




**OECD Expert Group for
International Collaboration
on Microdata Access**

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Background – The needs

- OECD analysts' interest in microdata
 - value added of using microdata
 - mission of the OECD: assist governments in policy design based on sound evidence; perform comparative analysis
 - 34 members; collaboration with non-members
 - limited number of studies using microdata
 - commercial databases
 - co-ordinated research with networks of researchers from NSOs and academia



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Background – The response

- OECD Statistics Directorate encouraged debate on microdata access
 - OECD Conference: Assessing the feasibility of microdata access, 2006
 - Reviews of countries' practices in 2005, 2009, 2010
 - Informal Group on International Microdata Access 2009-2011
- The OECD Committee of Statistics
 - June 2011 : approval of the establishment of an Expert Group to consider the matter



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Mandate of the Expert Group

The purpose is “to facilitate national statistical offices (NSOs) working together on practical steps to advance cross-border access to, and analysis of, microdata by policy analysts and researchers while taking into account the legislative requirements of countries” .

- Increasing coordination between institutes and other expert groups to adopt best practices.
- Establishing procedures for efficient cross-border access to microdata held by statistical institutes for statistical purposes while respecting confidentiality constraints.
- Conducting practical country experiments with actual data files.
- Advising and making recommendations to Chief Statisticians based on the Group’s work and advice from other expert groups and practitioners on technical and non-technical issues.



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Organisation of the Expert Group

- **26 Members:** Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat
- First meeting 31 May -1 June 2012, OECD, Paris
- Duration of the Expert Group: 31 December 2013



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Preparation of the first meeting

- Review of the activities undertaken by initiatives conducted by other international organizations, consortia and projects in the area of international access to microdata.
- Stock-tacking and updating of previous work completed by CSTAT in 2007 and in 2010, and by the Paris Microdata Group in 2009 to create an inventory of legal frameworks and practices to access microdata across OECD members. This will include a review of "Open Data" policies.
- In-depth review of different technical solutions for international access to microdata implemented across countries.



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