Data Access Principles - Peter Struijs (Statistical Officer Big Data and Trusted Smart Statistics at Eurostat)

**Data Access Sprint Session 2**
*Enabling access to privately held data for official statistics: The European Perspective*

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**Background**
- Efforts to access privately held data for official statistics on a voluntary basis
- Limits to what can be achieved on a voluntary basis
- Need for a legal basis for reuse of privately held data
- Position paper by the ESS (European Statistical System)
- Legislative process started

**Efforts on a voluntary basis**
- Access principles
- Many partnerships initiated
- Experimental results at national and EU level
- ESSnet Big Data
- Trusted Smart Statistics

**Limits to the voluntary approach**
- Not all businesses are prepared to enter a partnership
- Businesses set various conditions
- Sharing partnership on voluntary basis takes a lot of time and effort
- Sustainability is an issue
- Lack of harmonization
- Other limitations...

**Need for a legal basis**
- Survey on situation in Member States by ESS Partnership Group
- Efforts at national level to adapt the legal basis
- Need for a legal basis at EU level, with data sharing requirement

**The ESS position paper**
- Need for B2G data sharing for public interest purposes, including official statistics
- Establish obligation for private sector to share data for official statistics, under certain conditions and safeguards
- No payment for data, but cost compensation mechanisms may be considered
- Make use of existing governance structures, but with more coordination at European level

**Legislative process**
- European data strategy
- Data Act
- Revision of the Regulation on European statistics
- Process has started
- Goals of the revision
- Stakeholders involvement
- High-Level Expert Group
- Impact assessment
- Draft legal text to be released in Q3 2023
- Outcome not known yet

**Leading Principles for Access to PHD**
- Confidentiality
- Professional standards
- Data business interest
- Proportional
- Level playing field
- Access
- Transparency
- Proper access modality
- Free data access

**Principle of Confidentiality**
Accessing and using PHD for official statistics by NSIs should respect and preserve the privacy of individuals.

**Principle of Professional Standards**
The NSIs should act in full accordance with professional standards.

**Principle of Business Interest**
Accessing and using PHD for official statistics by NSIs should respect safeguard the reputation and business of the private data holder.

**Principle of Minimal Data**
The amount of data requested from the private data holder should be kept to the minimum necessary for the production of the official statistics targeted by the request.

**Principle of Proportionality**
Costs and efforts from the private data holder as well as the NSI should be proportionate compared to the envisaged public benefit of the related official statistics.

**Principle of Level Playing Field**
The distribution across private data holders of the burden of giving access and providing data to NSIs should be fair in order to guarantee a level playing field.

**Principle of Equal Access**
If multiple NSIs need to get access to and use PHD from the same data holder, they should treat such data holders in an equal way. In turn, these data holders should treat the NSIs concerned in an equal way as well.

**Principle of Transparency**
NSIs as well as private data holders should practice full transparency towards the general public as well as those to whom the data pertain.

**Principle of Proper Access Modality**
Modalities for implementing access to and use of PHD are to be chosen by the NSI in consultation with the business, and by properly taking into account the business interest in accordance with the other principles.

**Principle of Free Data Access**
Access and use of PHD for official statistics should be free of charge for the NSI.

**Conclusions**
- Very significant progress has been made towards ensuring sustainable access
- There are many uncertainties and much has still to be worked out
- It will take quite some time until the goal is reached

**Questions?**
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