

Micro data at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and cooperation with the Slovenian Social Science Data Archives

FROM CURRENT SITUATION...

- Access to official statistics both anonymized and highly detailed is still uneven in Europe, both at national and at European levels
- Access to Eurostat highly anonymized datasets is still burdensome
- Increasing level of anonymization does not meet the researchers needs
- Though crucial for comparative Research, crossing borders is even worse:
 - different legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and criteria for accreditation,
 - different providers (NSIs, Archives),
 - different modes of access (no access, safe centres, remote execution, remote access),
 - different languages,
 - different views about security, anonymization, output checking...



...TO DWB PROJECT MAIN ISSUES

- Building a central point of access: what are the available data? How can they be accessed?
- Metadata standards and interoperability: NSIs tend to use SDMX as a standard for metadata exchange, CESSDA Archives use DDI as a standard for documentation
- Legal issues and accreditation: towards a European accreditation
- Servicing the use of OS data: provide tools (format, routines for harmonization), train the researchers for using European micro data
- Technical, standardization and methodological issues in developing a European distributed remote access both for national and for European micro data, flexible to national institutional arrangements (NSI or data archives as provider): propose and implement a test case

TOWARD A EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

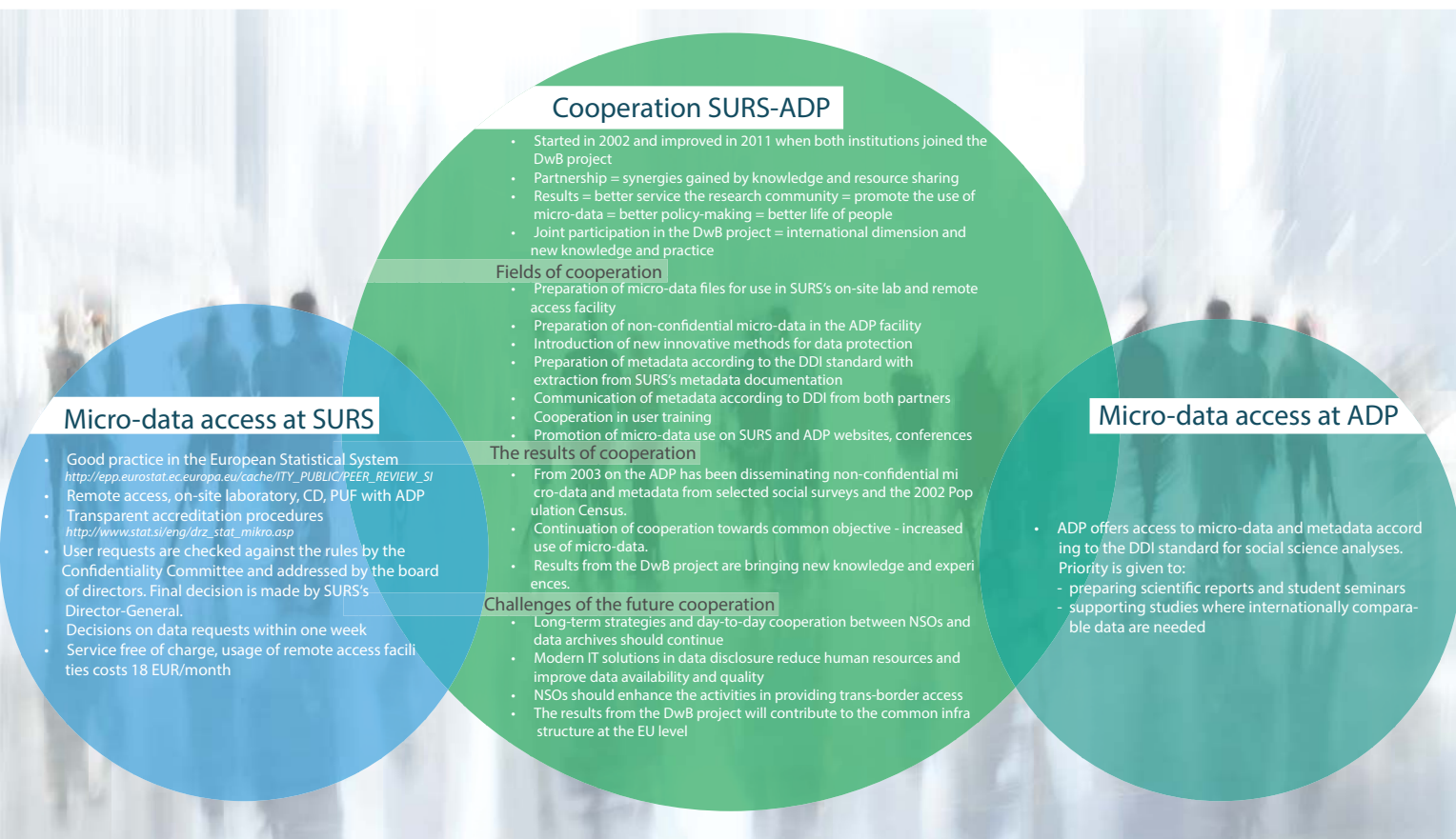
- A four-year EU-funded FP7-13 project (2011-2015)
- Aims:
 - Linking the capacity of the research community with the important resources of the official micro data in Europe
 - Enhancing researchers access to official micro data in Europe
 - Surveys and administrative datasets, combined files
 - Focus 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

PARTNERS

- 29 PARTNERS
- 1/3 CESSDA Archives: CNRS/RQ, GESIS, NSD, SND, FSD, DANS, UKDA, FORS, EKKE, CIS, RODA
 - 1/3 NSIs and Statistical departments: ONS, CBS, INSEE/GENES, SORS, IAB, SCB, DESTATIS, CSIC, CNPS-INS
 - 1/3 Universities: URV, UL, UPC, ULL, SOTON, UoMan, CED (IPUMS)
 - + MT (SME)

NEW CONDITIONS TO BUILD

- At national level
 - Strong cooperation between Data Archives and NSIs in some countries
 - Changes in the legal framework in several countries
 - Increasing numbers of RDCs providing in site access, remote execution or remote access
 - Some RDCs providing access to foreign researchers
- At European level
 - The ESFRI roadmap and the CESSDA ERIC process
 - Projects and initiatives within the framework of the European Statistical System (ESNet, WGSC ...)
 - Discussions about a new EC Regulation on European micro data access for researchers expected about 2012/2013



THREE BLOCKS, TWELVE WORK PACKAGES

BLOCK 1 : ACCESS

- Legal issues and accreditation: examine current national situation, agree on best practices & common standards, test an accreditation pilot and suggest changes in the legal framework (WP3)
- Technical issues in developing RA and SDC procedures: discuss and agree on security standards, architecture for a distributed remote access (WP3 and WP4)
- Methodological issues: anonymization and output checking (WP11)
- Implement a case study for a distributed European remote access (WP4) building on current possibilities for national micro-data conditional to a change in 2012 on new possibilities for Eurostat micro-data
- Immediately offer transnational access through open calls for researchers to access data either on site or remotely (WP9 and WP10)

BLOCK 2 : FRONT OFFICE

- Provide a single point of access within the context of the CESSDA portal and the current CESSDA ERIC process (WP12)
- Discuss standards (SDMX and DDI) and develop tools to harmonize metadata (WP7)
- Devise techniques to harvest NSI metadata by CESSDA (WP8)
- Service the use of the OS micro data : Improve metadata (including translations issues), formats and provide routines for OS and Eurostat micro data (WP5)

BLOCK 3: ENLARGING COOPERATION

- All WPs work in cooperation and aim at identifying best practices, agreeing on standards and building on volunteers while bridging the different communities (NSIs, Archives, Researchers)
- Yet the long term success requires involving the whole ESS, the whole CESSDA , and the researchers who are the final users , also making bridges with non European partners (WP6)
 - European Data Access Forum and regional workshops on data access
 - Users conferences
 - Training activities
 - Staff visits in RDCs where remote access solutions exist

