

FIRST EUROPEAN DATA ACCESS FORUM

Working Sessions, 27 March 2012

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.

In order to make sure the different communities are involved in the discussions, we have assigned participants to each of the three sessions. Should you really want to change, please let us know.

Each session has been attributed a colour and a room number. Please check on your badge the colour you have been assigned and move towards the corresponding conference room.

Feedbacks from the sessions will be given by the coordinators and discussed in the plenary session.

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

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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.