European experience: problems and solutions

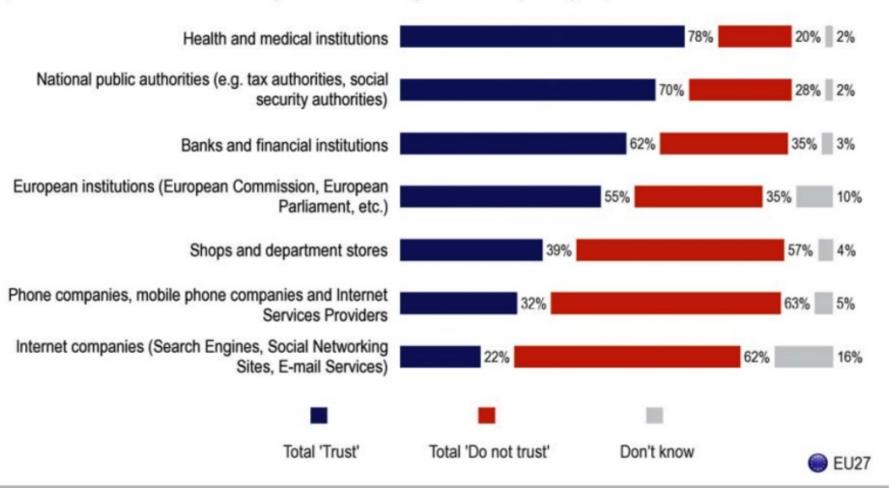


Develop a harmonized approach to legislation designed to provide individuals and organizations with what has become known as the 'right to privacy'.

Create a research environment (the European Research Area') in which research interests are promoted via cross-border access to microdata free from legal constraints and other obstacles.

Figure 1: The views of EU citizens: trust in the ability of that various types of institutions to protect personal information

QB25. Different authorities (government departments, local authorities, agencies) and private companies collect and store personal information. To what extent do you trust the following institutions to protect your personal information?



Source: TNS Opinion and social (2011)

European Experience: identifying and removing barriers to data sharing

- the legal situation of those bodies holding data;
- the lack of agreed and common standards covering data security and the authentication of potential research users;
- the need for public support for the use for research of de-identified personal information;
- the need for a coordinated governance structure for all activities associated with access, linking and sharing personal information

Solutions – multi agency and multi national



Promoting access to micro-data held by EU national statistical institutes

- Encourages transnational access to data held at national statistical institutes by funding the travel and subsistence costs for researchers and paying any usage charges.
- Promoting the development of a network of remote access centres. Remote access is provided by various means, including the use of thin client technology, submission of analytical code by email and the use of encryption devices.
- Additional activities (standards development, training workshops, etc.) all of which are designed to promote wider use of European official microdata for research.

Solutions – multi agency and multi national



Research access to and linkage between government administrative datasets

- Four Administrative Data Research Centres with secure data settings, remote access and an Administrative Data Service providing links to government administrative data.
- Partnerships with the national statistical authorities and major government departments.
- Working to harmonise legislation, metadata, training and access procedures via strong governance arrangement.

Solutions – multi agency and multi national



Research access to and linkage between government administrative datasets

 Public engagement is critical to the further development of these valuable data resources

Public engagement video (draft only)