



REvaluation Conference 2027

"Scouting Paths on Shifting Maps"

February 25 - February 26, 2027, Vienna, Austria

Special Session:

Title Session: *The Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC): A New Infrastructure for Policy Evaluation in Austria*

Tobias Herzog - Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC)

Abstract/ Description:

Overview

High-quality policy evaluation increasingly depends on secure access to microdata linking administrative, survey, and register data. In Austria, such access has long been fragmented, legally complex, and resource-intensive for researchers. The Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC), operated by Statistics Austria, represents a new and innovative opportunity for conducting policy evaluation in Austria.

This Special Session focuses on the AMDC as a new way of conducting policy evaluation in Austria. The AMDC provides a centralized and legally secure infrastructure that enables researchers of accredited institutions to access a wide range of pseudonymized microdata within a controlled environment. By enabling secure remote access to linked microdata, the AMDC has the potential to substantially expand the scope and improve the quality of policy evaluation research.

Objectives

The session pursues two closely connected objectives. First, it offers researchers the opportunity to present evaluation projects already conducted using the AMDC. Contributions may showcase advanced empirical designs, innovative data linkages, or substantive evaluation findings that would not have been feasible without this infrastructure. In doing so, the session aims to demonstrate the concrete value added of the AMDC for evidence-based policymaking and applied evaluation practice in Austria.

Second, the session explicitly invites reflection on remaining challenges and future development needs. While the AMDC marks a significant step forward, its full potential for evaluation research has not yet been realized. Contributors are therefore encouraged to discuss technical, practical, and institutional constraints encountered in their projects, including issues related to data availability and linkage, documentation, approval procedures, computational resources, or timelines. Reflections on legal, organizational, and governance aspects are equally welcome.

By bringing together applied evaluators, academic researchers, and stakeholders familiar with the AMDC framework, this Special Session seeks to foster a constructive dialogue on how the AMDC can be further developed to better support rigorous evaluation research and strengthen data-driven public policy in Austria.



Extended abstracts are welcomed, please see the submission guidelines: [Call for Contributions](#).

To directly submit your extended abstract, [click here](#).

Deadline for abstract submission: July 31, 2026

Strand 3:

Data, tools and technology in evaluation

Contact Person:

Tobias Herzog - Tobias.Herzog@statistik.gv.at