

# Access to Microdata in EUROSTAT

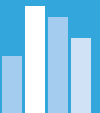
The screenshot shows the Eurostat website's 'Access to Microdata' page. The 'OVERVIEW' section on the left lists various surveys, including the European Community Household Panel, European Union Labour Force Survey, and others. The main content area includes sections for 'What are microdata?', 'Access to microdata', and 'Applying for access'. A 'SEE ALSO' sidebar on the right contains links to 'How to apply for microdata access?', 'List of recognised research entities', and three regulations: 'Commission Regulation (EU) 557/2013 on access to confidential data for scientific purposes', 'Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European Statistics', and 'Regulation (EC) 45/2001 on Personal Data Protection'. A yellow circle highlights the 'OVERVIEW' section, and red and blue arrows point to specific links in the sidebar.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata>



# Legal Framework

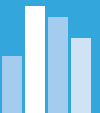
- **Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on personal data protection** (Ensuring citizens' privacy)
  - Some articles will not apply when data are processed solely for purposes
- **Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European Statistics** (How the European Statistical System works)
  - The research community should enjoy wider access to confidential data.....
- **Commission regulation (EU) 557/2013 on access to confidential data for scientific purpose**
  - Not fully implemented yet when it comes to Access facilities



# Regulation on access to confidential data for scientific purpose

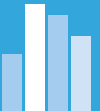
## Article 2 - Definitions

- ‘**secure-use files**’ means confidential data for scientific purposes to which no further methods of statistical disclosure control have been applied
- ‘**scientific-use files**’ means confidential data for scientific purposes to which methods of statistical disclosure control have been applied to reduce to an appropriate level and in accordance with current best practice the risk of identification of the statistical unit;
- ‘access facilities’ means the **physical or virtual environment**



# Applying for access

- **Step 1 – Apply to have your research organisation recognised as a research entity.** You only need to do this once, no matter how many access requests you make subsequently (the procedure takes around 4 weeks)
- **Step 2 – Apply for access to microdata.** Once we have recognised your organisation as a research entity, you can apply for access by submitting a research proposal (the procedure takes around 8-10 weeks)



# Recognized research entities (Nearly 500 entities)

- University of Haifa
- Research Department, Bank of Israel
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Tel Aviv University

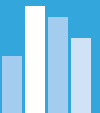
The researchers of recognized entities may submit research proposals

The research proposal will be **assessed by Eurostat and the national statistical authorities** which transmitted the confidential data concerned.



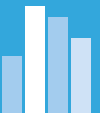
# How are data provided?

- Depending on the access type(s):
- Eurostat will send the principal researcher files containing anonymised data (**scientific-use files**) on electronic devices (CD-Rom, DVD, etc.) and/or
- authorise the researcher to access non-anonymised data (**secure-use files**) in Eurostat's "safe centre".
  
- Access to microdata is only valid for the period specified in the research proposal. At the end of that period, researcher must:
- destroy any original scientific-use files sent by Eurostat and any confidential data derived from the files, and
- send Eurostat the research results.



# Experiences with new European microdata access procedures

NSAs' perspective from  
Denmark, Netherlands and Germany



Charlotte Nielsen, Ivan Thaulow, Statistics Denmark

*Experiences after 1 year with the new regulation EU No 557/2013 since September 2013*

- Number of research applications:
  - 228 (Sept 2013 – august 2014)  
(additional information required for 7 applications)
- Highest number of applications/ month:40 (June 2014)



Charlotte Nielsen, Ivan Thaulow, Statistics Denmark

Most request for microdata access to

- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC 146)
- Labor Force Survey (LFS 96)
- Community Innovation Survey (26)
  
- 29% of the applications combine multiple statistics
- Most applications from UK (29)

Charlotte Nielsen, Ivan Thaulow, Statistics Denmark

## *Positive aspects of the applications*

- *Detailed and standardized application forms clearly stating the purpose of the research project*
- *Safekeeping of the data are well described*
- *All individuals getting access to data are listed and has to sign a confidentiality declaration*

Charlotte Nielsen, Ivan Thaulow,  
Statistics Denmark

*No applications for access has been denied  
mainly because:*

- *Special disclosure control methods have been applied*
- *Small samples sizes – no data for the entire Danish population*
- *No sensitive data*
- *No linking to researchers own data*

# Thank you for your attention

