Decentralised and Remote Access to Confidential Data in the ESS
DARA

Overview and State of the Art

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1. Introduction

2. ESSnet DARA - Implementation of a pilot

3. Current State of Play / Future Work

4. Questions for WDA

5. Outlook
1. Introduction

- by now: increasing demand for microdata
  - access to national datasets in MS
  - access to 12 community statistics via Eurostat
    - ECHP (European Community Household Panel)
    - LFS (Labour Force Survey)
    - CIS (Community Innovation Surveys), ...

- request for original microdata *(without direct identifiers)*
  - for community statistics: access only via safe-centre in Luxembourg
  - barrier due to local constraint
  - idea: network of national safe-centres
1. Feasibility study „Decentralised Access to EU microdata sets“

- Feasibility study of setting up a network of safe-centres for decentralised access to community statistics

- ways of access to microdata throughout EU-countries
  - is an implementation possible?
  - framework requirements

- international Partners
  - Office for National Statistics, UK
  - Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, Netherlands
  - Instituut Nazionale di Statistica, Italy
  - Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Hungary
  - Statistical State Office, German Federal State NRW
  - Federal Statistical Office, Germany

- start: 1st February 2009; end: 31st January 2010
“Pilot Recommendation”
2. Implementation of a pilot: ESSNET “DARA”

ESSNET on “Decentralised And Remote Access to confidential data in the ESS” (DARA)

- **Goal:** Implementation of a remote access pilot from NSI Safe Centres to the community statistics at Eurostat
- **Project has started in October 2011, Duration: 24 months**
- **Partners**
  - National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, France
  - Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Hungary
  - Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom
  - Instituto Nacional de Estatistica, Portugal
  - State Statistical Institute Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany
  - Federal Statistical Office, Destatis, Germany (co-ordinator)
2. Planned action

- Project is divided into two parts:
  1) Administrative, organisational and preparing phase
  2) Implementation phase where the connection of NSI’s safe centres via remote access to the remote access system at Eurostat (VIP-SICON) shall be executed and tested
2. Overview WPs

WP 1: Documentation and workflow

WP 2: Concept of technical implementation and safety requirements

WP 3: Cost benefit analysis

WP 4: Implementation of remote access - case study

WP 5: Communication and dissemination to the ESS

WP 6: Project management
2. Tasks

- **WP 1) Documentation and Workflow**
  - Define rules and standards for data access
  - Draft of a request form for data access
  - Compile a manual for NSI regarding workflow when data access is requested
  - Documentation and communication

- **WP 2) Concept of technical implementation and safety requirements for remote access**
  - Define client requirements, authentication process and accreditation
  - Clarify role of NSI (workflow and process)
  - Define input/output checking process (who, where ...)
  - Possible operability of different systems and interfaces
  - Integration of existing systems
  - Test procedure: check-list of security verification (from client to host)
  - First testing phase for the connection from NSI to SICON
2. Tasks

- WP 3) Cost benefit analysis
  - Based on the cost template of the former project
    - staff planning (rates each qualification/grade)
    - breakdown on strategy and operational costs
    - breakdown on fixed and variable costs
    - number of projects, IT costs

- WP 4) Implementation of remote access - case study
  - Define all the necessary elements needed to implement a pilot (hardware, software, organisation, use-cases)
  - Implementing a pilot in one country and evaluate it
  - Extend the pilot to 2 or 3 other countries for evaluation purpose (double-output checking, workflows...)
  - Organise a security audit of each process

- WP 5) Communication and dissemination to ESS
  - Upgrading and update of project website
  - Presentation of results on project website and conferences

- WP 6) Project management
3. Current State of Play / Future work

- 1st and 2nd project meeting in Wiesbaden and Paris
- List of user requirements for remote access system drafted by the DARA project team
- Discussion of details for connection to SICON System
- Right now: Testing the connection via sTESTA in NSIs
- Right now: Preparation of first testing phase
- Right now: First successful connection from NSI to CITRIX system in EC
3. Current State of Play / Future work

Step 1: Login

Step 2: Choose your application
3. Current State of Play / Future work

- Finalizing the list of user requirements during the first testing phase
- Development of a testing plan to evaluate the usability of SICON System
- Presentation of the DARA project at the 1st European Data Access Forum in Luxembourg by the end of March
- Harmonizing goals and developments with DwB
  - Both projects do not aim at developing single, competitive or non compatible solutions for RA in Europe
4. Questions for WDA

- Recommendation for a Remote Access Working Platform

- Do you have special requirements for a secure connection?

- Do you allow access from „everywhere“ or only from certified access facilities?

- Are there any legal restrictions in your country which prevent the possibility of RA?

- Ways of dealing with output checking

- Change of user demands in direction of RA → capacity
5. Outlook

- Implementation of „pilot“ needs to be linked with other ESSnets and Projects
  - VIP-SICON project
  - § Revision of EC Regulation 831/2002 §
  - Data without Boundaries (DwB)
  - EuroGroups Register (EGR)
  - ESSnet on SDMX
  - OECD Working Group „Microdata Access”
  - Workshop on Data Access (WDA)
5. Outlook

- There are still issues that need to be solved, like:
  - Metadata
    - Ongoing discussion on standardisation
  - Share of costs
    - Eurostat supports?
    - Self-financed?
    - User covers costs partly?
Thank you for your attention

Decentralised and Remote access to Confidential Data in the ESS:
http://www.safe-centre.eu

Eurostat ESSnet Projects:
http://www.essnet-portal.eu

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