

EUROSTAT WORKSHOP

MICRODATA ACCESS – NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND A WAY FORWARD

Luxembourg, 3 and 4 December 2008

Alternatives to anonymised microdata release:

**"An informational infrastructure for the E-Science Age –
On the way to remote data access"**

**Network of national safe centres and
decentralised access to EU microdata sets**

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Overview

1. Introduction
2. National project: An informational infrastructure for the E-Science Age –
On the way to remote data access
3. European project: Network of safe centres to provide
decentralised access to EU microdata sets
4. Summary

1. Introduction

- Development in (business-) microdata request goes to microdata without data perturbing methods
- Ideally original microdata → more and more researcher ask for remote data execution or safe centre
- This leads to a huge amount of tables, which have to be checked for confidentiality
- The development on a national level will probably also happen on EU level
- The researchers require more data preferably non anonymised microdata

2. Project „Infinite“

"An informational infrastructure for the E-Science Age –
On the way to remote data access“

- Why this project:
 - still reservations from science concerning the data perturbing methods for economic microdata
 - amount of work of manual output checking
 - increasing request for original microdata

2. Content of the Project „Infinite“

- deals with the improvement of remote access in the Federal Statistical Office Germany

- project aims to find solutions for a better remote access in Germany through so called **data structure files** and automatic **output checking procedures**

- **data structure files:**
 - goal: semantic and syntactic correct data structure files

 - application to original data without any adaptations

2. Content of the Project „Infinite“

- **output checking procedures**
 - Classification of outputs in „safe“ and „unsafe“ output
 - Identification of output where anonymisation procedures are necessary
 - Evaluation and development of practicable anonymisation methods for „unsafe output“
 - The project evaluates also the analytical validity of the anonymised output

3. Network of national safe centres

- Planned ESSnet project:
„Decentralised access to EU microdata sets“
- Development of a „Decentralised access to EU microdata sets“ within a researcher from a certain MS can use European datasets in his own MS
- The advantage of the network of safe centres is that every single MS can widen the supply of microdata
- In addition to national datasets the researchers can use EU microdata in their MS (without traveling to Luxembourg)

3. Network of national safe centres

- The project deals with:
 - prove the feasibility of an access to European microdata in safe centres (on site) of the MS exemplarily for the ECHP data
 - methodology, guidelines and requirements which are essential to implement an access to European microdata in safe centres of the MS shall be investigated

3. Network of national safe centres

- evaluation of the current situation of safe centres in the MS and the request to European datasets
- all possibilities of network architecture will be discussed
- a shortlist of practicable solutions will be created
- The pros and cons referring network structure, legislative, technical, administrative and financial aspects will be discussed on this shortlist

3. Network of national safe centres

- construction of a guideline for European safe centres
“Certification System”
- consistent guideline and documentation for researchers to use safe centres
- feasibility and cost analysis for a future implementation
- Information of non-participating NSI’s within a session of a conference i.e. UNECE SDC and website

4. Summary

- change is observable in user needs and requirements on microdata access
- with national and ESSnet projects the data infrastructure in Europe is going to improve to consider these developments
- it is surely a step forward, but if there is a final goal we are still far away
- National and ESSnet projects can benefit from each other

Thank you for your attention