



FIRSTRUN – Fiscal Rules and Strategies under Externalities and Uncertainties.
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FIRSTRUN Deliverable 8.1

Data management plan

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Background information

The FIRSTRUN (Fiscal Rules and Strategies under Externalities and Uncertainties) project is a European Union funded multinational research project that aims to investigate the need for fiscal policy coordination in the EU, to assess the coherence of the recent reforms in the economic governance framework, and to identify reforms to fill possible gaps in the current EU governance framework. The duration of the project is 36 months, starting on March 1, 2015 and ending on February 28, 2018.

The project does not generate entirely new research data.¹ Instead, it relies on official records and datasets, such as national statistics data, that are readily available to everyone. In order to ensure the replicability of our results, the datasets and the variables used, as well as the methods we use to analyse the data, will be described in detail in our research publications. In these cases, there is no need for us to maintain a dataset.

In some cases, however, we employ data that is currently not readily available. In these cases, we make the datasets that we use in our research available to others. At this stage, we have in mind only one dataset where this applies (“dataset of fiscal variables”). In what follows, we describe this data and our data management plans regarding it. It is possible, however, that we will create other similar datasets during the project. In that case, we will update this data management plan accordingly.

A dataset of fiscal variables

Description

This dataset includes growth, structural budget and output gap forecasts by the Commission, the OECD and the IMF as well additional short- and medium-term fiscal sustainability indicators starting from year 2000 up to the most recent figures available. The dataset consists of vintages of time series of the relevant variables. The different vintages of the time series data are currently not readily available. They have been obtained directly from the corresponding institutions by request.

The dataset will be used, for instance, to analyse the uncertainty related to standard measures of fiscal sustainability. This dataset will underpin at least deliverables D2.2 and D2.7 (described in the FIRSTRUN research plan).

Metadata

The dataset includes descriptive variable names. We will complement the dataset with a document describing how the data is arranged and where it is obtained from. Since the variables itself are defined in detail in the latest vintages of the original datasets, there is no need for us to provide detailed definitions.

Data sharing

The dataset will be shared first via the project website (www.firstrun.eu) as an Excel file. The webpage is maintained by the Research Institution of the Finnish Economy, which is also responsible for storing the

¹ Following [Guidelines an Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020](#) (footnote 5), we define ‘research data’ as “information, in particular facts or numbers, collected to be examined and considered as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation”.

data. Access to the data will be open to anyone (subject to permission by the institutions that have given us the original data). The dataset will be given a digital object identifier.

Archiving and preservation

The dataset will be stored on the server at the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy. An offline backup of the data on the server is made every month.