Core Facts:

• **founded in 1954** as a documentation and monitoring on German collective bargaining on behalf of the German trade unions affiliated to the **Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB)**

• belongs to the **Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI)** which is part of the **Hans Böckler Foundation** – the foundation of the DGB trade union affiliates

Current Staff:

• **2 Researchers**

• **6 Non-academic experts** (each of them responsible for certain sectors)

• **1 Administrative Staff**
Content of the Database:

- **Collective Agreements** (all major sector-level agreements as well as some important company agreements)
- **Trade Union documents/leaflets** on demands, strikes, negotiation processes and final results

So far the archive is still largely *paper-based archive*. We are currently in the process of setting up a *new electronic database*.

Potentials of the new electronic database:

- **Full text search**
- Automatic generation of publications
- Calculation of some basic figures
Statistical analysis/ calculation of some core figures …

- Annual average increase of collectively agreed wages
- Agreed wage levels for selected sectors and professions
- Agreed wage structures for selected sectors
- Average agreed working time
- Average duration of agreement
- Average agreed holidays, bonuses etc.

Preparation of secondary data:

- Collective bargaining coverage
- Strikes and industrial action
- International minimum wages
- European wage developments
Historical Data:

- **Collective Agreements:**
  Back to the 1950s
  (sometimes even to the 1920s)

- **Electronic Time Series**
  on wages and other issues:
  Back to the late 1990s!
Accessibility…

- No public access to the agreement database!
- No individual information!
- Limited access for researchers!
- Limited access for trade union representatives!

Publications

- Monthly and Annual Reports
- Statistical Pocket Book
- Selected Data on wages, working time etc.
- Reports and Evaluations on various issues related to German collective bargaining
- Almost everything is available for free from our website: www.tarifvertrag.de
Language:

Almost everything is available in German only 😞 😞 😞

Very few publications in English such as …

• The Annual Collective Bargaining Report
• The Annual Report on Minimum Wages
• Selected publication on German collective bargaining (journal articles, book chapters etc)
WSI COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT ARCHIVE

As the principal information centre on trade union policy on collective bargaining, the main task of the WSI Collective Agreement Archive is to track and analyse developments concerning collective agreements.

Besides publishing a monthly status report on current agreements, the Archive also produces special analyses. The Archive has an internet website providing access to information on specific collective agreements and giving overviews of developments pertaining to collective agreements in all the major sectors. Every year the Archive publishes an annual report on current collective bargaining policy developments and a “Statistical Pocketbook on Collective Bargaining” with up-to-date information and many longer time-series.

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26.04.2020 Prof. Thorsten Schulten