

## **Recommendation Regarding the Statistics Act**

In 2009 the Statistics Act of 2000 was amended on the basis of a bill submitted by the Federal Chancellery. Paragraph 31 of the earlier version of the Statistics Act prohibited Statistik Austria from passing on statistical data concerning individual cases to other institutions.

The social sciences refer to such statistical data as micro-data and its use in scientific analyses is standard international practice. On 11 March 2009, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union issued a Regulation (No. 223/2009) allowing policy advisors and scientists to access micro-data that has been deidentified. In other countries, too, for example, Germany, the use of such statistical information, is also standard practice. Not least of all for this reason, the Austrian Council considers it essential to influence the reform of the legal framework governing the use of statistical data.

On the basis of Strategy 2020, the Austrian Council recommends creating a legal framework that will allow the scientific community and the Austrian Council, as the highest government advisory body on RTI policy, to access micro-data that has been de-identified. This will take into account developments in the use of micro-data and ensure that policymakers receive advice of the highest quality.