

Criteria for MEDem membership

In Interim working principles (adopted June 2018):

“Membership

1. *Membership to the MEDem initiative is by invitation and can be acquired by individuals representing national data collections, by relevant institutions, and by existing comparative data collection initiatives.*
2. *Members commit to fostering the objectives of MEDem.*
3. *Membership rights include participation and voting at MEDem plenary meetings, and using the name and logo of MEDem when working for its stated objectives.”*

MEDem structure

(updated November 2019):

MEDem members shall eventually be countries.¹ Members;

- Fund the national data collections for those parts of MEDem that exist within their countries;
- Commit to developing the data collection parts that do not yet exist in their country;
- Contribute to the overall MEDem operation costs of the main office and centres;
- Appoint a representative to the General Assembly.

a) National nodes:

National nodes are the lowest organizational component of MEDem. They are research teams located at national research institutions who are in charge of parts of the actual data collection within the MEDem framework according to the standards set by the comparative projects and MEDem. Often national nodes are responsible for more than one part of the MEDem data collection. National nodes:

- Commit to conduct data collections for one or several different MEDem components within the MEDem framework, following jointly agreed overall MEDem scientific and methodological standards, building on existing relevant standards of the comparative projects (where these already exist);
- Find funding for their national data collection components;
- Commit to working through the relevant comparative project in coordinating data collected at the national level, so as to be able to contribute the data to the integrated data collection;
- Commit to deliver data free of charge and without any embargo.

b) Comparative projects:

Existing national and comparative projects continue to be independent projects and they remain the main building blocks of MEDem. They will have rights and obligations. They shall,

- Ensure the appropriate functioning and funding for their own endeavour;

¹ Should MEDem become an ERIC, MEDem will grant observer status to countries that cannot be full members, as is the case for other European infrastructures.

- Contribute to the development of joint standards and jointly supervised coordination of their existing data collections through MEDem, with their existing national data collection nodes, following jointly decided coding and methodological standards to achieve post-harmonized (and, ultimately pre-harmonized) data that facilitate comparative (cross-national and cross-project) research;
- Commit to making resulting data available free of charge and without any embargo,
- Nominate members to the Scientific Board;
- Commit to open and transparent procedures for the definition of future data collections and to ensure that the ownership of the data collections rests with the scientific community,
- Sign an agreement between MEDem and the project that defines rights and duties of both partners;
- May receive funding for parts of their operations from MEDem.

c) National election studies

National election studies exist in many countries, in some for a very long time by now, though with varying degrees of institutionalization. Because of their importance in the national academic environment and their long tradition, national election studies are a central pillar of the MEDem data collection. National election studies have an independent existence as MEDem members apart from their membership of the CSES (and/or any complementary/successor future comparative project). They

- Contribute to the development of joint standards and jointly supervised coordination of their existing data collections through MEDem in coordination with the CSES and/or any complementary/successor future comparative project. They commit to conducting national election studies in their country according to those defined joint standards;
- Nominate members to the Scientific Board;
- Secure funding for their national data collections;
- Provide their election data for post-harmonization to the Center on Survey Data as well as implement standards of data collection for future election studies in order to ensure pre-harmonization of those data that facilitate comparative (cross-national and cross-project) research.