Technical file on reading data

Special software programs are needed to create tables from large-volume data files such as public user samples (PUS). Since the most commonly used software programs used for this purpose are SPSS and SAS, we have created SPSS and SAS syntax files for both German and French.

If you use SPSS or SAS, then we suggest the following procedure:

1. Copy the data file and chosen syntax file to your hard disk. That way, the program will run more quickly than if you keep the files on a CD-ROM.
2. Double click on the syntax file.
3. Make sure that the name of the data file is correct.
4. Select the set of instructions.
5. Launch the program.

Since the data is presented in fixed format, other software programs besides SPSS or SAS can also be used to access the data. The *data format* file contains information regarding the data structure. Before trying to access the data file, however, make sure that your software program is able to work with more than one million individual records.