

**Workshop on Decentralised Access  
to European Microdata**

Johannisberg, June, 17th to 18th 2010



**“Decentralised Access to EU microdata sets”**

**Results and Recommendations**

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## Outline

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Tasks
- 3. Results and recommendation
- 4. Outlook
- 5. Administrative aspects

# 1. Introduction I

- by now: increasing demand of microdata
  - access to national datasets in MS
  - access to community statistics via Eurostat
    - ECHP (European Community Household Panel)
    - LFS (Labour Force Survey)
    - CIS (Community Innovation Surveys), ...
  
- request of slightly anonymised microdata
  - for community statistics: access only via safe-centre in Luxembourg
  - barrier due to local constraint
  - idea: network of national safe-centres

## 1. Introduction II

- 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
  - Statistics Netherlands
  - Istituto Nazionale di Statistica Italy
  - Hungarian Central Statistical Office
  - Statistical Office, German Federal State NRW
  - Federal Statistical Office, Germany
- start: 1st February 2009; end: 31st January 2010

## 1. Introduction III

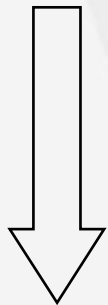
- ESSnet project
  - find synergies
  - harmonize and disseminate best-practices in Stat. systems
  
- development of a „decentralised access to EU microdata sets“ within a researcher from a certain MS can use European datasets in his own MS
  
- prove the feasibility of an access to European microdata in safe-centres (on site) of the MS exemplarily for the ECHP

## 2. Tasks

- I-II: Most feasible types of decentralised access
  - matrix with possible candidate solutions
  - shortlist with description of legal, technical etc. consequences
  
- III-V: Guidelines
  - certification system for safe-centres
  - consistency in output checking
  - documentation of Meta-Data
  
- VI: Feasibility and Cost Analyses
  
- VII: Information and Communication
  - website
  - presentation within UNECE/Eurostat conference

## 3. Results

- Network Schemes
  - reduce burden from Eurostat
  - consider legal constraints
- “Pilot Recommendation”
  - short term applicable
  - decentralised solution via remote access
- “Strategic Aim”
  - long term solution
  - improvement of remote access
  - expansion of the network

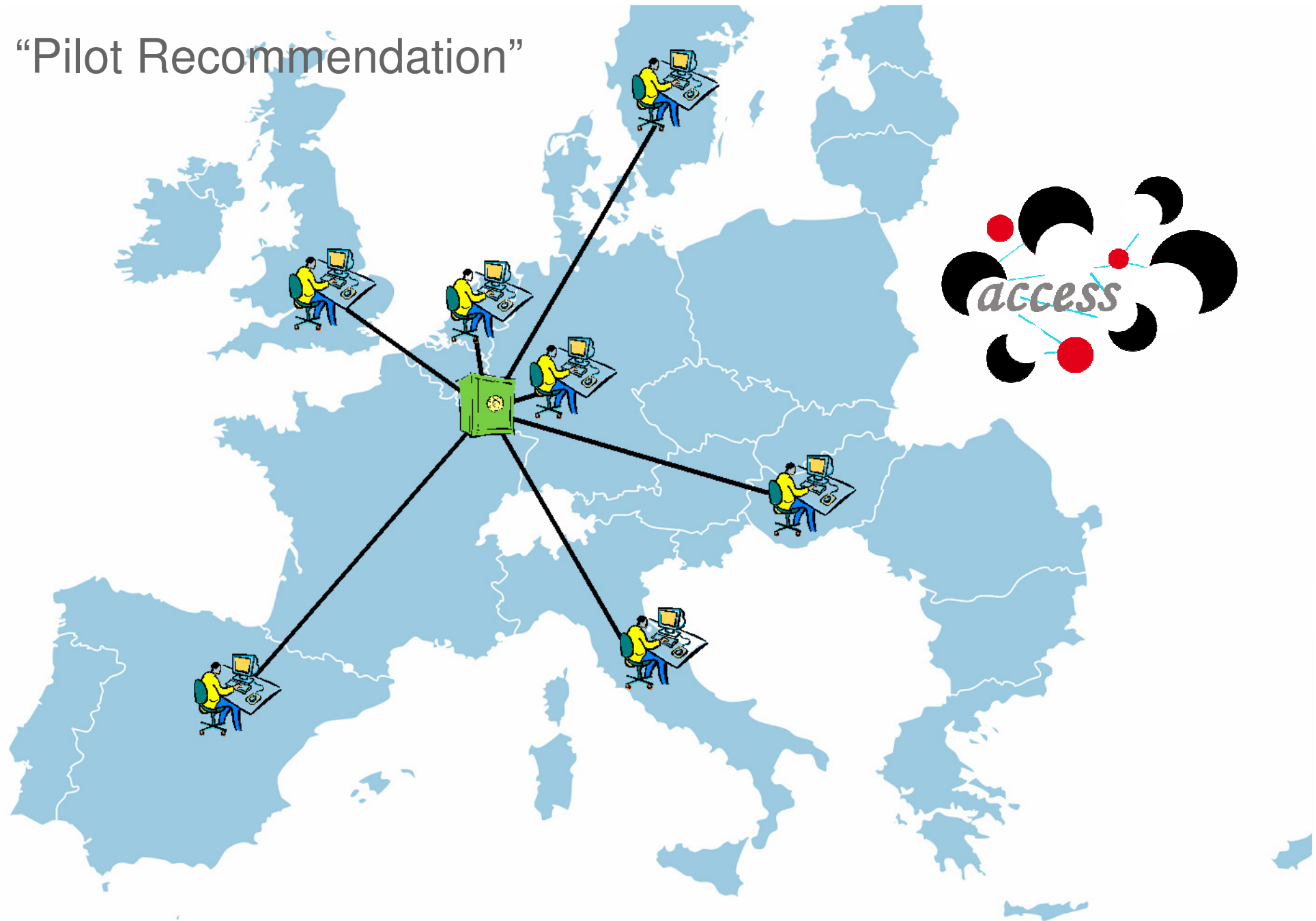


### 3. Results and Recommendation: The Pilot

- legal framework
  - for ECHP: submission allowed
  - decision on access recommendation to Eurostat
- technical framework
  - access in certified safe-centres
  - remote access to Eurostat
- administration
  - central informations system like “circa”
  - contracts made with local RDC’s
  - support at local RDC



# “Pilot Recommendation”



### **3. Results and Recommendation: The Pilot System based upon a thin centre**

#### **Set up**

- Eurostat sets standards for safe centres, output clearance, approval of applications
- NSIs take responsibility for operating to this basic level
- NSIs operate with delegated authority

#### **Legal approval of applications**

- Eurostat manages list of admissible institutions
- NSI manages personal elements of application, using Eurostat info (above)
- NSI makes decision

### 3. Results and Recommendation: The Pilot System based upon a thin centre

#### Data Transmission

- No physical data transfers: data accessed through thin-client via remote access system (from safe-centre of MS to Eurostat)

#### Management of IT systems

- Eurostat provides a thin client service to NSIs
- NSI manages remotely Eurostat IT system, including user accounts
- NSI operates to 'safe centre' standards specified in this project

### **3. Results and Recommendation: The Pilot System based upon a thin centre**

#### **Clearances**

- NSI operates to specified standards: rejects or clears outputs and sends result to researchers
- Periodic checks carried out by other NSIs to ensure compliance with standards

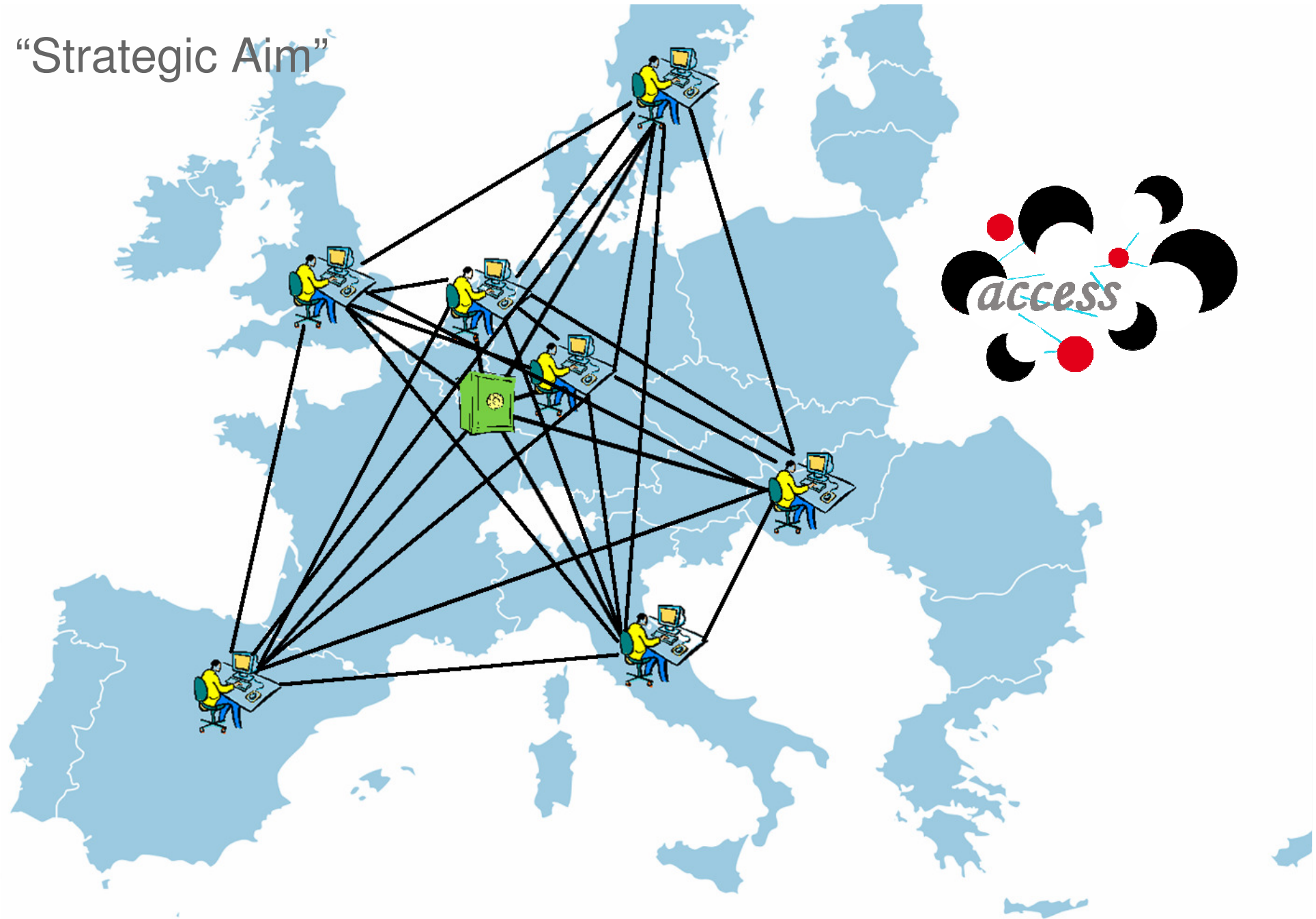
#### **NSIs without RDCs**

- Thin client service at Eurostat

### 3. Results: Strategic Aim

- legal framework
  - for other Community Statistics: reform required
  - for this experience and trust is necessary
- technical framework
  - improvement of remote access to Eurostat
  - possibly cloud- or grid computing
- administration
  - improving network
  - changing info
  - central decision making

# “Strategic Aim”



### 3. Results: Guidelines and Costs

- Safe-Centres
  - minimum bottom line
  - certification
  
- Researchers
  - standardised info on data
  - standardised info on access
  
- Cost analyses, estimation by
  - staff
  - breakdown on strategy and operation
  - fixed and variable costs
  - setting up and running RDC

## 4. Outlook

- Feasibility Study leads to a follow up project
- Metadata
  - Ongoing discussion on Standardisation
- Output-Checking
  - Results “guideline group on output checking“
- Future: Remote Access
- Share of costs
  - Eurostat supports?
  - Self-financed?
  - User covers costs?



## 4. Outlook

- Implementation of „pilot study“ should be linked with other ESSnet-Projects
- Or should at least take the developments in the following projects into account:
  - EuroGroups Register (EGR)
  - ESSnet on SDMX

## 4. Outlook

More information on the project's goals,  
results and recommendation  
are available on

**[www.safe-centre.eu](http://www.safe-centre.eu)**

**For comments, suggestions and tips  
Please contact us under  
[essnet@destatis.de](mailto:essnet@destatis.de)**

## 5. Administrative aspects

- coordinator needs to take financial responsibility in the frame of grant agreement for an action with multiple beneficiaries (Article II. 14.4 and Article II. 18 and 19.1)
- financial responsibility was forwarded to single partners in the project
- subcontracts have been created
- travelcosts were paid in advance
- did cause a lot of administrative work (household and legal division)
- partners must be willing to sign the subcontract

# Thank you for your attention

**And also many thanks to all partners  
for the real good cooperation during the project**

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