

# A researcher accreditation model for access to Official micro-data

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# Outline:

- 1) What is 'researcher accreditation'
- 2) What contribution does researcher accreditation make to risk management?
- 3) What makes a person 'safe'?
- 4) What is the researcher experience? What is the NSI experience?
- 5) Prospects for a "Schengen agreement" for researcher access to data.
- 6) Making things better.

# Toward a European Research Infrastructure

- A four-year EU-funded FP7-13 project (2011-2015)
- Aims:
  - 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

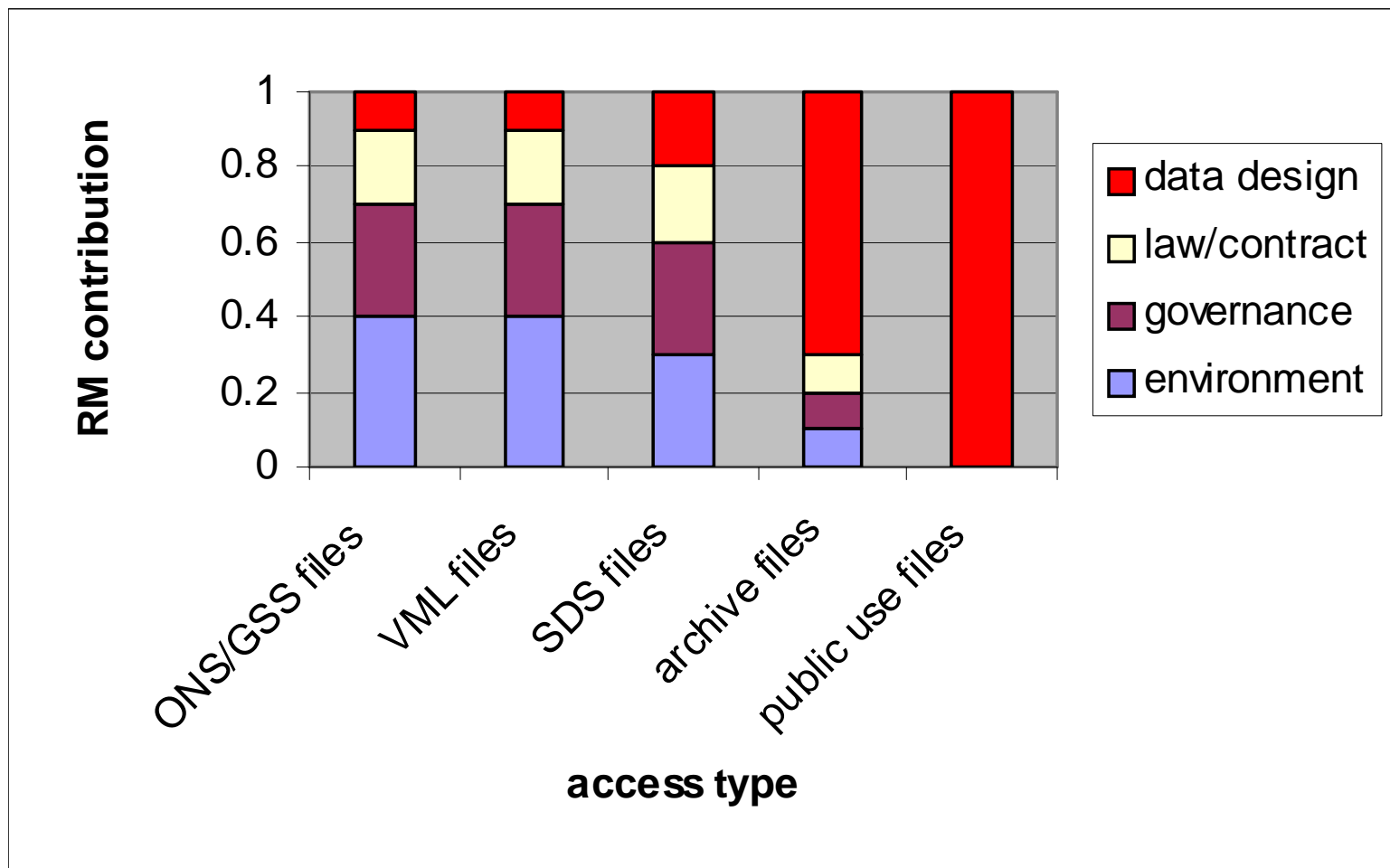
# DwB Work Package 3

- Accreditation
  - Delivering a Researcher Accreditation Standard for the ERA
- Legal frameworks
  - Describe, explain, and publish material to encourage change.
- Information Security
  - Interpreting ISO27001 for future builders of RDCs

# What is ‘researcher accreditation’?

- A “fit and proper” person
- Equivalence to official statistics staff
- Safe data = **Safe person** / safe project / safe place

# What contribution does 'safe person' make?



# What makes a person 'safe'?

- Their legal status?
- Their qualifications?
- Their experience?
- Their employment status?
- Their employer?
- Their country of residence/birth?
- Their attitude and demeanour?
- Threat of prosecution?
  
- ...their assurance they will bind themselves to a contract?

# Current State-of-Play

- DwB survey of accreditation in practice
- Results to be published as a comprehensive discovery of 'as is'.
- Many websites carry this information...
- But many do not. We have discovered what researchers already knew...
- Early thoughts – hundreds of ways of capturing basically the same thing.
- More similarities than differences.



# How are NSIs deciding a person is 'safe'?

- **An application form**
- **Compulsory training**
- **Interview in person**
- **Registration**
- **External opinion**
  
- **Perhaps more variation on process than in application content.**

# A Schengen for researchers?

- **First, harmonisation**

- agreement and adoption of equivalent criteria, conditions, process, etc.

- **Second, integration**

- A decision of one is a decision for all.
- Commonly held and shared evidence and outcomes, building a resource for confidence.

# Won't the ESS deliver a solution?

- **New Regulation 831/2002**
- **NSI data held by Eurostat to be accessed through an *integrated* process and standard for researcher accreditation.**
- **If this is possible, it suggests national arrangements could adopt this model.**
- **But it is a model, not a solution, for access to national data sources.**

# Towards an Accreditation Standard

- **DwB will :**
  - **Analyse current practice**
  - **Identify the essential common features**
  - **Map differences into equivalences**
  - **Propose a standard for content and process**
  - **Encourage adoption**
  - **Implement in particular where DwB is joining research infrastructures across boundaries.**

# Thanks for Listening

Contact details to follow



**DwB**  
Data without Boundaries