Results of the 2020 user survey and answers to the comments and wishes of the respondents

The survey has been open to continuous participation since June 2019. We present a summary of selected results on our homepage. In the following, we first present the graphic illustrations of all results from the survey on the application process in 2020 and then we provide answers to the comments and wishes of the respondents, which we have summarized in advance.

We did not analyze the survey on experiences with the FDZ in 2020 because the participation was too low.

Results of the survey on the application process

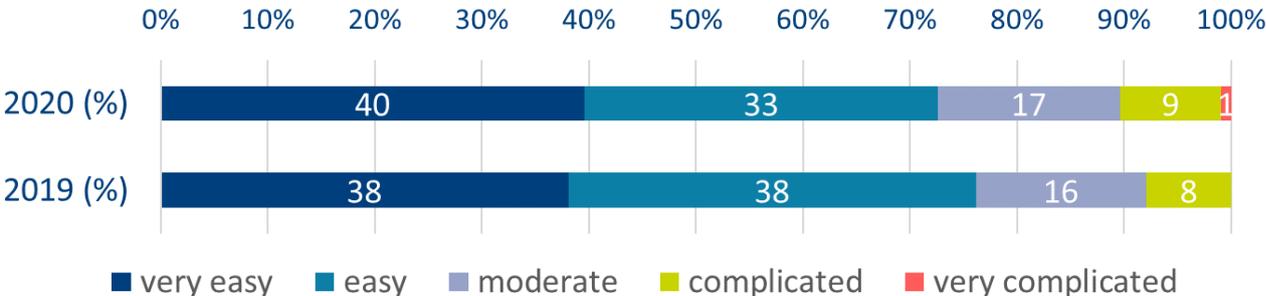*Figure 1 Evaluation of the choice of data set*

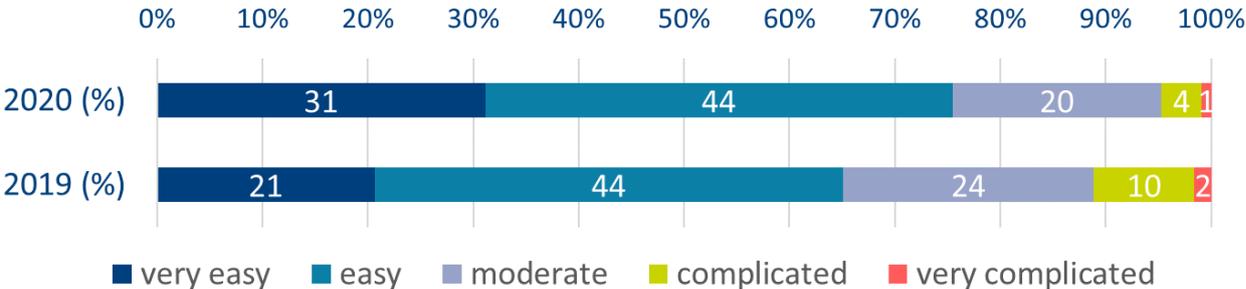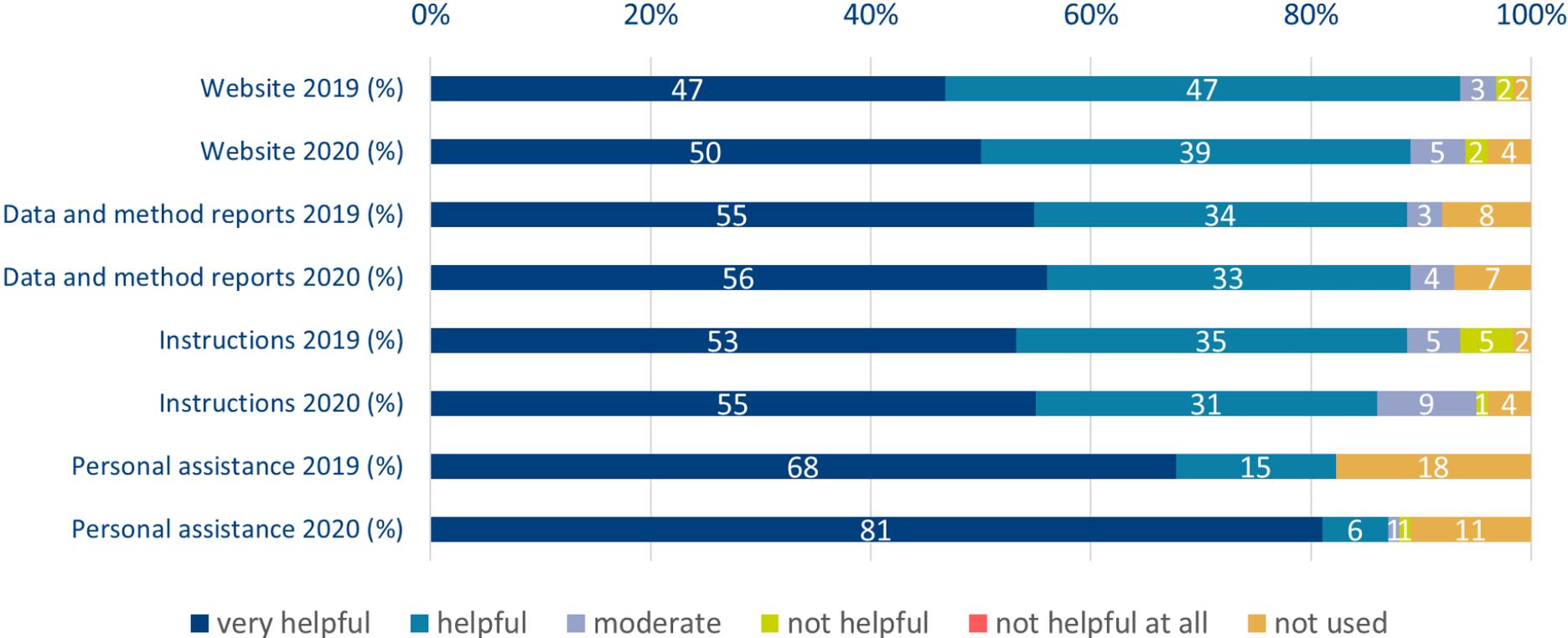*Figure 2 Evaluation of the application process*

Figure 3 Evaluation of the support during the application process 2019/20

	very helpful	helpful	moderate	not helpful	not helpful at all	not used
Website 2019 (%)	47	47	3	2		2
Website 2020 (%)	50	39	5	2		4
Data and method reports 2019 (%)	55	34	3			8
Data and method reports 2020 (%)	56	33	4			7
Instructions 2019 (%)	53	35	5	5		2
Instructions 2020 (%)	55	31	9	1		4
Personal assistance 2019 (%)	68	15				18
Personal assistance 2020 (%)	81	6	1	1		11

- Question "Which consultation documents did you miss during the application process?":

  – Comments on the data security concept: What do examples of data security look like? – *The examination of the admissibility of a workplace in terms of the data security concept represents a case-by-case decision. We are therefore unfortunately unable to provide any concrete examples. However, we are examining how we can specify the work aids accordingly.*

  – In some papers I have read that authors use employee history (BeH). I have not been able to locate exactly which dataset they are in. – *The IAB Employment History (BeH) is an internal dataset of the IAB, from which information is incorporated in many FDZ data products (e.g., the SIAB, the BHP, the LIAB data, etc.). BeH information is thus also included there. Some projects also use individualized data draws from the BeH (e.g., different sample). These are not offered by the FDZ. Individualized data extractions are subject to a fee and require an application according to §75 SGB X as well as its approval by the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Please direct inquiries to: fdz.iab@iab.de.*

  – It would be useful to have the stata codes of some commonly used data corrections available online (e.g., Fitzenberger's imputations of the bild variable). – *This is already the case. Please go to* https://fdz.iab.de/en/FDZ_Overview_of_Data/working_tools.aspx *Check out the publication by Dauth and Eppelsheimer (2020) for a recent collection of such routines.*

- Question "What information are you missing on our website?":

  – The crucial information about the dataset is hidden behind the DOI link. I don't find this very intuitive, it would be easier to have a link with the title 'more information' or similar. – *We have implemented this advice with a clear info text at the links to the dataset versions on our website.*

  – Information that simultaneous use of SIAB weakly anonymized and SIAB factually anonymized data (SUF) is not possible within a project. – *We have now added this information to the main SIAB page.*

  – Clearer notice if there are currently server problems with JoSuA. – *Currently, when there are server problems, we immideately announce this on our start page as the first message in the section "News from the FDZ". This also applies to JoSuA disturbances. In case of scheduled maintenance work, an e-mail is sent to all users in advance.*

  – It can, on occasion, be difficult to find desired documents I recall in the past having to search to find the table for social security income thresholds, and the list of Stata programs available on-site. Perhaps a

more centralized file directory would be useful. – *Thank you for this helpful comment. We have created a webpage summarizing the most important working tools: https://fdz.iab.de/en/FDZ_Overview_of_Data/working_tools.aspx. We will discuss adding a link to Stata ado-Files available on-site. Any further suggestions in that direction are more than welcome.*

- Question "Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your on-site visit?":

  - There are increasing requests for the opening of a further site in North Rhine-Westphalia. – *We can very well understand this wish. Unfortunately, it is currently not possible to open a new site in North Rhine-Westphalia. We are examining whether it is possible to increase the number of workplaces at existing sites. We are also currently looking into the possibility of establishing remote access, i.e. data access from one's own office in Germany in the long term.*

- Question "Is there anything else you would like to tell us about JoSuA?":

  - The platform is user-friendly and very good overall. One aspect/issue that I have noticed is that, when a job has been submitted for manual review, the log files for previous jobs can no longer be viewed until the disclosure review is complete. I'm unsure whether this is intended or not. – *For data protection reasons, it is necessary that the results of all previous internal use mode jobs are no longer accessible as soon as a new publication/presentation job has been submitted. Any results that need to be available persistently over the project duration need to be created during publication/presentation jobs.*