

Remote access to microdata

Italian National Statistical System



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INTRODUCTION

Microdata represent a fundamental source for researchers carrying out more detailed analyses at thematic and territorial level. Istat **Elementary Data Analysis Laboratory (ADELE)** is a safe centre where researchers can access to secure use files to carry out statistical analyses on: i) microdata collected and validated by Istat throughout surveys on individuals, households, enterprises and institutions; ii) specific databases integrating different sources.

Access to microdata is regulated by Art. 5-ter of Legislative Decree No. 33/2013, which has adopted the **Guidelines on access for scientific purposes to the elementary data of the Italian National Statistical System** (Comstat Directive No. 11/2018).

Access to microdata can also be remotely with accredited research entities.



Accreditation agreement terms

- Operation and organization of the remote laboratory
- Data security measures
- Tasks and responsibilities of each party
- Person responsible for personal data processing
- Person responsible for data protection
- Confidentiality undertaking of the research entity
- Measures in case of any abnormality, security incident or violation of the rules
- Financial charges for the parties

SOLUTION DESIGN

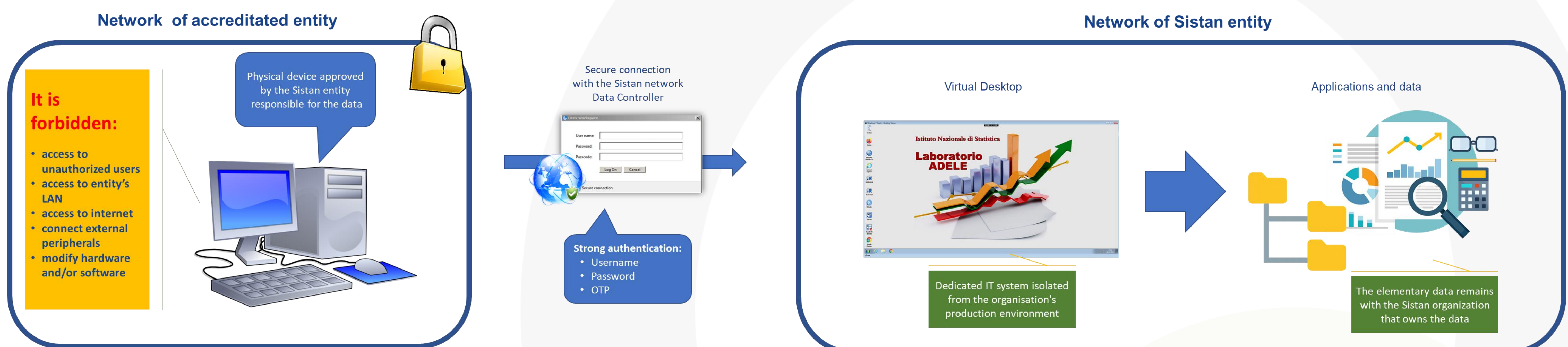
In order to access the ISTAT network and connect to the Virtual Desktop ADELE, users have an endpoint with software that allow inspection of the device to verify its suitability for access.

The **Virtual Desktop ADELE** is isolate from one other and from the entire LAN of ISTAT.

Access to the Virtual Desktop ADELE is protected with mechanisms that prevent the export of sensitive data.

User access is granted through a multi-factor system (username + password + SMS / OTP).

Access to the endpoint can be revoked centrally.



CONCLUSION

In 2023 Istat opened the first remote Laboratory for access to microdata at the Bank of Italy. This safe centre allows researchers of the Bank to access Istat microdata for their analysis and research without having to physically visit the access points of the Italian National Institute of Statistics.

The Bank of Italy is the only recognised research entity for hosting an accredited access point. Istat aims to increase the number of access points to allow more researchers to work remotely on microdata of its surveys.

Why so important?

A great result for the quality of Istat microdata in terms of **improved accessibility** and generally an important **innovation** for the research entities. They can finally use their own safe centres to remotely access to microdata of which the Italian National Statistical System is owner, achieving the same results of physical access and **reducing costs and time of visits**.



Since June 2023

12

open research projects

8

closed research projects

130

visits to the access point