

„Round Table“

Elements of a Data Harmonisation Infrastructure

Options for Work Package 9
of the CESSDA PPP

Status Quo of Harmonisation Work

1. Expert knowledge is difficult to **find and access**
2. Harmonisations not always **transparent**
3. Difficult to **apply** even if good docs exist
4. No organised **channels** to create and distribute new harmonisations
5. Poor **incentives** for creators of harmonisations

Goals of New Infrastructure

1. **Access:** Central database with search interface
2. **Transparency:** Database allows and enforces structured documentation
3. **Extended Usability:**
 - If possible, apply routines directly to data
 - Reuse and adapt harmonisation routines
4. **Channels:**
 - Connect to existing documentation materials
 - Attached to CESSDA portal
5. **Incentives:** Harmonisation as scientific achievement in its own right

Three Models for Contribution

1. Centralised Contribution Approach
 - Only CESSDA contributes
 - Sound quality, low volume
2. Open Contribution Approach
 - Researchers may contribute freely
 - “Lemon market” problem
3. Controlled Contributors Approach
 - Registration only after approval
 - After registration, control mainly formal aspects

Additional Aspects

- Markers for intellectual authors and technical providers
- Facilitate citation of individual elements in the database
- Create visible quality and reputation markers
- Define minimal standards and best practice of documenting conversions
- Establish access/editorial control

First Steps – WP9 of the PPP

- Develop functional specs for large scale infrastructure
- Devise policies for collecting contributions & investigate cooperation options
- Select and process testing materials for harmonisation
- Develop and test demo database

Thank you!