New Solutions for Transnational Access and the Need for Proper Data Documentation

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Outline

- Examples for Transnational Access (TNA) innovations
  - Safe Centre approach
  - European Remote Access Network (proposed)
- Data Documentation Challenges for TNA
- Solutions
- Summary
Safe Centre approach

- Secured Remote Desktop solution with physically and organisationally secured access devices.
- Resulting in a completely secured environment to access confidential microdata.
European Remote Access Network (Eu-RAN)
European Remote Access Network (Eu-RAN)

- There is one European Research Area (ERA) but many country specific differences regarding:
  - Content related issues (e.g. educational, labour market system)
  - Data access issues (e.g. accreditation process, disclosure control)
  - Data Documentation standards (language, coverage, used standard)
- High obstacle for starting transnational research projects; even more for comparative research
Challenges for Data Documentation

- Central point for data documentation
- Complete documentation for an international audience (language)
- Documentation available when searching for data (unrestricted) and when working with data (restricted)
- Standard for data documentation regarding:
  - Usability for researcher (know where to find what)
  - Usability for machines (machine-readable)
Documentation needs - content

- What data sources are available?
  - Description on “study” level (not only survey data)
- What is the content and quality on variable level?
  - What exactly is measured and how good is this done
- What is the accreditation procedure?
  - Simple online form or proposal and scientific board; what is the expected duration of the procedure?
- What are the access ways to work with data?
  - Download file, travel to data holder, use remote access
Documentation needs - technic

- Data Documentation standard
  - Frontend (for user) and backend for software and interfaces

- Harvesting mechanism for data documentation
  - Easy way to collect information from all partners
  - Data Documentation standard for exchange
Documentation needs - technic

- Data documentation available in restricted and non-restricted virtual research environments
  - For finding right data before project
  - For understanding details about data during projects
- Archiving and long-time preservation
  - Support on a technical level to ensure the preservation of complete project documentations
  - Enable the possibility to reproduce and build on conducted research
European Remote Access Network (Eu-RAN)
European Remote Access Network (Eu-RAN)
Data without Boundaries (DwB) project

- DwB aims on making transnational access in Europe easier.
European Research Area Consortium (ERIC)

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) No 1261/2013

- Gives **official structures**, 
- by creating a **legal entity**, and 
- is open to **third party countries** as well (not only EU member states and associated countries).
Summary

- Transnational access to microdata should be easier. Especially for Europe but also beyond.

- This has to go hand in hand with useful data documentations (need to have the project live cycle in mind).

- Only joint approaches and projects (access and documentation) will deliver usable solutions.
Thank you for your attention

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