

# Data Access Procedure



**ICP Inter-Agency Coordination Group Meeting**

**October 20 - 24, 2025**

**Washington DC**

# Purpose of the Session

*This session aims to overview the current data access practice, inform the IACG members on possible refinements to the existing procedure to maximize the impact of the practice.*

# Outline

- 1. Current Approach**
- 2. Improved Approach**

# 1. Current Approach

# Current Approach [Background 1]

**The ICP data access policy exists since the ICP 2005 cycle:**

- By the end of the cycle, it was clear that the user community was pressing for greater access to more detailed data in subsequent ICP rounds.

**The ICP data access policy was revised for the ICP 2011 cycle:**

- By the end of the cycle, calls for greater government transparency and accountability through the open data movement gained traction.

# Background (2)

**The ICP data access policy was mentioned at the Governing Board Meeting in November 2016, where it was decided that:**

"On governance, the UNSC has decreed that the federated governance approach is to be maintained, and that it should be more country-driven, inclusive, participatory and transparent, as well as lighter and adaptable to meet the need of an evolving permanent program. (...) In order to achieve these goals, better advocacy to policy-makers and **greater data access to respond to user needs are needed.**"

**In the next Governing Board Meeting on September 2017, the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy was formalized. The main drivers to adopt this policy were:**

- Showcasing to donors that ICP generally responds to user needs
- Improving openness with regard to access to ICP data and metadata
- Addressing calls for more transparency in data underlying the ICP results

"The long-standing objective of the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy is that the data derived from the ICP should be utilized to the maximum extent possible for **statistical, research, and analytical purposes.**"

## ICP Data Access requirements:

- Signed **Confidentiality Statement** by the senior manager, head of department, or dean of the organization.
- Detailed **Research Proposal** covering the following:
  - Type data requested, justifying why it is necessary
  - Detailed project description including the context of the research proposal; topic JEL classification code(s) of the planned research; research plan; state of the literature on the topic; intended use; expected results; dissemination plans; and statement of expected benefits to the ICP
  - Curriculum Vitae of all researchers involved
  - Unique identifiers of the user accounts

## Current Approach [Requirements]

# Requirements (cont'd)

**These two documents, the signed Confidentiality Statement and written Research Proposal, are reviewed by the ICP Global Office team.**

If there are any issues regarding the use or confidentiality clauses, researchers are asked to reformulate their proposals. These follow-up questions typically include:

- Clarifying the purpose of the ICP data within the scope of the project;
- Justifying the need for unpublished data and why it can not be achieved using published data;
- Ensuring that the ICP underlying data can not be derived from the published results.



## 2. Improved Approach

# Improved Approach [Purposes]

**This update aims to transforming the data access into a dynamic tool that highlights the value and impact of the program and its datasets.**

A more structured, periodic approach would be recommended to ensure efficient data access and encourage high-quality research.

Specifically, this process will:

- **Streamline data access**

Introduce structured access windows in each cycle, aligning data access procedures with regular production of ICP results, and ensuring consistency with strategic goals to enhance the values of the ICP.

- **Engage technical experts in review process**

Involve selected experts in the review process to ensure data use aligns with global, regional and national priorities and to maximize social and scientific impact.

# Purposes (cont'd)

- **Clarify the selection process with rigorous selection criteria**

Make the data access process more transparent by announcing the data access windows, timelines, selection criteria, and the selection results.

- **Incentivize high-quality proposals**

Introduce a competitive element to incentivize high-quality proposals and foster innovation.

- **Increase research and result visibility**

Highlight and promote high-impact and innovative uses of the data, demonstrating its real-world value and the potential for transformative research.

**The researcher data will continue to be utilized for the purpose of ICP methodology and other core research, outside of the windows.** (Global Office is actively involved in any of these researches to ensure confidentiality and use of the data)

## **Systematic window**

- Periodic (bi-annual) “research window” (potentially “thematic” window), allowing researchers and practitioners to access ICP data through two open calls per year
- Elaborated selection criteria
- Evaluation of applications by ICP global office, RIAs and technical experts.
- Announcement of selection results and publications

## **Benefits**

- Enhanced supervision over data usage
- Alignment of the research themes to ICP areas of interest
- Strengthened research community
- Transparent management of data requests

# **Improved Approach [Framework]**

- [VisitINPS](#): Program by the Italian social security agency for accessing their microdata archive
- [ODISSEI](#): Microdata access grant program (twice a year) by the Dutch National Research Infrastructure for Social Sciences
- [SOEP Research Data Center at DIW](#): specific program for accessing a panel survey by the German Institute for Economic Research

## Similar Programs

**Thank you!**

