Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: “MAC” - The Multi-jurisdictional and Federal Impact upon Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters – UK and German International Criminal Co-operation against the background of Brexit

Creator: Paul Arnell

Principal Investigator: Paul Arnell

Data Manager: Paul Arnell

Affiliation: Robert Gordon University

Funder: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

Template: AHRC Data Management Plan

ORCID iD: 0000-0001-7874-2272

Project abstract:

This research project examines how the federal and multi-jurisdictional nature of Germany and the UK affect the nature and degree of the international criminal co-operation undertaken by each in the context of Brexit and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement 2020.

ID: 35597

Last modified: 05-02-2021

Copyright information:

The above plan creator(s) have agreed that others may use as much of the text of this plan as they would like in their own plans, and customise it as necessary. You do not need to credit the creator(s) as the source of the language used, but using any of the plan's text does not imply that the creator(s) endorse, or have any relationship to, your project or proposal

“MAC” - The Multi-jurisdictional and Federal Impact upon Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters – UK and German International Criminal Co-operation against the background of Brexit

Data Summary

1. Briefly introduce the types of data the research will create. Why did you decide to use these data types?

The research will create data in the form of replies to interview questions. It will therefore be survey data. This will be in digital form. It will be digitized into Word format following the interviews.

This data type was chosen because it elicits the information sought. This information comprises the knowledge and views of key stakeholders in the systems of criminal co-operation within the multi-jurisdictional UK and federal Germany.

The research will also involve the collection and analysis of existing secondary material in the public domain on the subject matter of the project. Extant knowledge and insight will comprise an important facet providing context and background to the primary data ascertained through the interviews.

Data Collection

2. Give details on the proposed methodologies that will be used to create the data. Advise how the project team selected will be suitable for the data/digital aspects of the work, including details of how the institution’s data support teams may need to support the project

The data will be created by the PDRA and RAs employed by the project and directed by the project's two PIs through either face-to-face or remote semi-structured interviews with identified stakeholders. The responses to the questions asked will be either digitized by project team and transformed into electronic Word documents or submitted by the interviewee as a digital document.

The PDRA and RAs who will be recruited to the project will be trained in order to ensure they are digitally literate and aware of the data management plan and the project’s and their responsibilities, as well as the GDPR.

The nature and quality of the data will be ensured through the project team producing thoroughly considered and standardised questions together with specific training and advice for the PDRA and RAs on interview protocol, including the importance of clear and standarised vocabulary. The project team will ensure the data is of high quality and comparable as between the jurisdictions.

The project team is aware of possible linguistic nuances and subtleties resulting from the set interview questions being posed in both English and German. Efforts will be made to ensure the interview questions are as closely aligned in meaning as the languages allow. Where possible and appropriate English will be used.

Naming conventions and formatting templates will be used to standardise the information acquired. The PIs will ensure all data is appropriately designated and formatted similarly.

The project team has the assistance and advice of the research offices of the universities in which the staff are employed. Individuals employed in a data management capacity within the host universities will be consistently and actively engaged throughout the duration of the project.

The project team also has the support of IT specialists with their institutions, and will utilize that expertise so as to ensure the best available recording techniques and technology, including automatic cloud storage, are relied upon.

Short-term Data Storage

3. How will the data be stored in the short term?

The project data will be stored in the short term within the central and secure research drives of the institutions in which the research project's PIs are based. The storage systems are compliant with the with GDPR.

RGU has secured networked drives available for research to facilitate day to day management and sharing of research data during the lifetime of the project. Some of this data may be held in "cloud" based servers, all of which are compliant with GDPR.

3a What backup will you have in the in-project period to ensure no data is lost?

All RGU network drives are backed up on a 4 hourly basis. Data will not be stored on laptops or other mobile devices, but copied immediately onto RGU storage (as detailed above).

No data will be stored on other devices such as laptops, phones etcetera.

Long-term Data Storage

4. How the data will be stored in the long term?

The data created by the project will be compiled into a data-set, and will be stored as open-data on a publicly accessible repository. The repository will be either based within the institutions of the project PIs, eg RGU's own repository, Openair, and/or within a national repository such as the UK data service.

Data will be also held on the Research Project's German partner's repository, therefore date will be open access concurrently in both jurisdictions.

4a. Where have you decided to store it, why is this appropriate?

Storage on secure institutional servers and national repositories are both the most secure in the sense of interference point of view and open from an access perspective.

4b. How long will it be stored for and why?

There is no set timeline for storage. It will be held as long as it retains some relevance and currency.

4c. Costs of storage – why are these appropriate? Costs related to long term storage will be permitted providing these are fully justified and relate to the project Full justification must be provided in Justification of Resources (JoR)

The costs of storage are minimal, and a part of the institutional responsibilities of the project PI's employers.

Data Sharing

5. How the data will be shared and the value it will have to others

The data will be shared through the project’s publications and outputs and via the repository. It will be of value to persons working in criminal justice in a international and co-operative sense. The data could assist those working towards maximising the efficient and effective nature of international criminal co-operation in multi-jurisdictional and federal states.

Outputs of the project include country-specific reports on the nature of international criminal cooperation in light of their multi-jurisdiction or federal structure and a manual of best practice identified across the jurisdictions. These are designed to have specific and practical value to professionals working in the area.

5a. How the data will enhance the area and how it could be used in the future?

There is a dearth of data addressing the effect of multi-jurisdictional and federal states on international criminal co-operation. The project aims to uncover the position and views of leading stakeholders working in the area. The data may inform both policy and legislative changes as well as institutional working practices to ensure that co-operation is effective and efficient and that the human rights of accused, convicted and other persons affected by international criminal justice are fully respected.

Subsequent to the project, future research in the UK and Germany or in other jurisdictions in the area of the project would undoubtedly benefit from the insights unearthed, recorded and analysed.

5b. Releasing the data – advise when you will be releasing and justify if not releasing in line with AHRC guidelines of a minimum of three years. If the data will have value to different audiences, how these groups will be informed?

The data acquired will be published as soon as possible and practicable. It will be lodged on the open access repositories of the PI's universities.

The data may have value to different audiences. The dissemination plans of the project take this into account. They include conference papers, academic and professional journal article publications and country-specific reports of the nationally focused findings. The audiences include criminal justice professionals, criminal justice NGOs and advocates, inter-governmental liaison professionals and members of co-operative organisations including Europol and Eurojust.

5c. Will the data need to be updated? Include future plans for updating if this is the case.

It is not envisaged that the data would need to be updated.

Conclusion of the 24 December 2020 EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement has set the general parameters for post-Brexit EU-UK criminal cooperation. It is envisaged that these will continue for the foreseeable future.

5d. Will the data be open or will you charge for it? Justify if charging to access the data

The data will be open access, available free of charge.

5e. Financial requirements of sharing – include full justification in the JoR

N/A

Ethical and Legal Considerations

6a. Any legal and ethical considerations of collecting the data

The data will be collected only subsequent to the agreement of the interviewees, signing a consent form addressing all the relevant aspects of data management. This include the anonymisation of the data, intimation of the uses to which the data will be put, stipulation of whether an individual response can be referred to verbatim etcetera.

The research project team will receive assistance and advice on the applicable ethical and legal aspects of the data collection where necessary from their employer’s research offices and in-house lawyers.

6b. Legal and ethical considerations around releasing and storing the data – anonymity of any participants, following promises made to participants

As noted, the anonymity of all participants will be ensured – with appropriate protocols and practices being followed.