and metadata standards. It was the opportunity to present the first outputs of the DwB project, recent changes and projects in participating organizations and countries, challenges for researchers as well as to share information in the context of the ongoing revision of the European Commission Regulation (EC) N°831/2002 concerning access to European microdata. Posters, demos and workshops offered more possibility for presentations and discussions making this event a European Forum for data producers, data providers and data users.

The Forum gathered more than 120 persons from the different communities in equal proportion, also involving in the discussions other important stakeholders such as the national data protection commissioners and research funding councils. Attendance included: most National Statistical Institutes and some National Statistical Administrations, Eurostat, Archives, Researchers, European and International Organisations & Institutions, Research Data Centres, Central Banks, Privacy Protection Authorities, Research Agencies & Authorities as well as other EU-funded projects.

CONTENT OF FORUM

I. OVERALL PROGRAMME

DAY 1 (March 27)

9.00 - 9.30

Welcome and Introduction

- Eurostat welcome (*Antonio Baigorri, Eurostat*)
- Why a European Data Access Forum? Objectives and Challenges (*Roxane Silberman, FP7 DwB Coordinator and CNRS-Réseau Quetelet Director*)

Chair: *Antonio Baigorri (Eurostat)*

A. 09.30 - 10.30

Crossing Obstacles for a European Research Project: From a Business Case to an Ideal World (*Julien Grenet, Paris School of Economics, France*)

Chair: *Bill Block (Cornell University, US)*

B. 11.00 - 12.00

Transnational Access to Official Microdata and Accreditation in Europe: State of the Art and Challenges Ahead

(Paola Tubaro, Greenwich University, UK, Marie Cros, Université Lille 1, France, Roxane Silberman, CNRS- Réseau Quetelet, France)

C. 12.00– 12.30

Towards a Common Background: Introduction to Working Sessions

(Michel Isnard, INSEE, France)

D. 14.00 - 15.00

Working Sessions (*in parallel*)

- **RED**, Room M6 - Moving towards a common understanding of key concepts in research: data access, 'Researcher', 'Public good', 'Research institution', 'scientific use file', 'anonymised', 'statistical research purpose', 'Official', etc" (Coordinators: *Michel Isnard, INSEE, France and Paul Jackson, ONS, UK*)
- **GREEN**, Room M4 - Remote execution, remote access: what is it all about? (Coordinators: *David Schiller, IAB, Christopher Guerke, DESTATIS; Stefan Bender, IAB, Germany*)
- **BLUE**, Room M1 - Visions for a European Service Centre for Official Microdata (Coordinators: *Christof Wolf, Heike Wirth, GESIS, Germany; Mike Priddy, DANS, Netherlands*)

Chair: *Angela Dale (University of Manchester, UK)*

E. 15.45 - 16.45

Feedbacks from the Working Sessions

F. 16.45 - 17.30

New Frontiers for Social Sciences Data: The Place of Government Microdata (*Peter Elias, Professor, Warwick University, UK*)

G. 17.30 - 18.00

Demos and posters available

DAY 2 (March 28)

Chair: *Benoît Paul (DG Employment, European Commission)*

- H. 09.00 - 09.15** **Access Across Borders - National, European and International Frameworks: an Introduction about the Legal Issues**
(Paul Jacskon, ONS, UK and Tomaz Smrekar, SORS, Slovenia)
- I. 09.15 - 10.15** **Enhancing the Legal Framework and Transnational Access for Researchers at National Level: Countries Cases**
- Researchers Access to Danish Microdata *(Ivan Thaulow, DST, Denmark)*
 - Access to Microdata in Statistics Estonia *(Tuulikki Sillajoe, EESTI STATISTIKA, Estonia)*
 - Researchers Access to Statistical PT Data: Legal Framework, Procedures and Arrangement, Statistics *(Anna Dulce Pinto and Jose Pinto Martins, INE, Portugal)*
- J. 10.15 - 10.45** **European Regulations and Current Changes**
Revision of the Commission Regulation on Access to Confidential Data for Scientific Purposes *(Aleksandra Bujnowska, EUROSTAT)*

Chair: *Denis Besnainou (DG Research & Innovation, European Commission)*

- K. 11.15 – 12.00** **Towards a Distributed European Remote Access to European and National Confidential Microdata: Current Examples and Projects**
- Decentralised and Remote Access to Confidential Data in the ESS (ESSnet DARA) - Overview and State of the Art *(Maurice Brandt, DESTATIS, Germany)*
 - Supporting Transnational Access to Government Microdata from 4 European Countries *(Karen J. Dennison, SDS-UKDA and David Schiller, IAB, Germany)*
 - Building a Pilot for a Distributed Remote Access for Comparative Research with Three Countries *(David Schiller and Stefan Bender, IAB, Germany; Karen J. Dennison, SDS UK; Kamel Gadouche, CASD, France)*

Chair: *Hans Jorgen Marker, Director of SND and CESSDA President*

- L. 12.00 - 13.00** **New Legal Frameworks: More Opportunities for Research?**
Round Table and Discussions

Chair: *Sami Borg, (Director of FSD and President of IFDO)*

- M. 14.00 - 14.30** **From Europe to the Global Perspective** *(Lars Vilhuber, Cornell University, US)*
- N. 14.30 - 15. 45** **Secure Access from Outside Europe: Examples, Projects and Legal Issues**
- The Bank of Italy's experience with microdata dissemination of households and business surveys *(Ivan Faiella, Bank of Italy)*
 - The RDC in RDC Approach - IAB Data for the US *(Stefan Bender, David Schiller, Jörg Heining, IAB, Germany).*

- LIS Data Center: Access to and Work with Cross-national Microdatabases (*Thierry Kruten, LIS*)
- International Access to Microdata: The OECD Perspective (*Mariarosa Lunati, OECD*)

O. 15.45 - 16.30 Conclusions and Closure of the Forum

Aleksandra Bujnowska (Eurostat)
Denis Durand (ESAC)
Hans Jorgen Marker (Director of SDN and President of CESSDA)
Roxane Silberman (DwB coordinator)

II. WORKING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL (ABSTRACTS)

The European Data Access Forum program will offer three working sessions in parallel, on March 27 (session D, 14.00 - 15.00).

These sessions are meant to give the opportunity for the different communities to share views about important concepts and processes about data access for researchers. The session coordinators will offer a short introduction to structure the discussion in a very interactive way and we expect inputs from all participants.

Please find below an abstract for each of the three sessions:

- **Moving towards a common understanding of key concepts in research: data access, 'Researcher', 'Public good', 'Research institution', 'scientific use file', 'anonymised', 'statistical research purpose', 'Official', etc" (RED, Room M6)**

(Coordinators: Michel Isnard, INSEE, France and Paul Jackson, ONS, UK)

We can't hope for the harmonisation and integration of European wide research access unless we can agree the basic challenges this ambition faces and the concepts that will need to be agreed and understood in order to fulfil success criterions. This session will aim to explore the different views that individuals and organisation may have and enable a common understanding to emerge.

- **Remote execution, remote access: what is it all about? (GREEN, Room M4)**

(Coordinator: Stefan Bender, IAB, Germany)

A way for researchers to analyze microdata is remote execution (RE)/remote access (RA). The main idea is that researchers work in a secure setting for example in their university and have access to the data via a secure connection (RA) or send in programs, which will be executed by a RDC staff member (RE). Different countries have developed their own RE/RA solutions (like France, Germany, Sweden) or use a Citrix environment (like Denmark, Germany, the Netherland, UK). The workshop wants to discuss the different solutions (short comments from the audience) and a way for a possible integrated solution for Europe (overall discussion).

➤ **Visions for a European Service Centre for Official Microdata (BLUE, Room M1)**

(Coordinator: Christof Wolf, Heike Wirth, GESIS, Germany; Mike Priddy, DANS, Netherlands)

Data from official statistics offer important opportunities for social research. However, before being able to work with official data researchers often have to overcome a number of time-consuming obstacles. First, researchers have to know what data is available, where it is available and under which conditions it is available. Second, researchers have to have access to comprehensive documentation of the data (i.e. metadata). Third, not each and every researcher should have to program routines to read in the data or routines to transform official classifications into concepts used in the social sciences. Forth, researchers should be offered the opportunity to get trained in the use of official microdata. Fifth, researchers should be offered the opportunity to discuss problems they have with the data and give feedback to the data producers.

Data without boundaries is working on solving these problems and is currently planning to setup a Service Centre for official microdata from Europe. In this working session we will present and discuss these ideas. Feedback from the different communities interested in such a service centre (researchers, National Statistical Institutes, Eurostat, other official microdata providers, Data Archives...) is highly welcome and will be directly incorporated into our draft paper.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The table below lists the names, home institution and position held of the EDAF participants, organized per country.

AUSTRIA

Last Name	First Name	Title	Institution	Position
BILECK	Franz	Mr	STATISTICS AUSTRIA	<i>Director of Legal Affairs</i>

BELGIUM

Last Name	First Name	Title	Institution	Position
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CZECH REPUBLIC

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GRENET	Julien	Mr	PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS	<i>Full-time Researcher</i>
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DISSEMINATION & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Upon participants and speakers' agreement, the slideshows which have been presented during the European Data Access Forum have been made publicly available on DwB website in both pdf and ppt formats (<http://www.dwbproject.org/events/edaf1.html>).

These will be complemented with the corresponding recordings (audio file), which will allow visitors to (1) listen to the presentations made and (2) get a complete knowledge of the discussions (Q&A) that followed each presentation.

