

Data without Boundaries

Objectives, Status and Research Data Infrastructures for the Social Sciences

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Outline:

- 1) A FP7 Project
- 2) DwB project main issues
- 3) Some first developments
- 4) Role and contribution for Research Data infrastructures for the social sciences
- 5) Conditions for long term achievement

1. A FP7 project

- A four-year EU-funded FP7-13 project (2011-2015), 6.5 M€
- Aims at:
 - Linking the **capacity** of the research community with the **important resources** of the official micro data in Europe
 - **Enhancing researchers access** to official micro data in Europe
 - Surveys and administrative datasets, combined files
 - Focus on confidential (highly detailed) data
 - Focus on crossing national boundaries
- **Mechanism = Coordination** of existing infrastructures
 - CESSDA (Data Archives) and the ESS (NSIs coordinated by Eurostat, ECB)
 - Based on volunteers : 28 partners
 - 1/3 **CESSDA Archives**
 - 1/3 **NSIs and Statistical departments**
 - 1/3 **Universities involved in methodological developments**

2. DwB Project Main Issues

- **Building a central point of access for the researchers:** what are the available OS data? Where and how they can be accessed?
- **Metadata issues :** standards and interoperability (SDMX and DDI), language issues ...
- **Legal issues and accreditation:** from multiple and different accreditations towards a European accreditation
- **Servicing the use of OS data:** provide metadata and tools (format, routines for harmonization), train the researchers for using European micro data
- **Propose and implement a pilot for a European distributed remote access both for national and European microdata:** technical, standardization, methodological and legal issues (3 partners)
- **immediately offer and support transnational access to highly detailed microdata:** regular calls with 7 RDCs partners in 4 countries

3. Some first developments (1st year)

- **Accreditation and legal issues**

Overview of accreditation arrangements and practices within Europe, similarities and differences, best practices :

- Will be made available for the different communities
- Consult NSIs and propose a standard flexible to national arrangements

- **Access**

Overview of RDCs currently offering remote access : similarities and differences in IT architecture, security, and research environment

- Discuss a model for a distributed remote access allowing transnational access and comparative research

1st call for transnational access (24 applications, 10 selected)

- 2nd will be issued soon

- **Single point of access and metadata issues**

Preliminary work for a metadata base for OS microdata (metadata model and tools for registration, editing and publishing) and plans for a possible future European Service Centre for OS microdata

- Collect metadata, translation and publish

A metadata model flexible to SDMX and DDI3 in progress

4. Role and contribution for Research Data infrastructures for the social sciences

- OS microdata (surveys and administrative bases) are important resources for the research (and for public policies)
- An essential part for a European Data infrastructure for the social sciences
- DwB has been built to link the CESSDA and the European Statistical System (NSIs, NSAs, Central Banks coordinated by Eurostat)
- Not an infrastructure in the ESFRI roadmap in se but an essential piece of CESSDA ERIC process (and prepared during the CESSDAPPP, see WP10)
- Could be implemented in the future as a service unit of CESSDA ERIC : a European Service Centre for Official statistics (ESC-OS) with a governance including CESSDA, ESS and the research community currently under discussion (deliverable WP5.1)

5. Conditions for long term achievements

Enlarging the discussions and the agreements to the entire communities

- DwB build on volunteers
- Needs to involve all members of the European statistical system, the CESSDA members, the research community (researchers and research councils/ ministries of research/ funding agencies...), international organizations, non European ...
- How do we try to achieve this in DwB ?
 - European Data Access Forum (EDAF)
 - 1st in March in Luxembourg, next in 2014
 - Regional workshops with Data Archives, NSIs and the research community
 - 1st in Lubiana next year will involve Eastern countries
 - Users conferences (1st in 2013)
 - Training sessions (1st in July)

Will require continuation in the future and implementation within the CESSDA ERIC process (possibly as a ESC-OS)

Will require continuous cooperation with the ESS

May require some changes in the legal frameworks at European and national levels

Support of Ministries of research/research councils important

Thanks for Listening

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