

Access to confidential data for research State of the art for EU datasets

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Drivers for the use of micro data for statistical and research purposes

- Need for microdata for research and policy assessment (fine analysis, model building)
- Microdata bring much more *flexibility* and coherence in the use of the data
- Microdata release foster exhaustive use of information collected (reduction of respondent burden, better value for money, better efficiency)

Statistical confidentiality legal framework

■ Safeguarding privacy of information provider in the field of EU statistics activities

- Council Regulations (EEC, Euratom) No 1588/90 and No 322/97
- European code of practice (2006)
- New Council and EP Regulation on European Statistics in force in 2009

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Statistical confidentiality legal framework

■ Release of micro data for research purpose

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 831/2002, concerning access to confidential data for scientific purposes;
- Commission Decision 2004/452/EC laying down a list of bodies whose researchers may access data for research purposes.

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Commission Regulation 831/2002

- Rules access for scientific purpose to EU micro datasets in a centralised and efficient way
- Sets out procedures under which access to confidential data may be granted.

Two release channels

- Channel 1
 - Confidential data as obtained from the national authorities.
 - Access through the safe centre located at Eurostat (Luxembourg)
- Channel 2
 - Anonymised microdata obtained by modifying the confidential personal records to minimise the risk of re-identification.
 - Access through distribution of encrypted CD-ROM according to contracts established between Eurostat and the corresponding eligible institutions.

Regulation 831/2002 data sets

- **2002**
*European Community Household Panel (ECHP);
Labour Force Survey (LFS);
Community Innovation Survey (CIS);
Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS);*
- **2004-2006**
*EU statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC);
Structure of Earnings Survey (SES);*
- **2007-2008**
*Adult Education survey (AES);
Farm Structure Survey (FSS);*

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Risk Monitoring

- **Safe settings:**
 - Eurostat safe centre rules of procedure
 - Disclosure risk control of micro data sets according to EU best practices
- **Safe people:**
 - Researchers in EU research bodies / universities under legal/license contract
 - Bodies commissioned by the Commission
 - Admissibility procedure for others

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Achievements after 6 years of implementation

- 2 business micro datasets (CIS and SES) available through Eurostat safe center
- 4 anonymised micro data sets available on CD rom under licence contract
- 23 non 'EU research bodies' declared admissible
- More than 300 research projects covering all major themes of socio economic research and policy with now about 90 research contracts per year

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Way forward

- Decentralised access to EU confidential data
- Remote access and integrated network of safe centres
- Data archives
- Implementation of the new legal framework

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