Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: The implications of the interaction between EU fiscal instruments and welfare states for access to social protection

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Project abstract:

This PhD research project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council of the United Kingdom and the Scottish Funding Council. This research assesses the implications of the interaction between the institutional design of European Union (EU) fiscal governance and redistributive policies and national welfare and labour market characteristics, for the implementation of EU social policies in Member States. This is done by looking at the institutional changes and social outcomes that the Council Recommendation for access to social protection for workers and the self-employed adopted in 2019 produced in selected Member States, through national policymaking shaped by the enforcement of the implementation of such policies.

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The implications of the interaction between EU fiscal instruments and welfare states for access to social protection

Administrative Information

1) School or Institute

- CAHSS - School of Social and Political Science

2) Name and Contact details of supervisor(s)

Dr. Eleanor Brooks [Eleanor.Brooks@ed.ac.uk]
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3) Project start date

2024-09-09

4) Project end date

2027-09-09

Data Collection

5) Data Collection

The data will be collected from official documents and official meeting records publicly available from the EU institutions, and semi-structured interviews with key informants at the EU and national level from public institutions and civil society and business organisations.

First, data will be collected through publicly available official documents and official meeting records will be done through the EU institutions, in particular the European Commission, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions, and the European Social and Economic Committee.

Second, data will be collected from semi-structured interviews to be conducted with representative actors from the EU institutions and relevant civil society and business organisations at the EU level, national delegations of the countries under study. These data will focus on the period between 2020 and 2024. This second type of data implies more ethical considerations than the first, requiring a more careful data management in relation on how to deal with the more sensitive information while ensuring the anonymity of the participants.

Documentation & Metadata

6) Documentation & Metadata

The data will be collected from official documents and official meeting records from the EU institutions, and semi-structured interviews with key informants at the EU and national level from public institutions and civil society and business organisations. Data analysis will be based on the widely used thematic analysis (TA) method in policymaking processes, by

using discourse as the research object that allows the identification of patterns and themes within the language used in the collected data.

Data collection for official documents and official meeting records will be done through the EU institutions, in particular the European Commission, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions, and the European Social and Economic Committee. In addition, data will be collected from semi-structured interviews to be conducted with representative actors from the EU institutions and other relevant civil society and business organisations at the EU level, and national delegations of the countries under study. These data will focus on the period between 2020 and 2024.

Regarding data preparation, reference labels will be created for each type of data and a categorization by actor type will also be included to capture the different functions, considering the UK Data Archive guidelines (Van den Eyden et al., 2011). For transcriptions of records from meetings and interviews Microsoft Word will be used and manual quality checks will be conducted on these. Finally, data analysis will follow the six phases of TA from Braun et al. (2019), including the design of a codebook scheme with both deductive and inductive codes created from the three components of the explanatory factors linked to the second, third and fourth research questions – structural factors, agency factors and throughput legitimacy evaluative criteria. In addition, the types of codes will be based on the three sorts of coding from Richards (2020) and the coding process will be conducted on NVivo 14[1].

[1]Lumivero (2023)

Ethics & Legal Compliance

7) Ethics & Legal Compliance

This project is accompanied by an ethical review process (ID 4801), submitted and approved by the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Edinburgh, that includes a participant information sheet and a informed consent form. The ethical risks of this research are understood regarding the importance of protecting the anonymity of interviewees and their confidential data at all times of the research.

In addition, the data collection and management process consists of the following:

- Data will be collected using encrypted/secure tools
- All data will be stored in encrypted folders on the University of Edinburgh’s secure server (DataStore) and will be password-protected.
- Digital notebooks will be used for field notes using MS OneNote software.
- The principal investigator has received training in data security standards.
- Laptops/devices used to access DataStore will be encrypted and/or password protected and kept behind lock and key when not in use.
- All data analysis will be conducted by accessing DataStore directly to reduce the risk of accidental loss/deletion of data

Personal data:

- Personal data will be stored separately from research data.
- Written informed consent for data sharing will be sought from participants taking part in the interviews.

Storage and Back-Up

8) Where will your data be stored and backed-up during the project?

The data will be stored on the DataStore platform of the University of Edinburgh, linked to the Principal Investigator's student account. This storage platform is automatically encrypted and password protected and has its own back-up services. This is the procedure previously applied to the MSc thesis of the Principal Investigator within the School of Social and Political Science, considering the level of sensitivity of the data and the anonymization process that is carried out.

Regarding interviews data, after conducting them, the recorded data will be immediately uploaded to the DataStore platform in the Principal Investigator account of the University of Edinburgh. The original file will be deleted from the recording device. In addition, a code will be attached to each data file in order to not disclaim the interviewer. The code list will be stored in the

DataStore platform.

Selection and Preservation

9) Where will the data be stored long-term?

The interview raw data will be kept for 36 months after the end of the PhD project (expected in 30/09/2027), or after all publications have been published (if not within the 36-month period). The data will continue to be stored in the DataStore Principal Investigator's account.

10) Which data will be retained long-term?

All data will be retained long-term under the secure conditions previously described, until the end of the research project or the need to completion of academic publications after this period.

Data Sharing

11) Will the data produced from your project be made open?

- No: go to 13

13) Please explain why your data cannot be made open.

Consent from participants does not allow for making the data open. Consent has only been sought for use in the PhD and re-use in any related publications.

Responsibilities & Resources

14) Who will be responsible for the research data management of this project?

The principal investigator - João Paulo Magalhães

15) Will you require any training or resources to properly manage your research data throughout this project?

The researcher has undertaken all required and recommended Data Management training. No further training are expected at this time.