

Supporting transnational access to government microdata from four European countries



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Data without Boundaries – transnational access

- A unique opportunity for researchers to receive specialist support and reimbursement of costs to conduct comparative research across borders
- Academic researchers within Europe are invited to apply for access to microdata from similar services (known as Research Data Centres) in the UK, Germany, Netherlands and France
- Depending upon the RDC, available datasets are **social survey**, **census** and **business microdata** considered to be too detailed, confidential or sensitive to be provided through standard access mechanisms.



Research Data Centres from four countries

- France
 - CASD/GENES
- Germany
 - Federal Statistical Office
 - German Microdata Lab, GESIS
 - Research Data Centre of the German Federal Employment Agency
- Netherlands
 - Statistics Netherlands
- United Kingdom
 - Office for National Statistics
 - Secure Data Service



Application process

- Continuous call with a number of deadlines
 - Advertised on DwB web site, by RDCs, DwB project partners and others
 - First deadline was 15th February 2012
 - Second deadline will be in May 2012
- Application form
 - Researcher details
 - Research proposal
- Administration check by RDCs
- User Selection Panel
 - Ranks each project for scientific merit
- National accreditation





Proposals

- 24 applications/proposals received – all included some comparative cross-national element
- 4 rejected and 7 invited to resubmit
- 13 passed to User Selection Panel to rate for scientific merit
 - Examples
 - Impact of EU emissions trading system
 - Cost of regulation thresholds on firms
 - Entry of school-leavers into labour market
 - Impact of social security contributions on earnings





Support

- Assistance with national accreditation
- Training
- Technical support
- Data information
- Translation (into English only)
- Using the data (but not software or advice on the research)





Challenges

- Communication and co-ordination between RDCs
- Logistics and different regulations regarding access
 - Onsite / remote
 - National accreditation
 - Each RDC has committed to a different number of access days
- No possibility to combine data
- Some researchers applied for access to data not available through the participating RDCs or did not justify their need for more detailed data
- Information about the datasets
 - Currently linking to each RDC website
 - Some information not available in English



Need for..

- Centralised and standardised information about data
- Harmonisation of accreditation
- Centralised training
- Single access points to cross-national data



Thanks for Listening

Contact: contact@dwbproject.org

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