

## **CAMPUS-File AFiD-Panel Industrial Enterprises**

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### **1. Motivation**

The Research Data Centres (RDC) of the Statistical Offices of the Länder and the Federal Statistical Office offer different ways of access to a wide range of official German microdata.

On the one hand there is the possibility of analysing the microdata at a Safe Centre or via remote execution (On-site-use). In addition to that, the Off-site-use, with the access forms of Scientific Use Files (SUF) and CAMPUS-Files, allows analysing the microdata outside the safe premises of the statistical offices (Zühlke et al., 2007).

The access forms differ with respect to the level of anonymity and information potential of the used data. The closer the microdata will get to the user the stronger the anonymisation, which was applied during the preparation of the datasets, and the lower the remaining information content of the datasets will be.

As specified by the Federal Statistics Law (BStatG), there are also differences concerning the groups of people that may be given access to the microdata sets. All forms of access, with the exception of the CAMPUS-Files, may only be used by researchers at research institutions with the purpose of independent scientific research (Federal Statistics Law §16,6). Even though CAMPUS-Files are absolutely anonymised datasets, they are a good instrument for students and young professionals to learn to work with official microdata sets. In addition to that CAMPUS-Files are used to promote the different statistics of the RDC and to motivate the research community to analyse the de facto or formal anonymised microdata sets at the Safe Centres or via remote execution<sup>1</sup>. Most of the CAMPUS-Files provided by the RDC are personal or household data. For that reason we developed the CAMPUS-File AFiD<sup>2</sup>-Panel Industrial Enterprises, to extend the offer of enterprise and establishment level CAMPUS-Files in the RDC.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of de facto and formal anonymised microdata: [http://www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/en/data\\_access.asp](http://www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/en/data_access.asp).

<sup>2</sup> The acronym stands for “Amtliche Firmendaten für Deutschland”, meaning “Official Firm data for Germany”.