

# Access to Administrative Data in the Bundesbank

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(The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Deutsche Bundesbank or the Eurosystem.)

# Data Access in Germany: Historical Development

Where do we come from?

Access to official statistics was virtually impossible, or very costly



1990s

Bottom-up initiative of the research community and data producers

1998

The first research data centers were established



2001

The German Data Forum was established by the Federal Government

2004

30 accredited Research Data Centers

2016



## Policy evaluation can make better use of existing datasets

- **The Bundesbank – like other central banks – produces datasets which are highly valuable for policy analysis and research.**
  - So far, most of these datasets have been used to provide aggregate statistics and ad hoc analysis of specific policy issues.
  - There is significant knowledge of data and institutional background.
- **Systematic use of these data for policy analysis is often constrained by**
  - Time
  - IT-resources
  - Legal restrictions
- **The Bundesbank has launched a large-scale initiative aimed at making better use of existing data both, for policy analysis as well as internal and external researchers.**

## Scope of the Bundesbank's Research Data and Service Center (RDSC)

- The RDSC is part of the Bundesbank internal project **Integrated MicroData-based Information and Analysis System (IMIDIAS)**
- **Goals of IMIDIAS:**
  - Support policymaking process
  - Encourage cooperation with (external) researchers
  - Promote evidence-based policy-making
- **Key principles:**
  - Data as a public good
  - Transparent data access
  - Data protection

## Additional Aspects and Arguments for a RDSC

- **Trust** in researchers needed
- **Data quality** will increase
- **More results** on needed content and topics
- **Better knowledge** on data and content (recruitment)
- „**Branding**“, „*Marketing*“

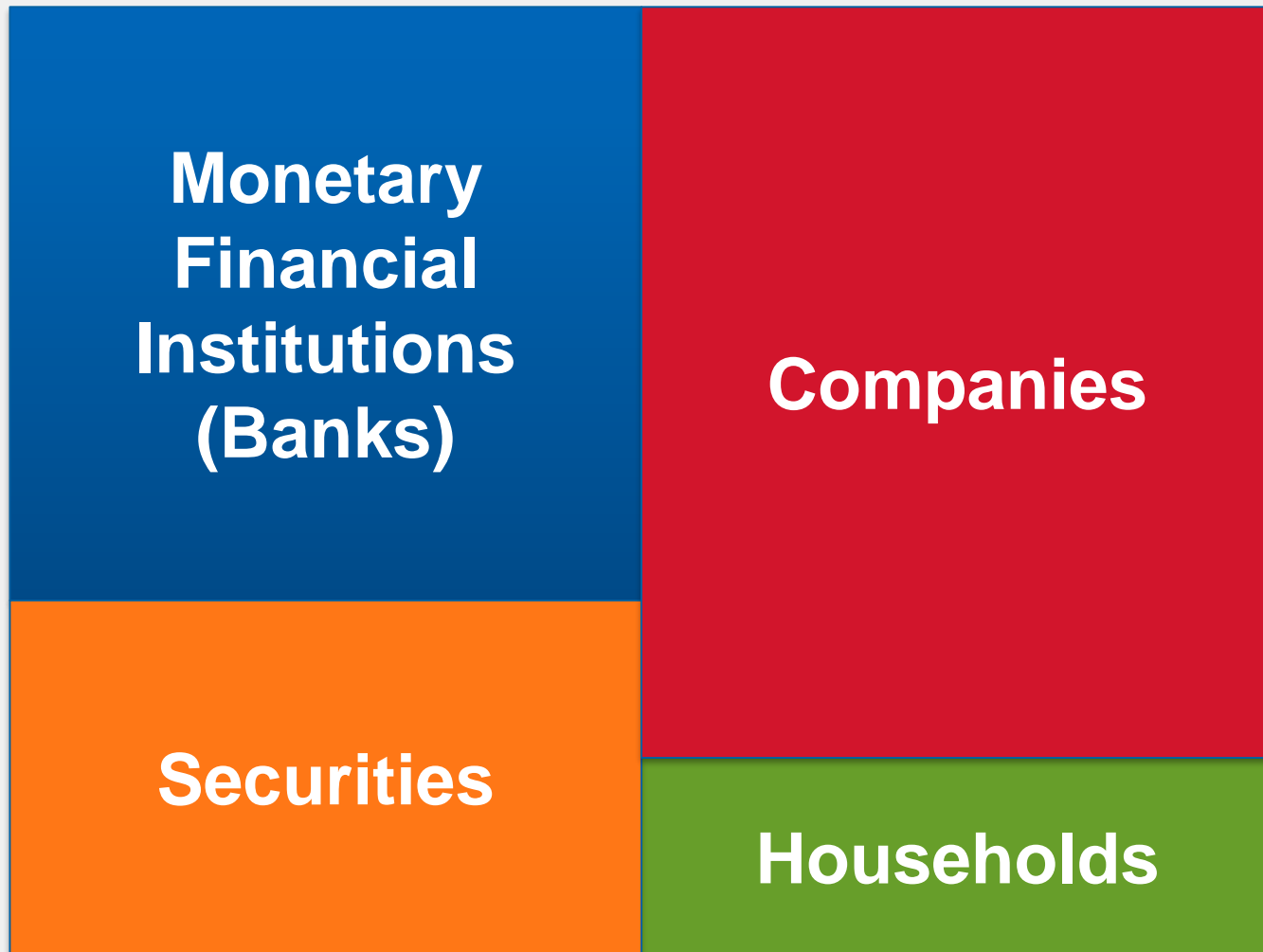
## Factsheet on the RDSC of the Bundesbank

- The RDSC has started in 2014 as part of the Statistics Department of the Bundesbank.
- **The RDSC offers access for non-commercial research to (highly sensitive) micro data of the Bundesbank for free!**
- Over 100 new projects in 2016.
- 14 employees (in 2017 at least 18).
- 12 working places for guest researchers.



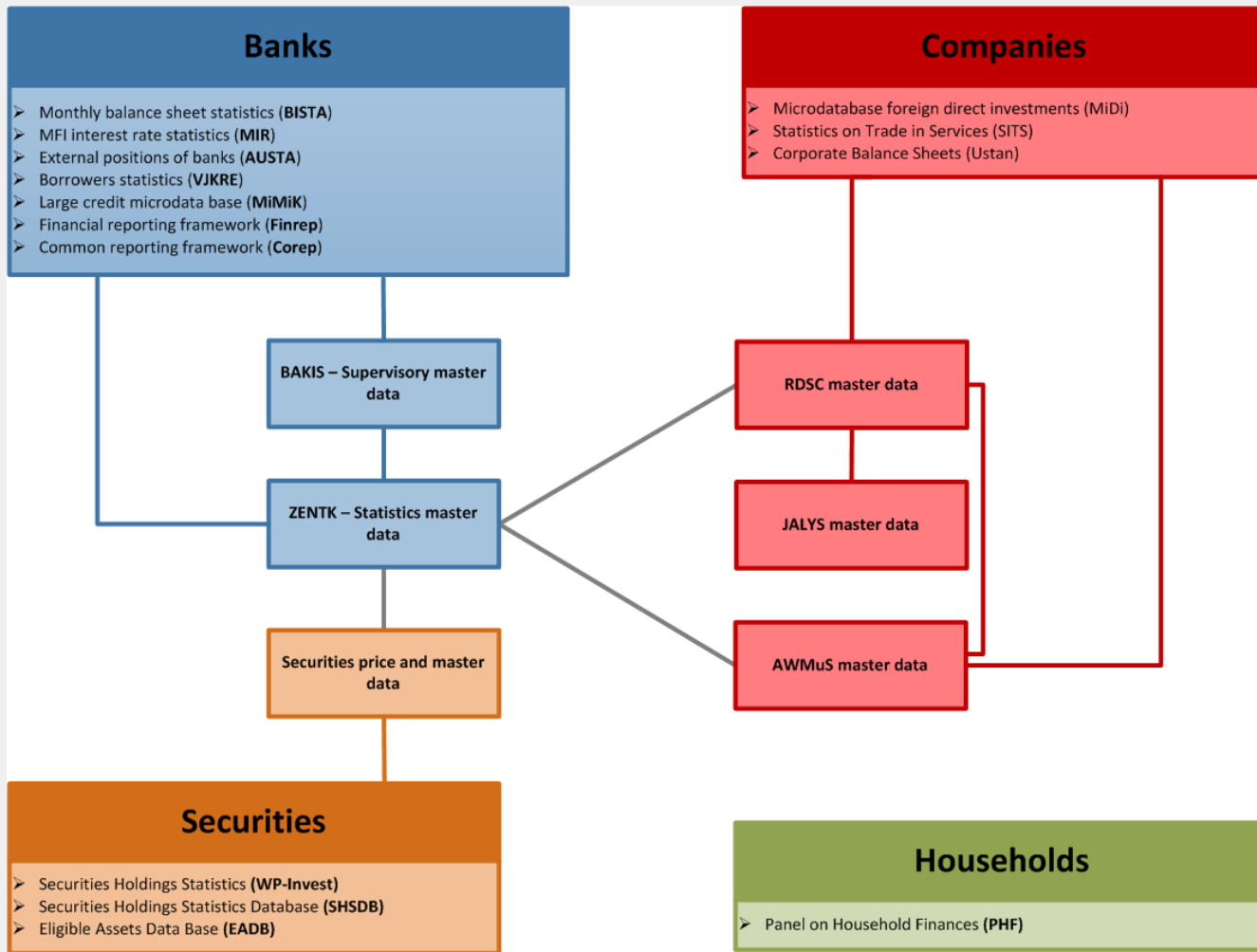
# Microdata Structure at Deutsche Bundesbank

What treasures does the Bundesbank hide?



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## The 5 Safes in the RDSC (Portfolio Approach)

- **Safe people:** non-disclosure agreement, contract (with penalty up to 60,000 Euro, publishing the name, exclusion from access up to 2 years).
- **Safe projects:** non-commercial research, project description.
- **Safe environment:** working places without internet connection, (cell) phone, photo, printer and drive.
- **Safe data:** (weakly) anonymized data.
- **Safe results:** output control, papers/presentations are checked.
- **Access to real data,** anonymization is only one dimension, others have more effects on data protection.

## “German Lessons”

- **Development** was/is fast, but **incremental**: trust building, growing data complexity, learning process ...
- (New) **skills** for researchers / data producers.
- **Engagement** of researchers (value of data work?).
- **Efficiency**: researcher passport, metadata system (with elements of tripadvisor, amazon), project management in a RDC, ...
- **Harmonization/Internationalization**: G20 initiative on data sharing and data access of central banks. INEXDA network of 5 central banks has started: France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, UK.

German Data Forum: <http://www.ratswd.de/en/start>

Deutsche Bundesbank: <http://www.bundesbank.de/rdsc>

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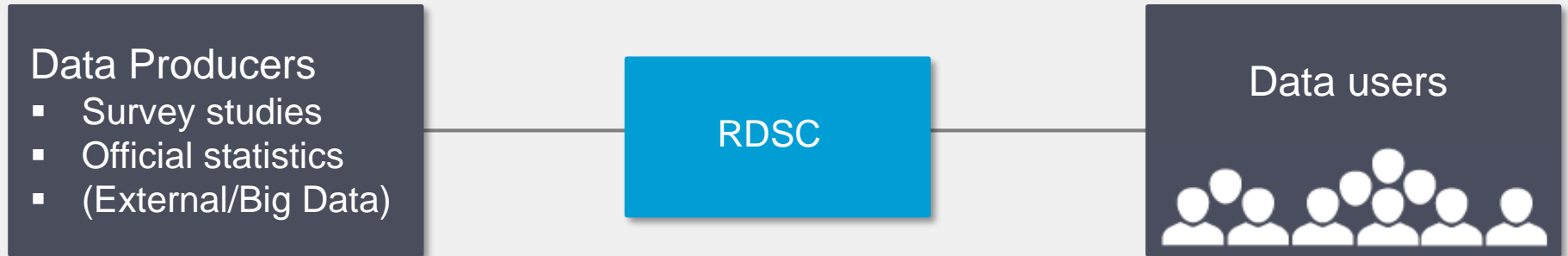
**Website:**            **www.bundesbank.de/rdsc**

**Contact:**            **fdsz-data@bundesbank.de**

### The RDSC offers access for **non-commercial** research to (highly sensitive) micro data of the Bundesbank:

- Generate (linked) micro data
- Offer advisory service on data selection and data access (data handling, research potential, scope and validity of data)
- Provide data access and data protection
- Document data and methodological aspects of the data
- Work on own research projects (in close cooperation with the Bank's business areas and the **Research Centre**)
- Organize conferences and workshops

## Data Access at the RDSC

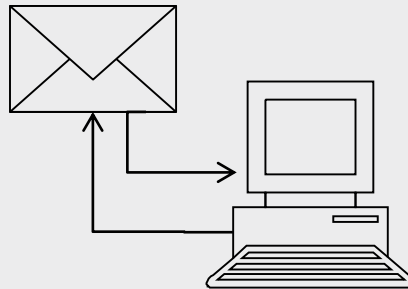


- RDSC mediates between data producers and external users.
- RDSC controls for compliance with data protection regulations.

# Modes of Data Access

## Off-Site Access

## On-Site Access



Email, encrypted  
(Scientific Use File)

Remote Execution

Guest Stay

Factually anonymous

Weakly anonymous (= confidential)

Output control

- The RDC of the Federal Employment Agency in the Institute for Employment Research offers access for **non-commercial** research to (highly sensitive) admin data (social security records), surveys and their linkages **for free**.
- Access thru 2 sites in the UK and 6 sites in the US.
- Remote Access via JoSuA (Job Submission Application) with
  - Two modes of output: internal use or publication mode,
  - Internal use mode is treated like a microdata use.



- Advisory council to the federal government
- 16 members: 8 data producers / 8 data users from research
- Development of a research data infrastructure for the social, behavioral, and economic sciences
- Accreditation of 30 research data centres
- Facilitating access to high-quality data
- Result of independent initiatives from within the scientific community