



Developments of the Research Data Infrastructure in Germany since the end of the 90's



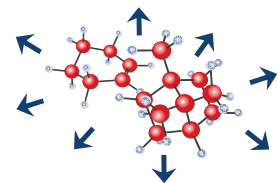
The situation in the middle of the 90's



Access to micro data from
official statistics was
almost impossible



No interaction between
official statistics and the
research community



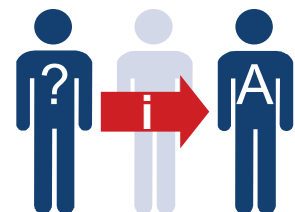
Huge concern about the
potential of de-anonymization
of official micro data



Prohibitive costs for
access to micro data

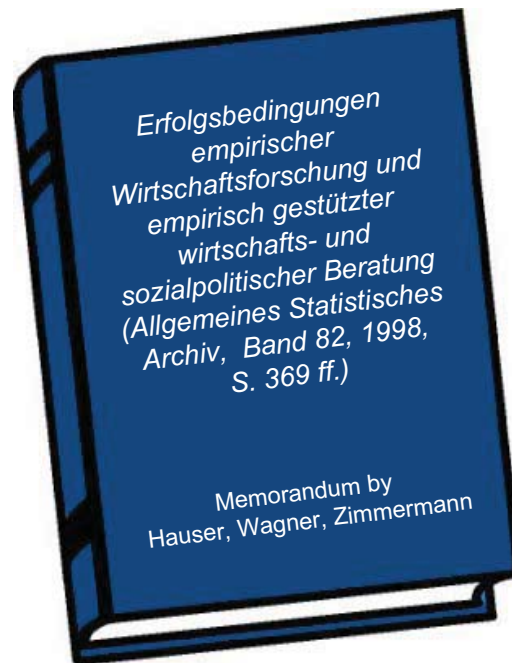


Little documentation
of available data

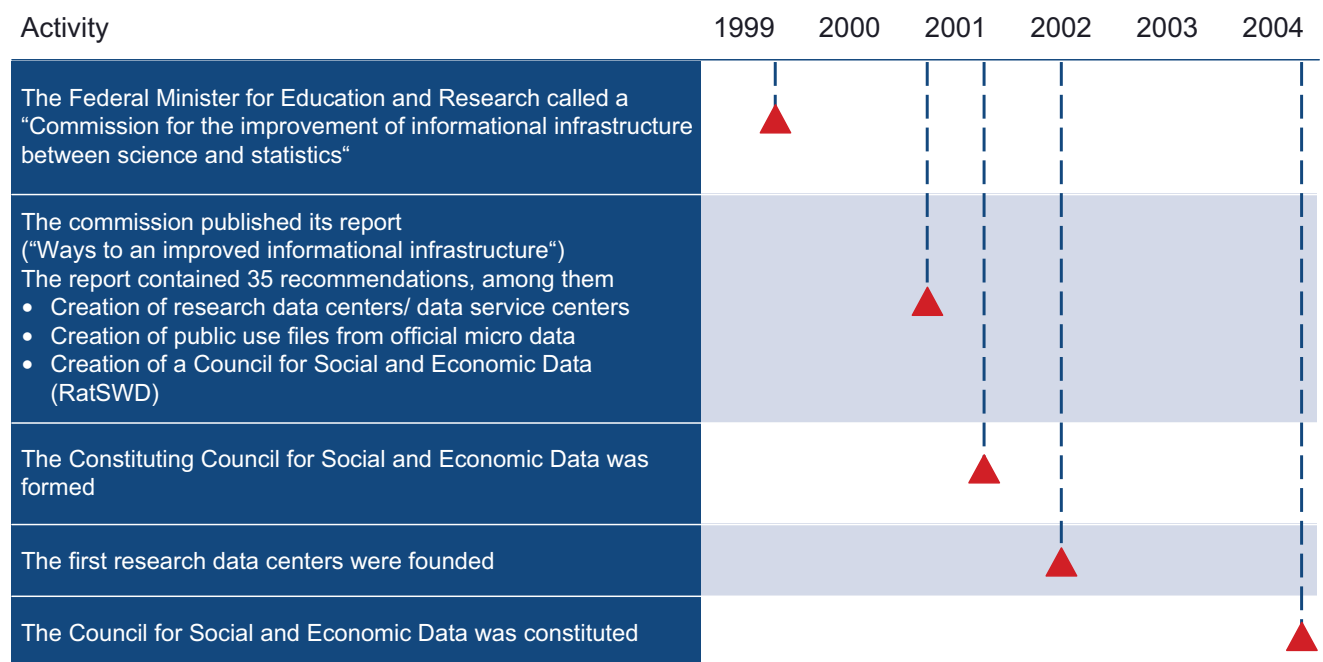


Researchers had to address
directly to the administration

What caused the tipping point at the end of the 90's?



The process triggered by the memorandum



About the RatSWD

12 members, 6 of them elected every two years by the scientific community and 6 are mandated by data producing institutions

Main objectives

- Advising the federal government with regard to further improvement of data infrastructure
- Recommendations regarding the establishment and evaluation of research data centers and data service centers



Main objectives

- Stimulating and supporting projects that might contribute to the improvement of data infrastructure
- Internationalisation
- Improving the interrelations between science and official statistics

About the RatSWD

Contact Newsletter Masthead Deutsch

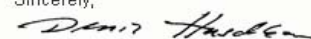
RatSWD
Data Infrastructure
Publications
KVI
Press

Welcome

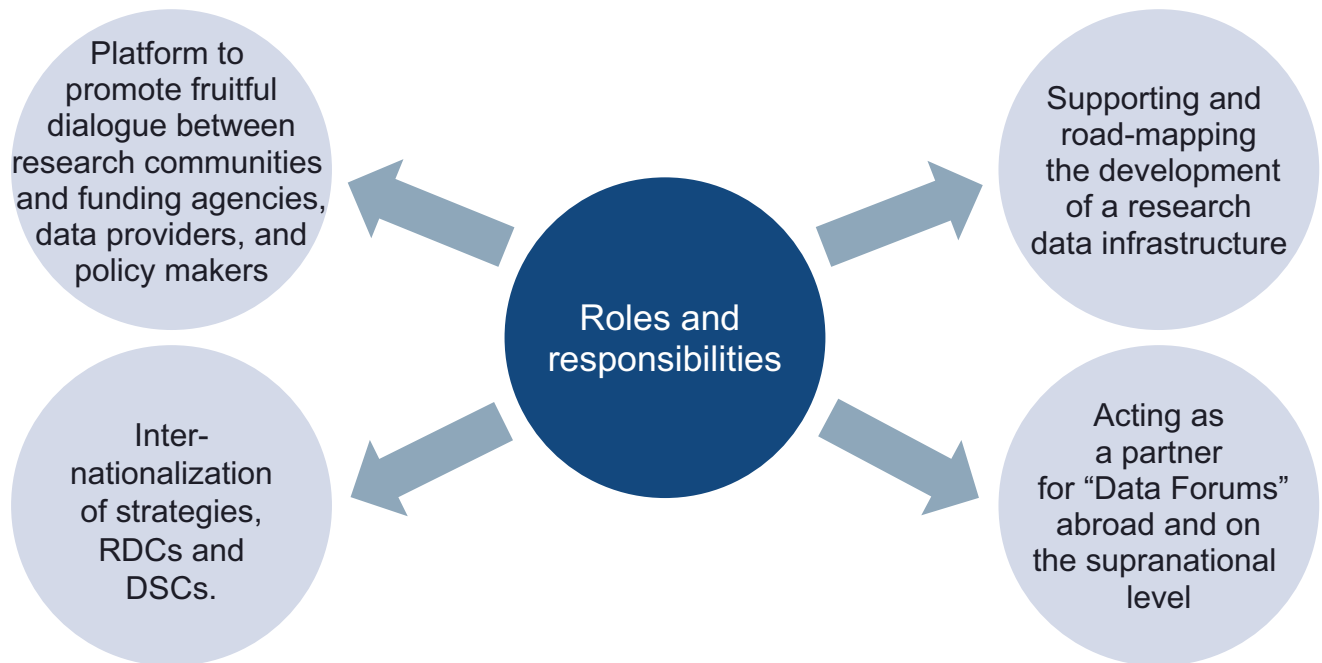
to the website of the German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD). The Council's main purpose is to advise in the development of the German data infrastructure for empirical research in the social and economic sciences. The Council is working not only to increase access to microdata and to sustainably improve data quality, but increasingly also in the development of long-term data surveys, together with both official government institutions (official statistical offices, social insurance institutions, government research units, etc.) and non-governmental institutions (universities and non-university research institutes, e.g., Leibniz Society institutions). All of the Council's work is fundamentally based on the objective of fostering constructive dialogue between the research community and data production facilities. Our website thus provides information but also offers a forum for dialogue, and we intend to expand it further into an interactive medium for communication. We are working hard to keep you informed about current developments, and we encourage you to keep us up to date on your activities as well. Please send us information on conferences or workshops that may be of interest to other readers as well as tips on current discussions and developments that should be published on our website! We look forward to hearing from you: office@ratswd.de



Sincerely,


Managing Director RatSWD

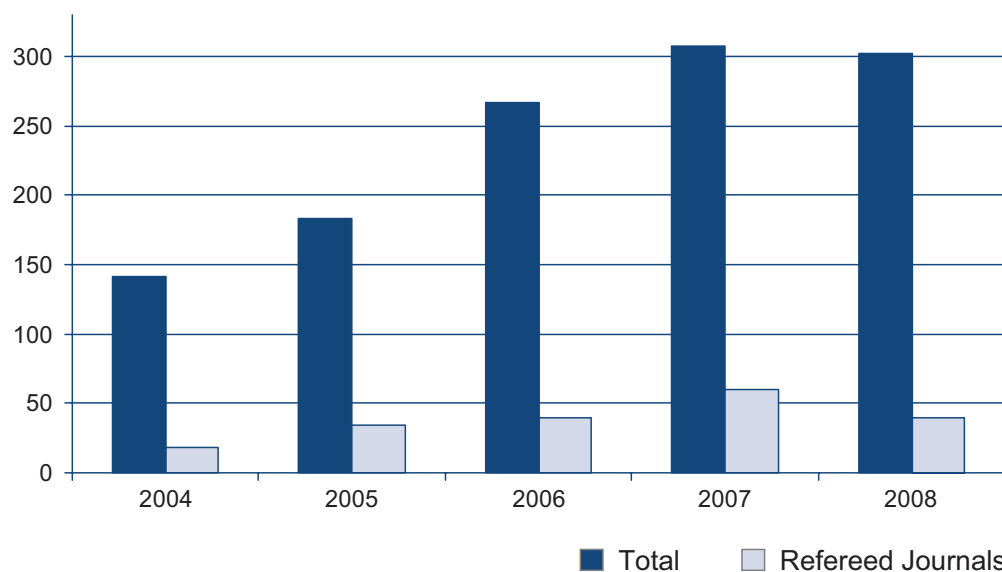
The Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD)



7

Publications 2004–2008

Publications using RCD/DSC data



Sources: EvaConsult Report "DatenNutzen" 2009 (RatSWD); Codebook Vol. A, App. 5.2. (February 2009) (BHPS); Online PSID, CDS & TA bibliography (access date: 4/5/2009) (PSID); HILDA online bibliography (access date: 4/7/2009) (HILDA); SHP-Network Publication List (February 2009) (SHP); ESS online bibliography (access date: 4/7/2009) (ESS); ALLBUS-Bibliographie- 22.Aufl. (April 2008) (ALLBUS)

8



Activities 2004–2009

Overview

1

Support

- 12 Research Data Centers (RDCs)
- 3 Data Service Centers (DSCs)
- 8 RDCs and 1 DSC are new, i.e., founded within the last 4 month!

2

Organization

- 17 workshops/conferences
- 16 expert hearings
- 22 RatSWD meetings
- 3 working groups (2 more the process of formation)
- 3 competitions for expert reports

3

Publication

- More than 130 working papers 2007–2009
- 8 books (1 in print; 1 in preparation)
- 9 newsletters 2007–2009

4

Reviews

- Various research proposals on “survey methodology” and “access to data” and
- Proposals for the organization of young scholar workshops

5

Running

- An ongoing mapping exercise (research infrastructure in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences)

6

Policy advice

- Public testimony (e.g., on the census bills)
- Lobbying for empirical research in the political and policy arena (e.g., IDF)



Activities 2004–2009

Support

Support

Organization

Publication

Reviews

Running

Policy advice

12 Research Data Centers (RDCs)

3 Data Service Centers (DSCs)

8 RDCs and 1 DSC are new, i.e., founded within the last 4 month!



Activities 2004–2009

Organization

Support

Organization

Publication

Views

Planning

Advice

17 workshops/conferences

16 expert hearings

22 RatSWD meetings

3 working groups (2 more the process of formation)

3 competitions for expert reports



Activities 2004–2009

Publication

Support

Organization

Publication

Views

Planning

Advice

More than 130 working papers 2007–2009

More than 40 Research Notes 2007 - 2009

8 books (1 in print; 1 in preparation)

8 newsletters 2007–2009



Activities 2004–2009

Reviews

Support

Organization

Publication

Reviews

Running

Advice

Various research proposals on “survey methodology” and “access to data”

Proposals for the organization of young scholar workshops



Activities 2004–2009

Running

Support

Organization

Publication

Reviews

Running

Advice

An ongoing mapping exercise (research infrastructure in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences)



Activities 2004–2009

Policy advice

Support

Organization

Publication

Views

Announcements

Policy advice

Public testimony (e.g., on the census bills)

Lobbying for empirical research in the political and policy arena (e.g., IDF)



Sharpening the profile: RatSWD activities for the future:



Continuation of ongoing efforts

The RatSWD will continue to act as:

- a platform
- a coordinator
- a representor of the interests of both data users and data providers
- an advisory body
- a standard - setter
- an evaluator of the work of RDCs DSCs
- a common point of contact for these centres
- a strategic planner of the data infrastructure
- an assessor of individual projects
- a developer of a European and international data infrastructure



Increase efforts

The RatSWD will increase its efforts to include new types of data and new data sources:

- qualitative data,
- geo-coded data
- data from economic research institutes
- administrative and commercial transaction data
- public health data
- data relevant to psychology und educational research



Sharpening the profile: RatSWD activities for the future:



Increase efforts

The RatSWD will broaden its disciplinary basis:

- broadening the circle of disciplines involved in the RatSWD
- strengthening the RatSWD's political role

The RatSWD will devote more energy to further development of RDCs / establishment of new RDCs:

- Integration - Coordination
- The RatSWD guarantees the continuous quality of data provision by awarding the approved quality label "Data Research Center."
- The goal is: **quick, user-friendly and open data access** and the avoidance of prohibitive fee models



Increase efforts

Internationalisation:

The RatSWD will internationalize its own activities to a larger extent:

- To play a facilitating role in the internationalisation strategies of RDCs and DSCs
- To represent of the interests of German data providers and users

The objective is to improve both international researchers' access to German data and German researchers' access to data collected abroad.