“Towards an integrated model for access to official microdata in Europe: First findings from the DwB project".

A short introduction to the panel session

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Washington DC, IASSIST 2012 conference, June 7, 2012
A European project

- A four-year (2011-2015) European project funded by the European Commission (FP7-13)
  - 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, NSAs, CBs coordinated by Eurostat)
    - Based on volunteers
    - 28 partners of which 1/3 CESSDA Archives, 1/3 NSIs and Statistical departments, 1/3 universities/bodies involved in methodological research in protecting confidentiality and in metadata issues
A project embedded in the European context, yet some learnings for an international perspective

• How to deal with the European patchwork
  ▪ different providers (NSIs, Archives),
  ▪ different metadata standards,
  ▪ different legal frameworks, criteria and institutional arrangements for accreditation,
  ▪ different terminology (PUF, SUF, anonymized, highly detailed ...)
  ▪ different modes of access (no access, safe centres, remote execution, remote access)
  ▪ different views about security, anonymization, output checking,
  ▪ different languages

• Not so different from the rest of the world yet a process driven by the European Union integration process where some common overall legal framework at European Union level.

• Some learnings for an international perspective

• I also raises some questions for an international perspective: How to link the different projects, initiatives? What’s the good level (regional, international)
Main objectives

• **Facilitate discovery of official microdata**
  • Build a central European point of access where a researcher can discover what are the available OS microdata (national and European), where and how they can be accessed
  • Propose a metadata schema compatible with SDMX (NSI current standard) and DDI (CESSDA Archives standard) and usable for facilitating discovery of NSIs microdata
  • Service the use of OS data: providing tools (format, routines for harmonization)

• **Facilitate transnational accreditation particularly for comparative projects,**
  • Propose a standard for a European accreditation across borders and suggesting changes in the legal frameworks

• **Improve transnational access to highly detailed OS microdata:**
  • Propose an architecture for a European remote access network (decentralised) and implement a pilot building on current possibilities with 3 RDCs
  • Immediately support transnational access via open calls for researchers with 7 RDCs in 4 European countries
  • Improve methodologies for managing risk of access to data
1st year achievements: 4 presentations

- **Facilitate discovery of official microdata**
  - Desired portal functionality for effective resource discovery on OS data across Europe, M. Wittenberg, M. Priddy, J. Shepherdson
  - Servicing researchers in the use of European OS microdata, C. Jayet, R. Fleureux, A. Mack, Ch. Wolf

- **Facilitate transnational accreditation**

- **Improve transnational access to highly detailed OS microdata:**
  - A pilot for a European Remote Access Network: first results and upcoming challenges, D. Schiller
http://www.dwbproject.org/