TFS-Info-14 Information on the application and transfer of environmental data

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1. Introduction

This information sheet describes the available environmental data, the allocation of further spatial data based on the address information of the participants, the corresponding application and the transfer of the environmental data.

NAKO does not provide detailed address information of the participants to applicants. NAKO's Environmental Data Unit (EDU; www.nako.de/edu) is responsible for allocating environmental data and other spatial data on a house-by-house basis.

2. Available environmental data

The environmental data is constantly being expanded. The current list can be requested via nako-edu@helmholtz-munich.de. This environmental data should appear promptly in the TransferHub as a separate tree.

In addition, further spatial data can be linked to the exact location of the house via the EDU, if the applicants can provide the EDU with the necessary maps. If this is not possible, the district of the place of residence is available via the TransferHub. For higher-resolution data (e.g. municipalities, postcodes), a two-stage application is also possible after consultation with the EDU. For this purpose, the applicants receive the necessary spatial information with a pseudonym from the Trust Centre, link these themselves and send the linked environmental data with the pseudonym (but without the spatial information) together with the descriptive metadata to the Transfer Unit.

Currently, the EDU only has access to the address information for the basic examination, which means that the environmental data has so far been limited to this. An expansion to include the retro- and prospective residential history is planned as soon as this is digitised, geocoded and processed.

3. Application

As long as the variable selection is not yet possible via the TransferHub or for variables that are not (yet) in the TransferHub, the required variables are selected via the xlsx list, which the applicants adapt accordingly (e.g. highlighting the required variables in colour) and upload as an attachment to their application. Prior consultation with the EDU is recommended.

4. Application review

Single-stage applications are reviewed by the Use and Access Committee.

In the case of two-tier applications, the applicants are requested to contact the EDU(nako-edu@helmholtz-munich.de)prior to submission to discuss the spatial resolution and transfer details. If necessary, the EDU will clarify the provision of the spatial information with the Trust Centre.

5. Data transfer

The transfer of environmental data to the applicant currently still occurs directly via email and a download provided by the EDU. An upload of the environmental data to the TransferHub is planned, but the interface is not yet available. In addition to the environmental variables, the environmental dataset contains the pseudonymised application-specific ID for linking with the health data, which the applicant can use to easily combine the two datasets.