

## European Service Centre: Preliminary Concept

*Heike Wirth, Christof Wolf (GESIS)*

1<sup>st</sup> European Data Access Forum  
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## Overview

1. Objectives
2. Rationale and Scope
3. Tasks
  - Web service for OS microdata
  - Promote use of OS microdata
  - Improve data access
4. Implementation
5. Comments and Discussion

27.03.2012      European Service Centre      2

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## Objectives

Facilitate scientific use of European OS-microdata by:

1. Provide information on access conditions
2. Provide data documentation
3. Provide routines for data management & analysis
4. Support transnational data access
5. Institutionalize dialogue between researchers, data producers and data distributors

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**DwB**  
Data without boundaries

**Rationale and Scope**

- OS-microdata are a valuable addition to social surveys and broaden the database for social research
- Large sample sizes make OS-microdata well suited for analysis of subgroups
- A number of European programmes such as SILC, LFS or census data offer many opportunities for cross-national comparisons
- However these data sources are still vastly underutilized today

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**DwB**  
Data without boundaries

**Google Scholar Hits for publications since 2006**

Survey Program	Google Scholar Hits
"ISSP"	11400
"WVS"	5250
"European Social Survey"	4430
"EU-SILC"	2330
"European Labor Force Survey"	599

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**DwB**  
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**Rationale and Scope**

- A European Service Centre for official microdata will offer services for both integrated European and National OS-microdata, including census data
- For Eurostat datasets a vast amount of metadata is available – however no structured database exists
- Documentation for national OS-microdata throughout Europe is widely disparate and there exists no centralized overview of available datasets
- Services for census data at IECM should be integrated into the new service centre

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**DwB**  
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**Tasks**

1. Establish a comprehensive web service for European OS-microdata & census data
2. Promote use of OS-microdata by hosting training courses, organizing user conferences and by incentivizing research
3. Coordinate data access by organizing Data Access Forums and assisting the European Statistical System in administration of transnational access

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**DwB**  
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**Tasks – Web Service**

- Web service will function as a one-stop-shop for researcher needs regarding European OS-microdata
- This web service will be comprised of:
  - a) extensive metadata for European OS-microdata
  - b) An online library hosting technical reports, survey instruments and scientific papers on OS-microdata
  - c) Routines for data preparation and analysis
  - d) An interactive platform where users can seek advice from experts, discuss with other users and provide input

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**DwB**  
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**Tasks – Web Service**

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graph TD; OL[Online Library] <--> MD[Metadata Database]; MD <--> R[Routines]; UC((User Community)); UC --- MD; UC --- R;
```

The diagram illustrates the components and interactions of the web service. It features three main boxes: 'Online Library' on the left, 'Metadata Database' in the center, and 'Routines' on the right. Bidirectional arrows connect the Online Library and the Metadata Database, and the Metadata Database and the Routines. Below these boxes is an oval representing the 'User Community', which is connected to both the Metadata Database and the Routines. The Online Library contains: Original data documentation, Reports on data handling and analysis, Bibliography, and ... The Metadata Database contains: Study description, Variable level documentation, and ... The Routines box contains: Routine Generator, Routine Library, and ... The User Community section lists: User interaction and User participation.

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### Tasks – Promote use of OS-data

- Organize introductory and advanced training courses on methodological and substantive research questions based on these data
- Host user conferences where researchers can present their findings, connect with other researchers and discuss data needs with producers
- Incentivize research by implementing a research award, subsidizing data use for young researchers, etc.

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### Tasks – Improve Data Access

- Broadening access to integrated European official microdata, e.g. Time Budget Survey, Census Microdata
- Lobby for expansion of transnational access networks and harmonization of conditions of use throughout Europe
- Assist researchers seeking transnational access by informing them on access conditions, access sites and application procedures

27.03.2012 European Service Centre 11

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### Implementation

- The European Service Centre could be a subunit of the planned CESSDA-ERIC
- It could either be centralized with own staff or be maintained through the existing CESSDA network
- Individual CESSDA partners should contribute to the centre; for example by providing data documentation and expertise for their respective countries

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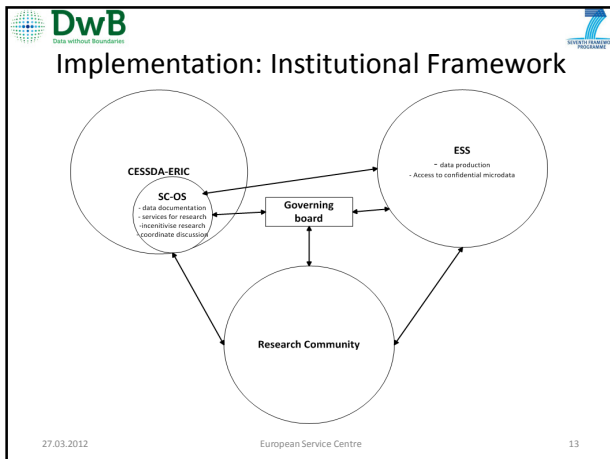
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- Implementation**
- As a part of the CESSDA-ERIC the European Service Centre can benefit from existing knowledge and connections of the CESSDA network
  - The service centre should be the communication channel between the research community and the European Statistical System
  - A governing board should be implemented in which representatives from EU Statistical System, the research community and other stakeholders assist the development of the service centre
- 27.03.2012 European Service Centre 14

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- Comments and Discussion**
- Which of the activities should we give priority?
  - Which elements of the proposed Service Centre should have less priority?
  - Do you see important issues we have missed?
  - How should cooperation between the ESS and the Service Centre be organized?
  - How can emerging trends be recognized and integrated into the service?
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Thank you for your attention!

27.03.2012 European Service Centre 16

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