

ESSNET on Decentralised and Remote access to Confidential Data in the ESS

**Joint UNECE/Eurostat
Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality
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Introduction

Increasing demand of microdata

- access to national datasets in Member States (MS)
- access to community statistics via Eurostat

Request of slightly anonymised microdata

- for community statistics: access only via safe centre in Luxembourg
- barrier due to local constraint
- idea: setting up a network of national Safe Centres

Current Access to EU Microdata



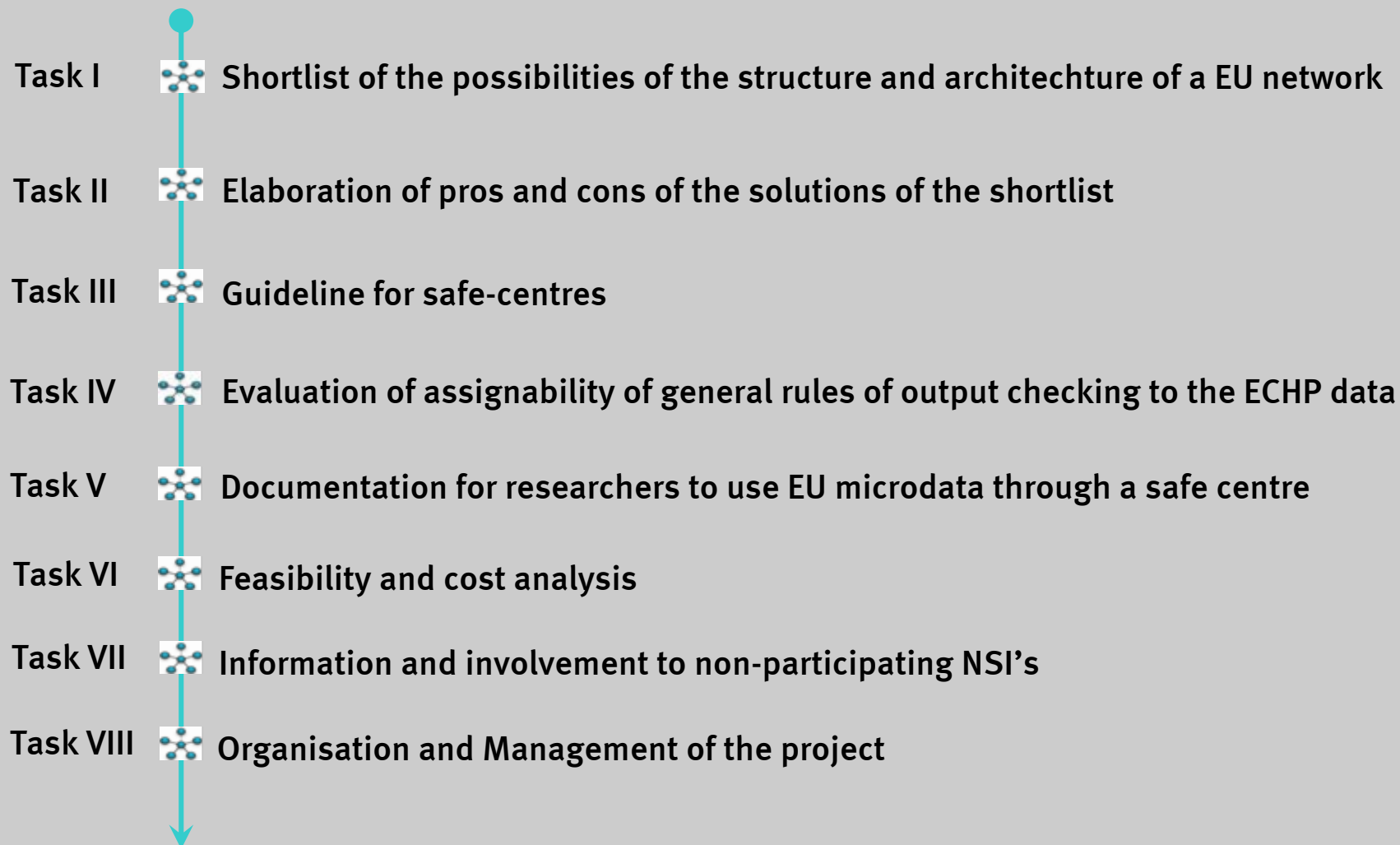
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Feasibility study (2009)

ESSnet on Decentralised Access to EU microdata sets

- Prove the feasibility of a decentralised network of MS NSI Safe Centres (on site) for an access to European community microdata exemplarily for the European Community Household Panel (ECHP)
- Advantage: a researcher from a certain MS
can use European datasets in his own MS
- Duration: 1 year
- Partners: ONS, ISTAT, CBS, HCSO, IT-NRW, Destatis
- Funded by the European Commission

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Result of feasibility study Pilot solution



Pilot Implementation (2011-2013) ESSnet on Decentralised and Remote Access to Confidential Data in the ESS

- Implementation of a remote access from NSI Safe Centres to the community statistics in Eurostat exemplarily for the ECHP
- Start, Duration: October 2011, 24 months
- Partners:
 - National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, France
 - Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Hungary
 - Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom
 - Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Portugal
 - State Statistical Institute Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany
 - Federal Statistical Office, Destatis, Germany (co-ordinator)
- Funded by the European Commission

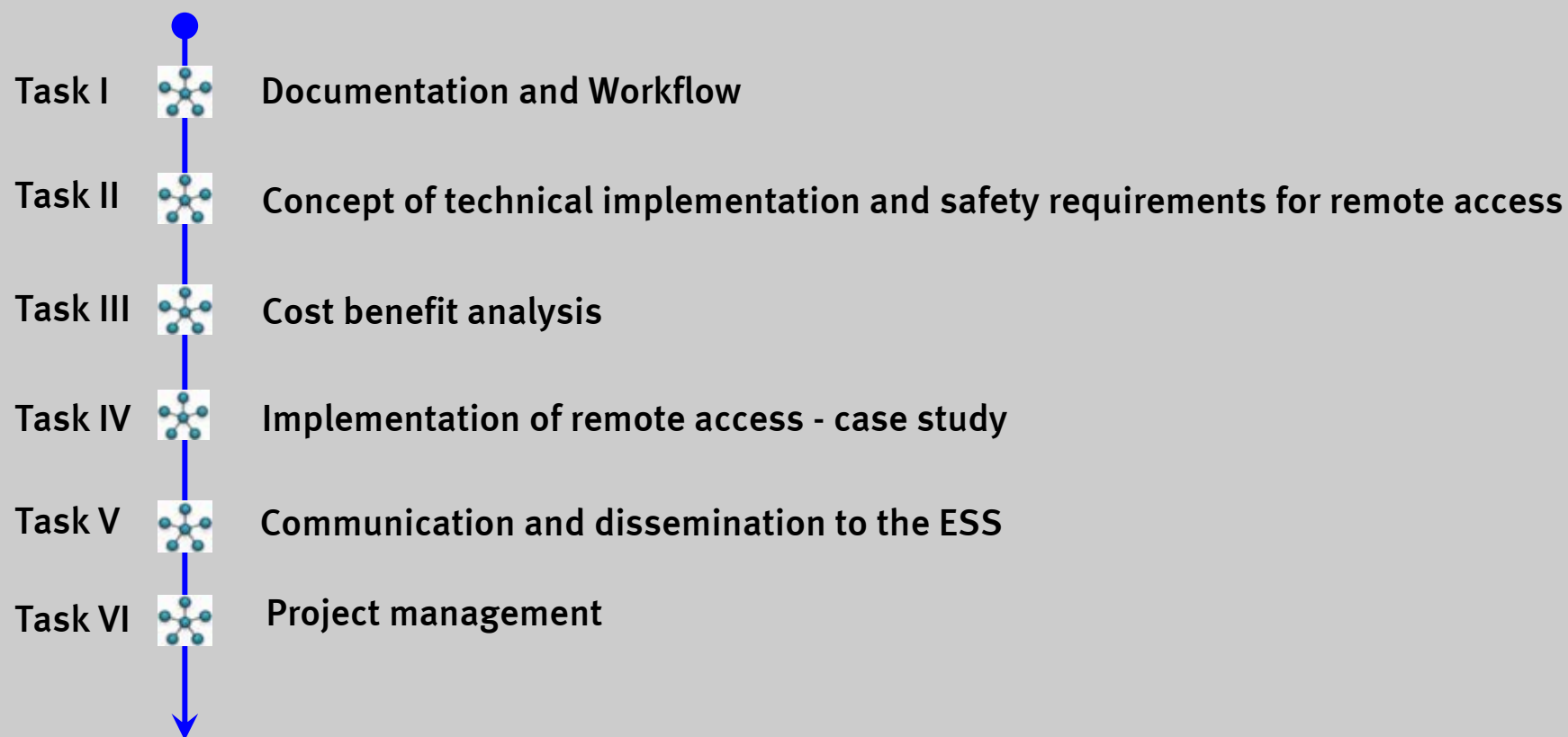
Planned action

- **Project is divided in two parts**
 - 1) Administrative, organisational and preparing phase
 - 2) Implementation phase where the connection of NSI's safe centres via remote access to the remote access system in Eurostat shall be executed. (developed by the Vision Infrastructure Project on Secure Infrastructure for Confidential data access - VIP SICON)

- **Issue**

The remote access infrastructure of Eurostat is probably not ready on time. Then a fallback scenario is to experiment all the processes and workflows from an existing NSI's remote access.

ESSnet on “Decentralised and Remote Access”



Tasks

1) Documentation and Workflow

- Define rules and standards for data access
- Draft of a request form for data access
- Compile a manual for NSI regarding workflow when data access is requested
- Documentation and communication

2) Concept of technical implementation and safety requirements for remote access

- Define client requirements, authentication process and accreditation
- Clarify role of NSI (workflow and process)
- Define input/output checking process (who, where ...)
- Possible operability of different system and interfaces
- Integration of existing system
- Test procedure: check-list of security verification (from client to host)

Tasks

3) Cost benefit analysis

- Based on the cost template of the former project
 - staff planning (rates each qualification/grade)
 - breakdown on strategy and operational costs
 - breakdown on fixed and variable costs
 - number of projects
 - IT costs

4) Implementation of remote access - case study

- Define all the necessary elements needed to implement a pilot (hardware, software, organisation, use-cases)
- Implementing a pilot in one country and evaluate it
- Extend the pilot to 2 or 3 other countries for evaluation purpose (double-output checking, workflows...)
- Organise a security audit of each process

Tasks

5) Communication and dissemination to ESS

- Upgrading and update of project website
- Presentation of the project contents on the ESSnet portal
- Presentation of intermediate and final results
- Information via e-mail invitation to MS in the ESS

Challenges / Outlook

Legal framework

- Certification of Safe Centres
- ECHP: submission allowed
- Revision of regulation on access to EU microdata (Task Force 831)

Technical framework

- Decentralised remote access from NSI to Eurostat or fall back scenario

Linking with other projects

- VIP SICON, Data without Boundaries (DwB), ESSNet on SCD, SDMX, etc.

Share of costs

- Eurostat supports?
- Self-financed?
- User covers costs?

Information

- Decentralised Access to EU Microdata Sets:
<http://www.safe-centre.eu>
- Eurostat ESSnet projects:
<http://www.essnet-portal.eu>

Thank you for your attention

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