

Strategic Agenda

6th Appointment Period

2017–2020



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and Research



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„We have come a long way in improving the availability of research data. However, numerous data sources of unknown magnitude and with great research potential continue to lie dormant at public and private institutions, where they are unavailable to science and research. We therefore believe it would serve the common good to continue improving data access and creating better conditions for empirical research.“



Prof. Regina T. Riphahn Ph.D. and Stefan Bender

■ The German Data Forum is an independent scientific advisory council, which has become an indispensable institution on the boundary between science, research, and data production since its founding in 2004.

Today, 31 research data centres (RDCs) have received accreditation from the German Data Forum; several more RDCs have expressed an interest in seeking accreditation. The RDCs accredited by the German Data Forum commit themselves to making high-quality data available to researchers via user-friendly access paths and in strict accordance with data protection regulation.

During its 6th appointment period, the German Data Forum strives to further consolidate this internationally unique research data infrastructure. Moreover, we will continue to open up untapped quantitative and qualitative data to the scientific community and make it available via user-friendly access paths.

In an era of digital transformation, ever-growing supplies of data (“Big Data”) are opening up novel research fields in the empirical social, behavioural, and economic sciences. This generates a growing need for coordination, which the German Data Forum will take on in the years to come. The use of new technologies has resulted in unforeseen possibilities for quantitative research (e.g. linking survey data with physiological features); the range of instruments for the analysis of qualitative data is also growing. It is essential that we continue to use this potential – in strict accordance with data protection regulation and under consideration of research ethics.

The following strategic agenda addresses, firstly, our voters and, secondly, the data-producing institutions. We thank both for the trust they have placed in our work. We want to continue this fruitful exchange about the German Data Forum’s planned activities and to incorporate your concerns. Moreover, we wish to thank those who are engaged in the German Data Forum and its subcommittees in many ways and most often on a voluntary basis as well as the Federal Ministry for Education and Research for its funding and long-standing support.

We look forward to achieving our goals with you all in the years to come.

R. Riphahn

Prof. Regina T. Riphahn, Ph.D.
Chair

Stefan Bender

Stefan Bender
Vice-Chair

The Development of the German Data Forum

The origins of the German Data Forum date back to 1998, when professors Richard Hauser, Gert G. Wagner, and Klaus F. Zimmermann published a memorandum titled "Conditions for the success of empirical economic research and research-based policy advice in economic and social policy". The report contained a detailed description of the problems that researchers faced, when accessing statistical data and called attention to data protection issues. The memorandum sparked an intense debate resulting in the establishment of the "Commission to Improve the Information Infrastructure between Research and Statistics" (Kommission zur Verbesserung der informationellen Infrastruktur zwischen Wissenschaft und Statistik, KVI) by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in 1999. The commission submitted an expert report on necessary measures to improve the research data infrastructure for the empirical social and economic sciences ("Towards a better informational infrastructure" 2001). The founding committee of the German Data Forum was established in 2001.

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Commission to Improve the Information Infrastructure between Research and Statistics (KVI)

■

Founding Committee

1999

2001

Chair:
Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Krupp

Vice-Chair:
Johann Hahlen

Chair:
Prof. Dr. Karl-Ulrich Mayer;
Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner (as of 01/03)

Vice-Chair:
Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Krupp

During its formative years, the German Data Forum's founding committee (2001–2004) charted the course towards the research data infrastructure's improvement. First, research data centres were established and, in 2004, the German Data Forum was appointed as an advisory council to the federal government.

The subsequent appointment periods were shaped by diverse challenges. Central aims were:

- Raising awareness among scientists, research sponsors, and policy makers for the relevance of research data and data access
- Shaping a science-friendly legal framework
- Setting standards and continuously improving user-friendly access to research data in line with data protection
- Expanding the decentral network of research data centres

■

1st Appointment Period

Opening access to data

- Development of the research data infrastructure
- Improvement of access to education, health, firm, and financial market data
- Research opportunities with media data, crime statistics, and judicial data
- Data on education across the life cycle

■

2nd Appointment Period

Securing the research data infrastructure

- Evaluation of the research data infrastructure
- Securing the permanent status of the German data infrastructure
- Optimisation of existing crime statistics
- Inventory of the data infrastructure in the social, behavioural, and economic sciences

2004

2006

Chair:
Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner

Vice-Chair:
Prof. Dr. Heike Solga

Chair:
Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner;
Prof. Dr. Heike Solga (as of 02/08)

Vice-Chair:
Prof. Dr. Heike Solga;
Eckart Hohmann (as of 02/08)



Start of the 6th appointment period – 46th sitting of the German Data Forum

3rd Appointment Period

Unlocking the potential of research data

- Georeferenced data
- Recommendations on regional price indices and on a national mortality register in Germany
- Modes of future data access
- Scientific advisory of the 2011 Census
- Establishment of the Standing Committee Research Data Infrastructure (FDI-Committee)
- Evaluation of the German Data Forum by the German Council of Science and Humanities

2008

Chair:
Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner
Vice-Chair:
Prof. Dr. Petra Stanat;
Prof. Dr. Notburga Ott (as of 12/09)

4th Appointment Period

Ensuring sustainability

- Representation of additional disciplines
- Long-term storage and digital preservation of research data
- Archiving and data protection in qualitative social research
- Quality standards of survey instruments
- Development of the research data infrastructure on a European level

2011

Chair:
Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner
Vice-Chair:
Prof. Dr. Notburga Ott

5th Appointment Period

Setting standards

- Principles and review procedures of research ethics
- Quality assurance in the research data infrastructure
- User-oriented recommendations on data protection
- Scientific guidelines for the Census and panel surveys
- National and international networking

2014

Chair:
Prof. Regina T. Riphahn, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair:
Stefan Bender

6th Appointment Period

Consolidating successful structures

- Consolidation and further improvement of the research data infrastructure
- Digitisation of data collection and data provision
- Creating and simplifying access paths to official statistics and Big Data
- Archiving of qualitative data
- Following-up on past recommendations on crime statistics, judicial data, research ethics, and data protection

2017

Chair:
Prof. Regina T. Riphahn, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair:
Stefan Bender

Permanent Core Functions

The German Data Forum is an advisory council to the federal government that advises policy-makers on matters concerning the continuous improvement of data access and research infrastructures in empirical research in the social, behavioural, and economic sciences.

The advisory services in the German Data Forum's portfolio also include support of law-making processes in the research data context on a national and European level.

Moreover, the German Data Forum strives to spark debates on the impact of technological developments on research and research infrastructures, data protection, and research ethics.

1 | New data sources and data access for researchers:

Access to research-relevant data has significantly improved in recent years. However, restrictions on data access persist in key areas such as education, migration, and health. The German Data Forum aims at improving institutionalised data access for researchers in line with the requirements of data protection.

2 | Supporting the development of the research data infrastructure:

The German Data Forum is observing a considerable dynamic in the development of research data infrastructures. The level of standardisation in data provision is advancing on a national and European level. The German Data Forum is participating in the development of a National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) and represents the interests of social, behavioural, and economic research.

3 | Monitoring of technological and methodological developments:

The German research data infrastructure in the social, economic, and behavioural sciences has reached a high methodological level. The digitisation of research is creating new opportunities. The German Data Forum is monitoring and supporting methodological and technological developments in its research data centres in accordance with data protection regulations.

4 | Advising legislators during the law-making process:

The German Data Forum is committed to ensuring that the demands of empirical research and the research data infrastructure are systematically taken into account in the law-making process. Since national and European policy-making processes require swift and well-founded reactions, the German Data Forum will create a legal task force that analyses relevant bills and issue statements directed at policy-makers.

5 | Participation in international initiatives and international networking:

On an international level, the German Data Forum is committed to creating a network that gives empirical research a voice and increases its political visibility. It regularly exchanges experience with the UK Data Forum and contributes its expertise to international initiatives, for example, as an institutional member of the Research Data Alliance (RDA).

6 | Following-up on debates sparked by the German Data Forum:

During its past appointment periods, the German Data Forum has made contributions to a range of topics. These include data protection, research ethics, the 2021 Census in Germany, research data management, handling of qualitative research data and the advancement of the panel survey landscape. Our contributions have often sparked debates, to which we will continue to contribute in the future.

7 | Annual report on the accredited research data centres:

The monitoring commission of the Standing Committee Research Data Infrastructure (FDI Committee) annually collects and evaluates data from the accredited research data centres. Based on these data, the German Data Forum issues a yearly report, which contains key figures on the research data infrastructure and discusses new developments. Moreover, the commission reviews complaints by data users.

8 | 8th Conference for Social and Economic Data (8|KSWD) in 2020:

The German Data Forum periodically hosts the Conference for Social and Economic Data (KSWD). The conference is a cornerstone of current scientific debates in the context of the empirical social, behavioural, and economic sciences and data production. It serves as a forum for the interdisciplinary discourse between researchers, producers of official statistics, and policy-makers.

Key Areas

The German Data Forum issues recommendations, reports, and position papers on a range of subjects that target different audiences. These include scientific communities, policy-makers, and administrators as well as the research data centres accredited by the German Data Forum.

During its 6th appointment period, the German Data Forum will focus on the following key areas:

- 1 | New data sources and data access for researchers
- 2 | Further development of the research data infrastructure
- 3 | Advising legislators and policy-makers

The German Data Forum has set up working groups in each of these areas to tackle pressing issues with its interdisciplinary expertise. On the following pages, we outline the activities and aims of these working groups.



Start of the 6th appointment period – 46th sitting of the German Data Forum

2017–2020

1 | New data sources and data access for researchers



Access to Big Data

In this era of digital transformation, many private companies are producing increasing amounts of social, behavioural, and economic data. The availability of these data to social and economic researchers has been very limited. This working group will address the following questions: how do researchers gain regulated data access, and how does one safeguard reproducibility of research results using big data and ensure compliance with data protection and principles of research ethics? To answer these questions, the working group will examine the subject-specific research that has been conducted using big data and the conditions for data access. Moreover, the working group will identify specific barriers for researchers to access data.

Format	Working Group
Goal	Developing recommendations on how to reduce barriers to data from private companies
Output	Publication of a report as part of the RatSWD Output Series
Timeframe	Start: autumn 2017, completion by spring 2019, publication by summer 2019



Tax and wealth data

The data required to answer important questions on the distribution of income and wealth are only partially available to researchers in Germany. In some cases, the data foundation is non-existent. The German Data Forum's working group on this issue will examine the current situation based on existing assessment and expert reports. The working group will invite experts to discuss their observations and research results. These activities will result in policy recommendations on how to facilitate institutionalised access to important tax and wealth data for researchers.

Format Working group with external members

Goal Conducting an inventory analysis and developing recommendations

Output Publication of a report as part of the RatSWD Output Series

Timeframe Start: mid-2018, completion by summer 2019, publication by autumn 2019



Further development of crime statistics and legal data

Legislators, scientists, and practitioners require valid and well-developed crime statistics and criminal justice data. The German crime statistics system only partially meets the requirements of its various user groups. It requires optimisation in a number of ways. The German Data Forum's working group will develop recommendations for implementation in the short, medium, and long term. The aim is also to re-evaluate the guidelines developed by the working group "Optimisation of Existing Criminal Statistics Systems" in 2009. On the basis of this implementation evaluation, the working group will develop updated recommendations.

Format Working group including external members; within the course of the working group: workshop with representatives of the federal government and the governments of the Länder

Goal Follow-up on the 2009 recommendations, problem analysis, development of updated recommendations

Output Publication of a position paper as part of the RatSWD Output Series

Timeframe Start: November 2017, completion by October 2018, publication by late 2018



Archiving and access to qualitative data

Germany's institutional structure for archiving and making qualitative research data available leaves much to be desired. Recent years have seen the founding, expansion, and accreditation of a growing number of research data centres specialised on archiving and preparing quantitative data. However, opportunities for archiving qualitative material in a long-term and sustainable way after the completion of research projects are scarce. An interdisciplinary workshop will evaluate past experiences with archiving qualitative data, discuss fundamental problems of archiving and secondary analysis, and identify the requirements to an archiving infrastructure for qualitative research data.

Format	Workshop of the German Data Forum
Goal	Developing requirements for an improved archiving infrastructure for qualitative research data
Output	Publication of a workshop report by the German Data Forum
Timeframe	Start: September 2017, workshop: spring 2018, publication by autumn 2018



Data collection with new information technology

The use of new information technology (including mobile devices and virtual reality) opens up new methodological perspectives for researchers during the data collection process. Classic primary data can be complemented with data from sensors and mobile applications or by using paradata. The German Data Forum will set up a working group on these issues. Building on an assessment of recent opportunities of new information technology, the working group will develop recommendations to further advance the activities in this field. The recommendations will include aspects such as data quality, quality criteria as well as data protection and research ethics.

Format	Working group including external members
Goal	Development of recommendations
Output	Publication of a position paper as part of the RatSWD Output Series
Timeframe	Start: spring 2018, completion by autumn 2019, publication by early 2020



Remote access to data from official statistics agencies

Official statistics data are an important data source for empirical research. For the most part, however, those data can only be accessed on-site at research data centres of the Federal Statistical Institute and the Statistical Institutes of the Länder. This results in high costs and limited flexibility during the research process. Additionally, for research data centres, this results in high expenditures in terms of space and manpower.

Based on the experiences of other European statistical institutes, an important step forward would be to facilitate remote access solutions (starting with selected social statistics). The working group will work out recommendations accordingly.

Format	Joint working group of German Data Forum and FDI Committee
Goal	Developing recommendations for policy-makers and administrators
Output	Publication of a position paper as part of the RatSWD Output Series
Timeframe	Start: winter 2017, completion by early 2018, publication by summer 2019

2 | Further development of the research data infrastructure



Common guidelines in research data centres

Long-term harmonisation and standardisation across research data centres (RDC) increases transparency for data users, facilitates working with research data, and strengthens exchange within the scientific community.

The aim of the German Data Forum's working group is to develop recommendations on how to improve standardisation and harmonisation among RDCs. Its work will focus on four main tasks: 1. describe and establish the German Data Forum's accreditation of RDCs as a brand, 2. transparency of data quality through common procedures for documentation and provision of information on the quality of the research data, 3. harmonisation of procedures, and 4. legal and ethical issues.

Format	Joint working group of German Data Forum and FDI Committee
Goal	The goal is to assess the current state of task 2 and 3; recommendations on medium and long-term strategies for the implementation by the RDCs; development of best practice solutions to support future RDCs in establishing research data infrastructures
Output	Recommendations for RDCs
Timeframe	Start: October 2017, completion of analysis: December 2018, publication of recommendations by summer 2019



Improving access to existing data in research data centres

For legal reasons, some data offered by research data centres cannot be downloaded by researchers, but may only be analysed on-site at the respective storage facilities. Extending access modes to include remote access to (formally anonymised or granular) data offered by RDCs via other RDCs (the so-called RDC-in-RDC model) makes it easier for researchers to access data.

The aim of this group is to examine the prerequisites for implementing existing prototypes as comprehensively as possible within the research data network (FDZnet). The working group will identify necessary strategies and recommendations to implement such a research data network. This includes a strategy for certification of guest researcher workstations as a mode of secure data access.

Format Joint working group of German Data Forum and FDI Committee

Goal Assessment of the current situation at accredited RDCs and development of recommendations for medium and long-term implementation by the RDCs

Output Recommendations for RDCs

Timeframe Start: October 2017, completion of analysis: December 2018, completion of recommendations: summer 2019



Decentral archiving structure at research data centres

The working group will develop recommendations on joint quality standards for (decentral) archiving and on the establishment of a decentral, user-friendly archiving infrastructure. The recommendations will focus on the specifics of different scientific disciplines as well as the various available digital object types (quantitative data, text, images, etc.).

The working group's activities will begin with an inventory of existing standards and procedures of data archiving and the archiving infrastructure offered by accredited RDCs. This inventory will focus on content/disciplines/subject groups and the types of data/digital object types.

Format Joint working group of German Data Forum and FDI Committee

Goal Assessment of the current situation at the accredited RDCs and development of recommendations for medium and long-term implementation by the RDCs

Output Recommendations for RDCs

Timeframe Start: October 2017, completion of analysis: December 2018, publication of recommendations: December 2019



Skills development in research data centres (RDCs)

To foster acceptance for the RDC model and data sharing in general, it is essential that RDCs provide trustworthy, reliable, and high-quality services. To take on these diverse and complex tasks, RDCs rely on highly-skilled scientific and non-scientific staff with the capacity to continuously incorporate novel technological and methodological developments into their work.

The German Data Forum's working group will examine the skill requirements for RDC personnel, existing staff development strategies, and human resource needs of the RDCs. Additionally, the working group will examine the competence requirements for RDC users. Building on the results of this analysis, the working group will develop recommendations on cross-RDC activities in skills development.

Format	Joint working group of German Data Forum and FDI Committee
Goal	Assessment of the current situation at accredited RDCs and development of recommendations for medium and long-term implementation by the RDCs
Output	Recommendations for RDCs
Timeframe	Start: October 2017, completion of analysis: October 2018, publication of recommendations by December 2019

3 | Advising of legislators and policy-makers



The social sciences in roadmap processes

In research policy, various roadmap processes seek to prioritise infrastructure projects on a national and European level. Despite the high relevance of these processes for research funding, research data infrastructure projects from the social, behavioural, or economic sciences were neither among the applicants during the German roadmap pilot process, nor among the first application round. The working group seeks to analyse the reasons for this lack of participation. Based on its results, the working group will develop recommendations for policy makers on future tenders and recommendations to prepare academic communities and infrastructure facilities for the competition.

Format	Working group
Goal	Assessment of roadmap processes and other research funding schemes aimed at large-scale research infrastructures; recommendations resulting from an exchange with stakeholders
Output	Publication of a position paper as part of the RatSWD Output Series
Timeframe	Start: spring 2018, completion: summer 2019, publication: end of 2019

Representatives of the Empirical Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



Prof. Regina T. Riphahn, Ph.D. (Chair)

Professor of Empirical Economics
Institute of Economic Research
University of Erlangen-Nürnberg



Prof. Dr. Cordula Artelt

Professor of Educational Research
University of Bamberg
Head of Department 1 at the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LIfBi)



Prof. Dr. Thomas K. Bauer

Professor of Economics
Ruhr University of Bochum
Vice-President of the RWI – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research



Prof. Dr. Michael Eid

Professor of Methods and Evaluation
Department of Education and Psychology
Freie Universität Berlin



Prof. Dr. Anja Göritz

Professor of Occupational and Consumer Psychology
Department of Psychology
University of Freiburg



Prof. Dr. Monika Jungbauer-Gans

Professor for Empirical Research on Higher Education and Science Studies
University of Hannover
Scientific Director of the German Centre for Research on Higher Education and Science Studies (DZHW)



Prof. Dr. Stefan Liebig

Professor of Social Inequality and Social Structure Analysis, Universität Bielefeld
Member of the Executive Board of the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)
Director of the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) at DIW Berlin



Prof. Dr. Kai Maaz

Professor of Education Systems and Society
Goethe University Frankfurt a.M.
Director of the department Educational Structure and Governance at the German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF)

Representatives of Data Production



Stefan Bender, Deutsche Bundesbank (Vice-Chair)

Head of the Research Data and Service Center
of Deutsche Bundesbank



Hans-Josef Fischer, Statistical Offices of the "Länder"

President of IT.NRW (Landesbetriebe Information und Technik
Nordrhein-Westfalen)



Heike Habla, Federal Statistical Office

Head of the Research Data Centre
of the Federal Statistical Office (FDZ-Bund)



Dr. Cornelia Lange, Robert Koch Institute

Department of Epidemiology and Health Monitoring
Head of the division Health Behaviour



Sabine Ohsmann, German Pension Insurance

Department Research and Development
at the German Pension Insurance



Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schupp, Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) at DIW Berlin

Professor of Sociology, Free University Berlin
Vice-Director of SOEP at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)



Prof. Dr. Mark Trappmann, Bundesagentur für Arbeit








Professor of Sociology, especially Survey Methodology
University of Bamberg
Head of Research Department "Labour Market and Social Security" (PASS)
at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB)



Dr. Heike Wirth, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

Department Monitoring Society and Social Change
Head of the German Microdata Lab (GML)

Data provided by the accredited Research Data Centres (RDCs)

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Social Data |  Behavioural Data |
|  Economic Data |  Qualitative Data |
|  Education Data |  Other |
|  Health Data | |

The German Data Forum supports the decentral network of research data centres (RDCs) as a model solution for facilitating flexible and comprehensive access to sensitive data for research. The 31 research data centres, which are currently accredited by the German Data Forum, are a pivotal research data infrastructure in the social, empirical and economic sciences and strengthen the international competitiveness of the German research landscape.

The decentralised structure of the research data infrastructure is a tried and tested way to satisfy the demands of data producers, data users in science and research and data protection. Anonymisation and pseudonomisation are but two of a wide range of data protection measures. The German Data Forum has been chiefly responsible for supporting and advancing these model solutions. In recent years, this has opened up many data sources for research.

The FDI Committee was established to foster a productive dialog among the research data centres (RDCs). The committee's main task is to safeguard and improve the quality and availability of research data. The FDI Committee supports the German Data Forum's activities by complementing the committee's strategic focus with a focus on day-to-day challenges of the research data infrastructure. The FDI Committee's decisions are forwarded to the German Data Forum as recommendations.

For more information:  www.ratswd.de/en/data-infrastructure/info



Research Data Centre of the Federal Statistical Office (FDZ-Bund)

Germany-wide access to official statistics microdata from the following fields: population, education, health, business, agriculture, environment, administration of justice, finance, and taxes.

www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/en



Research Data Centre of the Statistical Offices of the Länder (FDZ-Länder)

Germany-wide access to official statistics microdata from the following fields: population, education, health, business, agriculture, environment, administration of justice, finance, and taxes.

www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/en



Research Data Centre German Microdata Lab at GESIS (RDC GML)

Research based services for researchers working with microdata from European and German official statistics: Tools for data management and data analysis. Metadata (MISSY): Comprehensive data documentation for official microdata on a detailed level. Knowledge transfer: Consulting, Training, User Conferences. On research using official microdata on methodological and substantive topics. Established 1987.

www.gesis.org/en/institute/research-data-centers/rdc-german-microdata-lab



International Data Service Centre at the Institute for the Study of Labour (FDZ IZA, IDSC)

National and international labour market datasets with standardised information.

www.iza.org/en/research/idsc



Research Data Centre of the German Federal Employment Agency at the Institute for Employment Research (FDZ BA at IAB)

Data on persons, households, and employers, as well as combined datasets consisting of survey data and administrative research data in the fields of social security and labour market and employment research.

<http://fdz.iab.de/en.aspx>





Research Data Centre of the German Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV)

Data on the insurance accounts of individuals insured in the Federal Pension Insurance. The accounts contain data on the insured persons' insurance history and the pension and rehabilitation benefits they received.

<http://forschung.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de>



Research Data Centre of the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB-FDZ)

Firm-level and individual-level datasets of vocational education research dealing primarily with the attainment and use of vocational knowledge and skills.

www.bibb.de/en/53.php



Research Data Centre of the Institute for Educational Quality Improvement (FDZ IQB)

German datasets from the major national and international school performance studies and national studies measuring educational standards.

www.iqb.hu-berlin.de/fdz



Research Data Center of the Socio-Economic Panel Study at DIW Berlin (FDZ SOEP)

Data from representative annual surveys of private households. The SOEP-CORE sample features topics such as income, employment, education, and health. In addition, there is the longitudinal innovative sample (SOEP-IS), which enables external researchers to contribute research projects of their own.

www.diw.de/en/diw_02.c.222518.en/research_data_center_of_the_soep.html



Research Data Centre of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (FDZ SHARE)

Data from the multidisciplinary and cross-national panel study "Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe" (SHARE), which produces microdata on health, socio-economic conditions, and social and family networks of approximately 123,000 individuals aged 50 or older in more than 20 European countries and Israel. The seventh Wave of SHARE was collected in 2017.

www.share-project.org



Research Data Centre International Survey Programmes at GESIS (RDC International Survey Programmes)

Internationally comparative survey data from more than 70 countries on nearly all social science topics: Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES), European Values Study (EVS), Eurobarometer, European Election Studies (EES), International Social Survey Programme (ISSP).

www.gesis.org/en/institute/research-data-centers/rdc-international-survey-programs



Research Data Centre Elections at GESIS (RDC Elections)

Access to German national election surveys (federal elections and state elections), Politbarometer, Forsa-Bus, ARD Deutschlandtrend. The RDC's largest project at this point is the German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES).

www.gesis.org/en/elections-home



Research Data Centre ALLBUS at GESIS (RDC ALLBUS)

Data from the Allgemeine Bevölkerungsumfrage der Sozialwissenschaften (ALLBUS), or German General Social Survey (GGSS) in English, on the attitudes, behaviours, and social structure of the German population.

www.gesis.org/en/allbus



Research Data Centre for Business and Organizational Data (FDZ-BO)

Quantitative and qualitative business and organizational data, linked employer and employee data, and data from employee and member surveys.

[www.uni-bielefeld.de/\(en\)/soz/fdzbo](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/soz/fdzbo)



Research Data Centre of the German Centre of Gerontology (FDZ-DZA)

Data from the long-term German Ageing Survey (DEAS) on the changing life situations and ageing processes of people in mid- and older adulthood, and from the German Survey on Volunteering (FWS), a representative survey programme with a focus on voluntary activities and civic participation in Germany.

www.dza.de/en/fdz.html





Research Data Centre PsychData of the Leibniz Institute for Psychology Information (FDZ PsychData at ZPID)

Pooled quantitative datasets from both basic research and applied psychology; data archiving with a focus on longitudinal studies, large-scale survey studies, and development testing.

www.psychdata.de



Research Data Centre of the German Family Panel (FDZ-pairfam)

Datasets from the "Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics" (pairfam), a representative, interdisciplinary longitudinal study for the analysis of private living arrangements in Germany.

www.pairfam.de/en



Research Data Centre Ruhr at the RWI – Leibniz Institut für Economic Research (FDZ Ruhr at RWI)

Specialization on regional data: Socioeconomic data measured by 1 square km grids. Aside from geo-referencing data on a scientific basis, the RDC provides various individual-level and employer-level data collected in RWI research projects.

<http://fdz.rwi-essen.de>



LMU-ifo Economics & Business Data Center (EBDC)

Data sets of German companies, including survey data collected by ifo Institute on firms' business status, innovativeness and investment behaviour, as well as external data on corporate financing and governance structure. Merged panels of the aforementioned two data sources are also available.

www.cesifo-group.de/de/ifoHome/facts/EBDC.html



Research Data Centre of the Robert Koch Institute (RDC RKI)

Data on the state of health and health-related behaviour of Germany's resident population, collected on the basis of nationally representative studies.

www.rki.de/puf



Research Data Centre of the Federal Centre for Health Education (FDZ BZgA)

Data from nationally representative surveys, repeated at regular intervals, measuring the population's susceptibility to health education and prevention campaigns, as well as the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour in the general population concerning the health issues addressed by BZgA.

www.bzga.de/home



Research Data Centre Science Statistics of Stifterverband (RDC Wissenschaftsstatistik)

Data on the research and development activities of German companies, on the financial volume, structure, and regional distribution of research and development activities (R&D), and on R&D staff in the business sector.

www.stifterverband.org/research_data_center



Research Data Centre Education at the German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF) (FDZ Bildung)

The hosted datasets include approaches of qualitative educational research such as video data, transcriptions, contextual materials and survey tools of quantitative educational research such as questionnaires and assessment tests. The collected datasets refer to the quality of instruction and to the quality of schools.

www.dipf.de/en/knowledge-resources/research-data-centre-for-education



Research Data Center of the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories at the University of Bamberg (RDC-LIfBi)

Longitudinal data from the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS), which was launched in 2010 with more than 60,000 panel participants in six starting cohorts to study skills formation, educational processes, educational decisions, and educational returns in formal, non-formal, and informal contexts across the lifespan.

www.lifbi.de/en-us/home.aspx





ZEW Research Data Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW-FDZ)

The ZEW-FDZ provides micro data from ZEW firm surveys on innovation activities, the development of young firms, the use of information and communication technologies, and further topics. Data from individual and expert surveys are also accessible – for example, the ZEW Financial Market Survey.

<http://kooperationen.zew.de/en/zew-fdz>



Research Data Centre of the German Youth Institute (FDZ-DJI)

Data from the surveys on children and young people growing up and the life situations of adults and families, conducted in regular intervals since 1988.

www.dji.de/en



Research Data Centre of the German Youth Institute (FDZ AGD)

Data on spoken German in interactions (conversation corpora) and data on domestic and non-domestic varieties of German (variation corpora).

<http://agd.ids-mannheim.de>



Research Data Center Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) at GESIS (FDZ PIAAC)

German and international data of the Programme for the Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). For Germany, additional regional data and longitudinal data are available.

www.gesis.org/en/piaac/rdc



Deutsche Bundesbank Research Data and Service Centre (RDSC Bundesbank)

Various datasets on banks, securities, investment funds, and enterprises, as well as combinations of those; data from the Panel on Household Finances, a representative study on the structure and composition of households' wealth.

www.bundesbank.de/Navigation/EN/Bundesbank/Research/RDSC/rdsc.html



Research Data Centre of the Halle Institute for Economic Research (RDC-IWH)

Company data from panel studies and longitudinal studies on development trends in East Germany's manufacturing and construction sectors, as well as on the choice of locations of multinational companies in East Germany and in Central and Eastern Europe.

www.iwh-halle.de/en/research/data-and-analysis/research-data-centre



Research Data Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (fdz.DZHW)

Quantitative and qualitative research data from the field of higher education and science studies, especially the DZHW Panel Study of School Leavers with a Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Studienberechtigtenpanel), the DZHW Graduate Panel (Absolventenpanel), the DZHW Social Survey, and the DZHW Science Survey.

<https://fdz.dzhw.eu/en>



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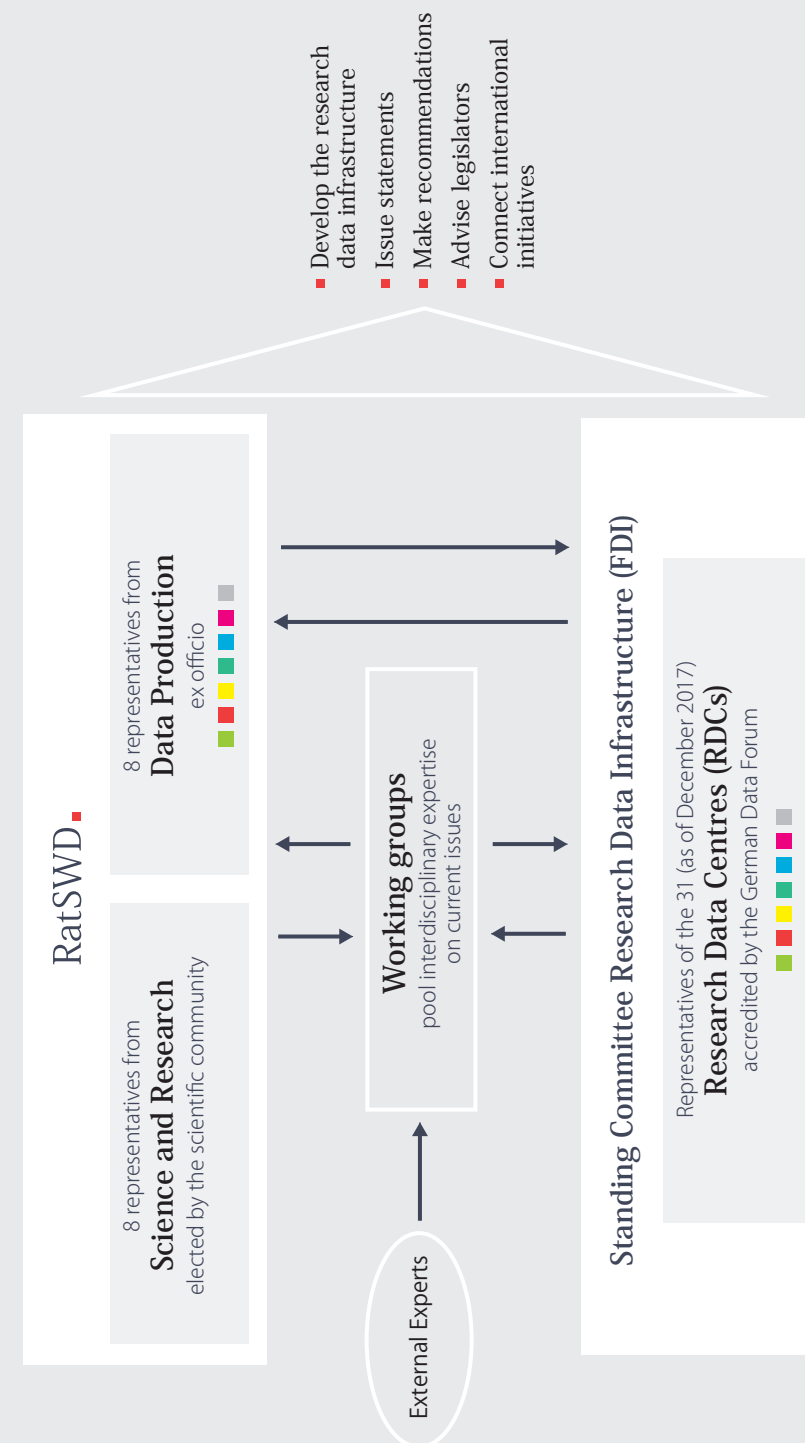
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The German Data Forum's Workflow



■ Established in 2004, the **German Data Forum (Rat für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsdaten, RatSWD)** is an independent council. It advises the German federal government and the federal states (Länder) in matters concerning the research data infrastructure for the empirical social, behavioural, and economic sciences. The German Data Forum (RatSWD) has 16 members. Membership consists of eight elected representatives of the social, behavioural, and economic sciences and eight appointed representatives of Germany's most important data producers.

The German Data Forum (RatSWD) offers a forum for dialogue between researchers and data producers, who jointly issue recommendations and position papers. The council furthers the development of a research infrastructure that provides researchers with flexible and secure access to a broad range of data. The German Data Forum (RatSWD) has accredited 31 research data centres and fosters their interaction and collaboration.

