

Cooperation between Data Archives and National Statistical Institutes: recent changes and future perspectives

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Data archives and microdata access

- NSIs usually control research access and researcher accreditation processes
- In some countries, the research community, especially data archives, share some responsibilities and tasks
- These responsibilities and tasks vary, with different degrees of integration, delegation and mutual trust
- What is the situation like today, and how is it evolving ?

Sources

- The two DwB Regional Workshops, 2013 and 2014
 - *Objective: to foster cooperation between European Statistical System (ESS) and Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) at European level, and between National Statistical Institutes and Data Archives at national level*
- Preliminary and follow-up questionnaires (only countries/institutions in scope)
- Questionnaire in preparation of EDAF2 (all invited countries/institutions)

Outline of this talk

- The two DwB Regional Workshops: cooperation before and after
- The scope and extent of cooperation: good practices
- Remaining problems and work in progress

THE TWO DWB REGIONAL WORKSHOPS



The two RWs

- 1st: Ljubljana, April 2013
 - Participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia.
- 2nd: Athens, October 2014
 - Participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland

The state of cooperation before the RWs

- Limited NSIs-DAs cooperation in most cases (so there was scope for improvement)
- In some cases, absence of a DA (a major obstacle),
- Where there was cooperation - both NSI and DA were happy and demanding further improvement

After RW1

- RW1 beneficial for most participants, with improvements in many countries
- Improvements stronger in countries where:
 - There was limited cooperation before, but willingness to develop it
 - A well-established, functioning DA already existed
- Increased cooperation satisfies both NSI and DA:
 - NSIs more satisfied than DA
 - NSIs often overestimate the scope of cooperation and the range of activities

After RW2

- Less time available to measure improvements (6 months)
- Improvements stronger in countries where:
 - There was already significant cooperation before
 - A well-established, functioning DA already existed
- Other countries suffer from absence of a strong DA and practical difficulties (to identify a suitable partner, to obtain funding):
 - All these countries found it useful to see the experience of others:
“The workshop displayed the range of collaboration intensity in different European countries. For us it was a very good way to find out where we were standing.”

The effects of RWs

Both RW1 and RW2 are seen as supporting development of cooperation

“The Regional Workshop has been important to accelerate the creation of a DA in our country through the dissemination of best practices and by facilitating contacts and creating opportunities of international networking.”

“The Workshop allowed me to get in touch with other participants from my country whom I didn't knew before. These connections might prove helpful in the future.”

“In the past our DA had good relationship with some departments of the NSI. The Regional Workshop was a big opportunity to refresh this partnership.”

GOOD PRACTICES



Examples of recent improvements

- New formal agreements between DA and NSI (CZ, LT)
- Renewal / extension of previous agreements (DE, SI)
- Creation of new research infrastructures / Das (GR, PT)

What Data Archives do: giving access

- Some archives are involved in the dissemination of public-use files or other fully anonymised microdata (IE, CH, LT, SI...)
- A few handle scientific-use files (DE, FR, NO, UK...)
- Pioneering new experiences of collaboration for dissemination of secure use files (FR, NO, UK)
- New international experiences (IAB-UKDA)

How data archives support access indirectly

- Several data archives provide supporting services – even when they do not directly provide access:
 - Anonymisation (DE, FR...)
 - Documentation, metadata (CZ, DE, FI, FR, GR, LT, NO, SE...)
 - User information, raising awareness of official data (CH, CZ, DE, FR, IE, RO, SI...)
 - Training (DE, ES, FR, LT, NO, RO, UK...)
 - Guidance and help for researchers preparing applications for NSI data (CH, DE, FI, FR, SE...)

REMAINING PROBLEMS



Still to address...

- Insufficient funding and/or staffing (whether for NSI or DA), delays in public decision-making and administrative procedures
- Absence of data archives (or other suitable research infrastructures) in some countries
- Lack of experience in data access at country level
 - *International exchanges and collaboration like those tested in DwB help alleviate this problem*

Conclusions

- Few data archives are involved in microdata dissemination in Europe, but their number is growing
- More common roles of data archives in offering metadata, information and support
- Existing experiences as models for others
- The importance of sharing experiences at international / European level

Thanks for listening

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