



## » 4.4 What, today, are the barriers in Access to microdata in NSIs

### Main problems for researchers

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### 4.4 What, today, are the barriers in Access to microdata in NSIs



### Main problems for researchers

- 1) Juridical
- 2) Geographical
- 3) Duration of the process
- 4) Anonymization
- 5) Sampling weights





## Main problems for researchers

### General

1) **Juridical** – Since May 2008 the Portuguese Law, explicitly contains dispositions about researcher's access.

- **Microdata of individual persons or enterprises cannot be released to the public**



## Main problems for researchers

### 2) Geographical

Portugal is a small country and this can affect microdata for researchers when the anonymization procedure is taken.

Some variables could be suppressed or aggregated in a way that is no longer useful to the purpose the researcher intends.





### 3) Duration of the process

(request/dissemination) – It depends on several variables:

- the request (vg. if the information is already prepared or if it should be subject to additional procedures)
- the amount of information
- if cross-files are necessary.



### Specific

4) **Anonymization** is a security procedure that preserves disclosure risks but is also a barrier and disturbed data can, ultimately, affect researcher's analysis.





**Short list of procedures concerning  
anonymization of information for  
scientific uses:**

- 1 - Delete identifying variables
- 2 – Subdivide indirect variables into 3 categories
- 3 - Describe sensitive variables
- 4 - Verify identifiable variables combinations



**Specific**

- 5) **Sampling weights** - can provide additional identifying information to an attacker. For example, if size is used to produce the sampling weights, it can be easy to identify a particular enterprise in business statistics

