Access to EU microdata for research purposes

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Objectives of the presentation

- To show how the access to EU microdata is organized
- To see if the objectives of the new legal framework introduced in 2013 have been met
Organisation of access (1/2)

Researcher

Is the research entity recognized?

List on Eurostat website

Y

Submission of research proposal

N

Application for recognition:

Criteria:
- Mission of the entity
- List of publications
- Independence
- Security
What are microdata?

Microdata are the units of data that aggregate statistics are compiled from. Microdata consist of sets of records containing information on individual respondents or business entities. To protect the anonymity of respondents (persons, organisations), the access to microdata is restricted.

Access to microdata

We grant access to our microdata for scientific purposes only.

To apply for access to Eurostat’s microdata, your organisation must first be recognised by us as a research entity – a university, research institution or research department in public administration, bank, statistical institute etc.

Contracts and contract amendments on access to microdata signed before 8th of July 2013 will remain valid until they expire.

Applying for access

1. **Step 1 – Apply to have your research organisation recognised as a research entity.** You only need to do this once, no matter how many access requests you make subsequently (the procedure takes around 4 weeks)

2. **Step 2 – Apply for access to microdata.** Once we have recognised your organisation as a research entity, you can apply for access by submitting a research proposal (the procedure takes around 8-10 weeks)

How are data provided?

Depending on the access type(s) of your choice, we will:

- send your principal researcher files containing anonymised data (scientific-use files) on electronic devices (CD-Rom, DVD, etc.) and/or
Organisation of access (2/2)

Submission of research proposal -> Administrative check

Eurostat microdata access team

Statistical check -> Eurostat domain responsible unit

Signature of documents

Consultation of data providers in the ESS -> Opening of the access

Scientific use files

Secure use files
Improvement actions

- Workflow system
- Self-study material
- Public use files
- Collaboration with data archives
Collaboration with data archives

- Metadata
- Trainings
- Conferences
- Impact and benefits realisation
Objectives of the new Regulation has been met

- To adapt it better to the Regulation on European statistics
- To allow for new modes of access
- To offer more datasets
- To improve access procedures
- To avoid admissibility procedure (procedures for entities that are not defined as research entities by the regulation 831/2002)
- To increase flexibility and sustainability of the microdata access system
Thank you for your attention!

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