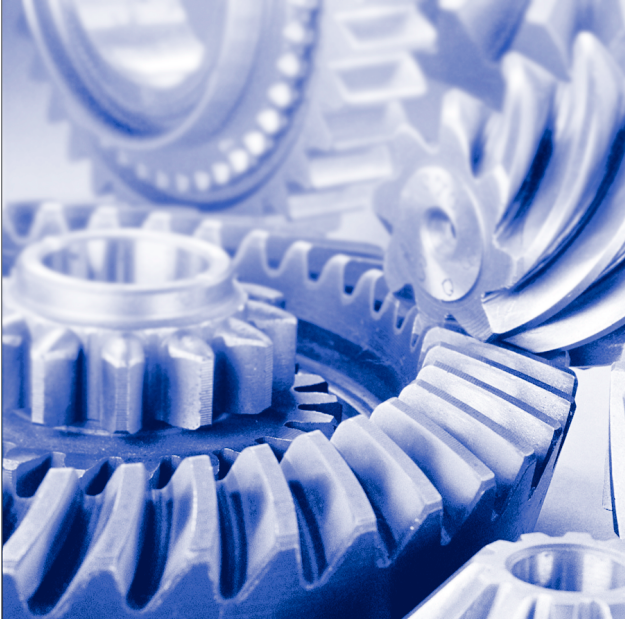


# IZA

## Infrastructure



IZA has a powerful infrastructure at its disposal. It is endowed with modern IT applications and an effective data service center as well as a wide range of services through the IZA library for staff and guests of the institute.

## IZA Data Service Center for the Use of National and International Micro Data

The improvement of the available database is a central precondition for the advancement of labor market research and the evaluation of labor market policies. This is only possible, however, if – through cooperation between official data producers and academe – micro data are increasingly opened up and made available for scientific analysis. Micro data and corresponding methods for analysis are necessary prerequisites for well-founded labor market research and policy consulting.

Various factors have led to the rather incomplete availability of micro data in Germany: a lack of coordination between institutions collecting data and scientific users, legal restrictions of data protection as well as restrictive information policy of official institutions. Leaving time-consuming and expensive data collection aside, it is often impossible to make full use of the resulting empirical material. This means missing opportunities for scientific discoveries.

IZA has started to point to this unsatisfactory situation at an early stage. In cooperation with other economists it has developed proposals for improved data availability to empirically oriented social scientists and economists (cf. R. Hauser/G. G. Wagner/K. F. Zimmermann, *Erfolgsbedingungen empirischer Wirtschaftsforschung und empirisch gestützter wirtschafts- und sozialpolitischer Beratung*. Ein Memorandum, *Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv*, 82 (1998), 369-379).

Overcoming these restrictions is one of the most important challenges IZA is ready to face through the institution of an international data service center.

The aim of this data service center is the promotion of cooperation between official statistics and academe and the development of methodical solutions for existing problems of access and use of micro data sets. Moreover, the IZA data service center aims at collecting, processing and providing national and international micro data sets and at advising researchers in the use of data.

Furthermore, IZA plans to communicate information on and access to national and international micro data sets and – if possible – make them accessible. This is expected to lead to synergy effects through the medium of micro data. The experience and the methods of different scientists in relation to the use of the micro data sets made available in the IZA data service center are to be made centrally accessible to academe.

# IZA Infrastructure Library and Information Center



With its concentration on issues of labor economics and labor market policy, the IZA library supports staff, Research Fellows, Research Affiliates and guest researchers of the institute in their research work. Beside the extensive use by internal researchers, the library is generally accessible to external users as a reference library. All relevant national and international publications as well as the most important data sources are available for use in the IZA library. The collection currently includes more than 2200 monographs, about 150 scientific journals and about 100 discussion paper series.

The webCatalogue makes the total contents of the library accessible and provides user-friendly research tools. Moreover, staff and guest researchers may use the modern intranet system to immediately access databases, electronic journals, and the catalogue of journals and discussion paper series available in the library.

In addition, the IZA library offers support with literature research for IZA staff, Fellows, Affiliates, and guest researchers. Publications that are not available in the IZA library are provided from other libraries at short notice.

With its flexible structure and its continuously expanding provision of literature and services, the IZA library makes a crucial contribution to efficient and well-founded research work. ■