

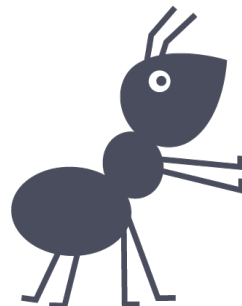
KonsortSWD 

Consortium for the
Social, Behavioural, Educational
and Economic Sciences



RDCnet

Workshop: Safe access to
sensitive research data in
Switzerland
Bern, November 25th, 2022



RDCnet: Connecting
guest researcher
workstations to provide
secure access to sensitive
microdata

Neil Murray

German Institute for Economic Research (DIW/SOEP)
Contact: nmurray@diw.de

Definitions

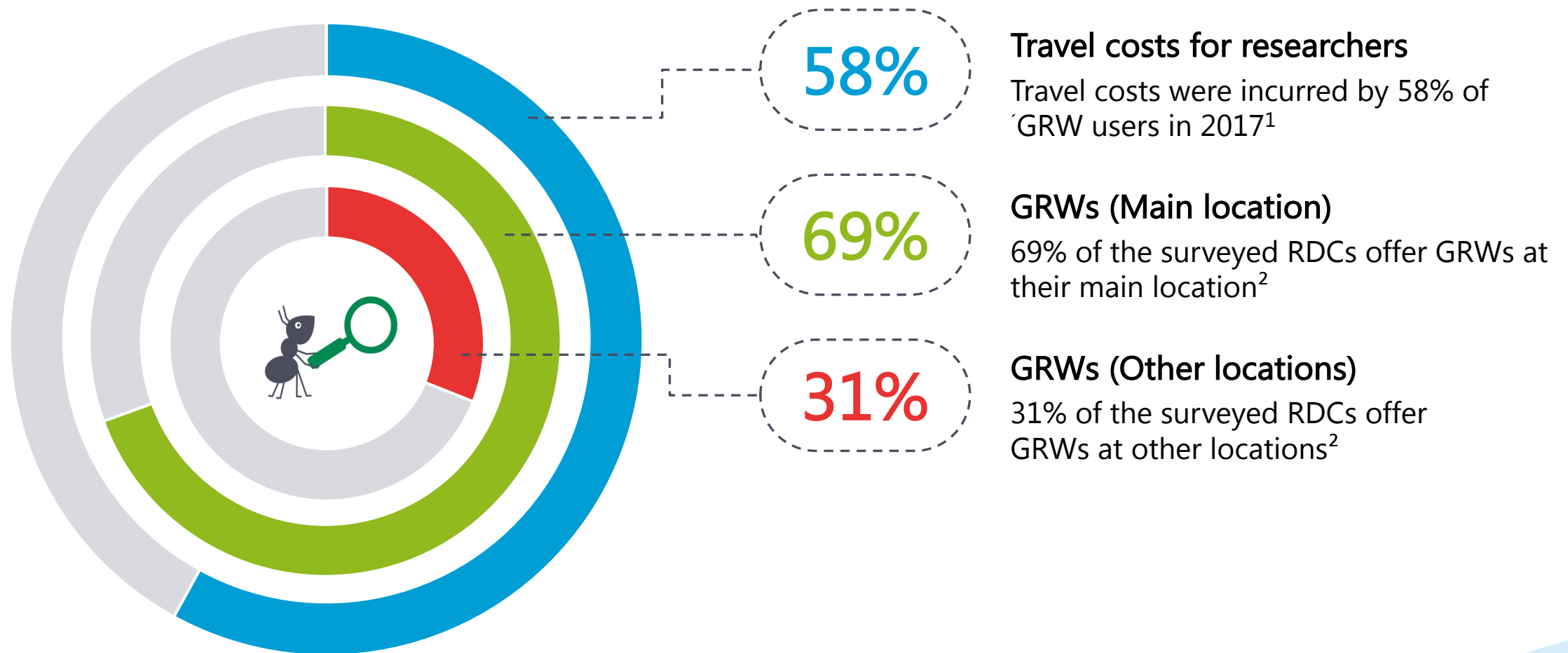
RDC

Research Data Center

Guest Researcher
Workstation (GRW)

Thin-Client within a data safe room located in an RDC

A few figures to begin with...



Travel costs for researchers

Travel costs were incurred by 58% of 'GRW users in 2017¹

GRWs (Main location)

69% of the surveyed RDCs offer GRWs at their main location²

GRWs (Other locations)

31% of the surveyed RDCs offer GRWs at other locations²

¹ Source: RatSWD, Cluster-AG Zwischenergebnisse (2018), N=31 FDZ

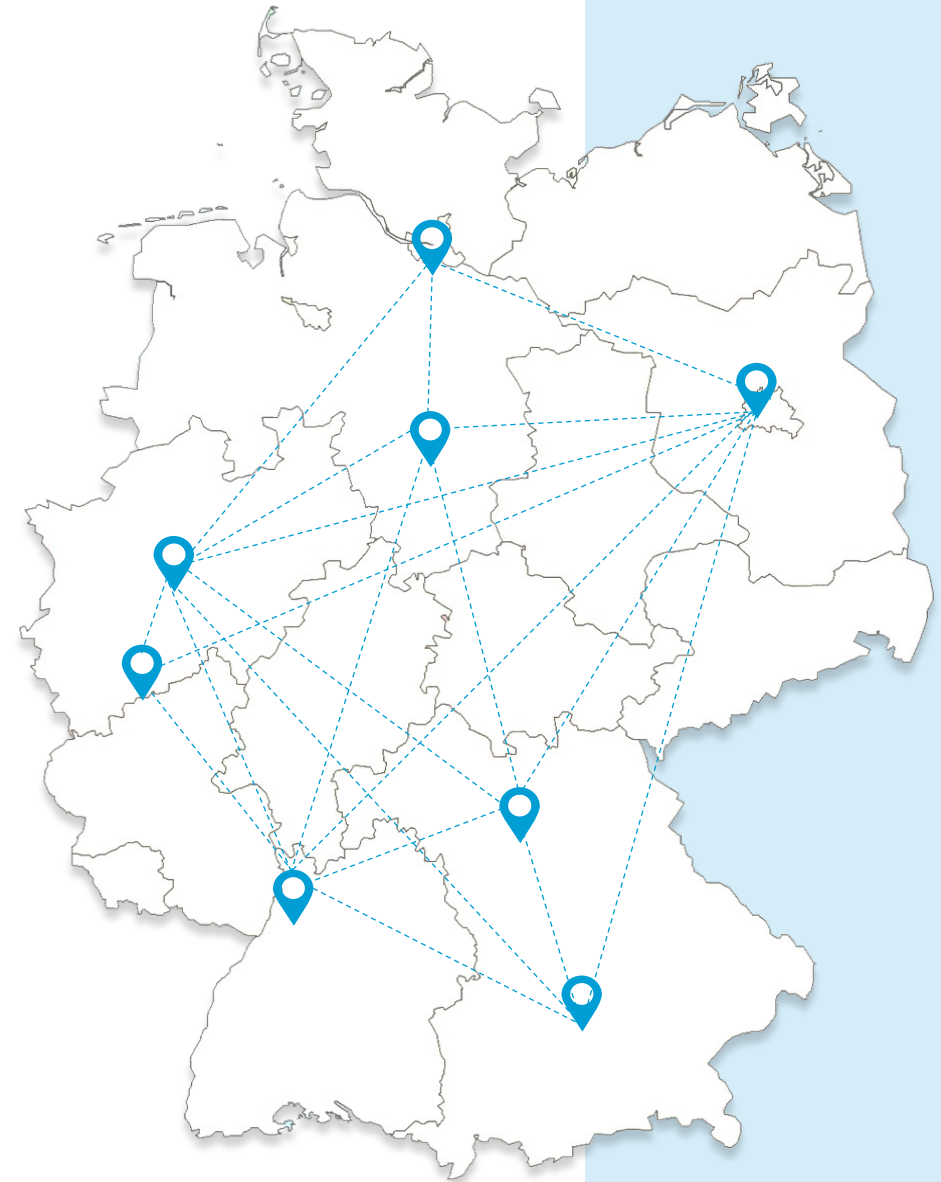
² Source: KonsortSWD, Ergebnisse der KonsortSWD-Bedarfsumfrage vom 01. bis 19. März 2021, N=38 FDZ

Motivation RDCnet

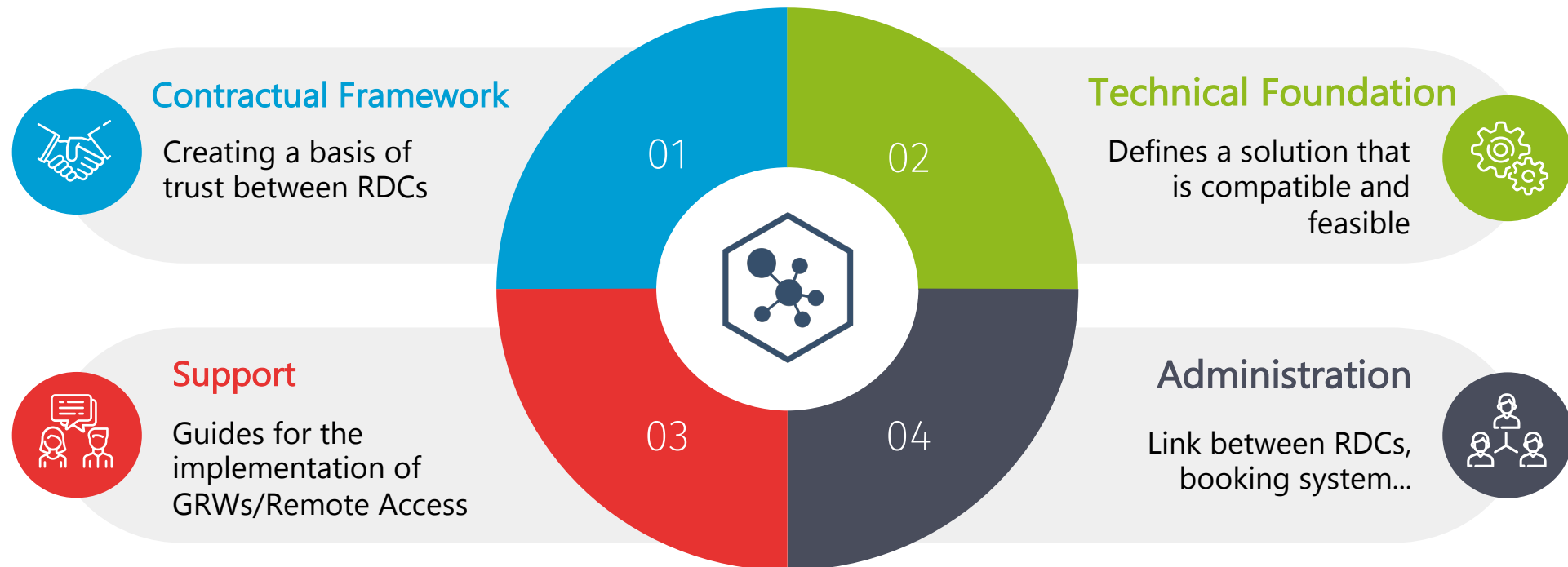
Goal: Improve access for research with sensitive data

Status quo: On-site work at GRWs of the respective data-providing institutes

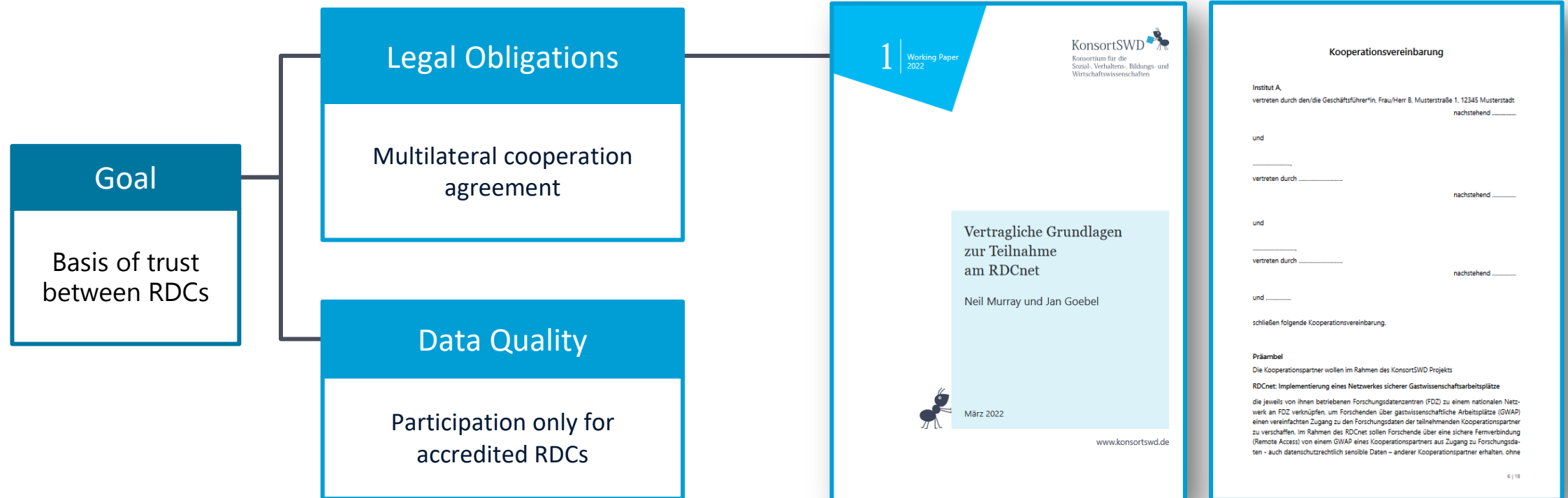
Solution: Consolidate GRWs of participating RDCs into a network of secure data access points



Components of the RDCnet



1. Contractual Framework



Working Paper: <https://zenodo.org/record/6358334>

1. Contractual Framework

Workflow: Multilateral cooperation agreement



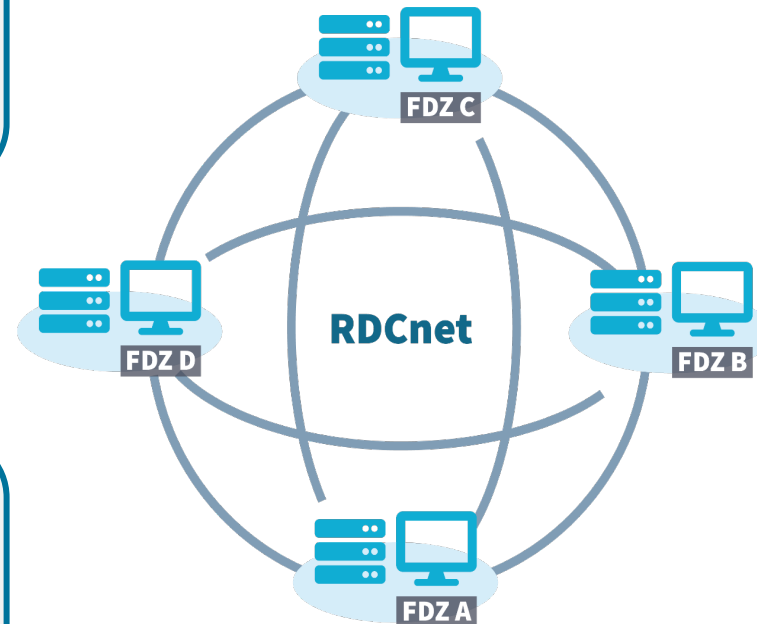
2. Technical Foundation

Role Allocation

Each participating RDC is both a **data receiver** (GRW-Thin Client) and a **data provider** (Server infrastructure)

Decentralization

Each RDC provides its data as an independent host. At no time does the data physically leave the servers of the data-providing RDC.

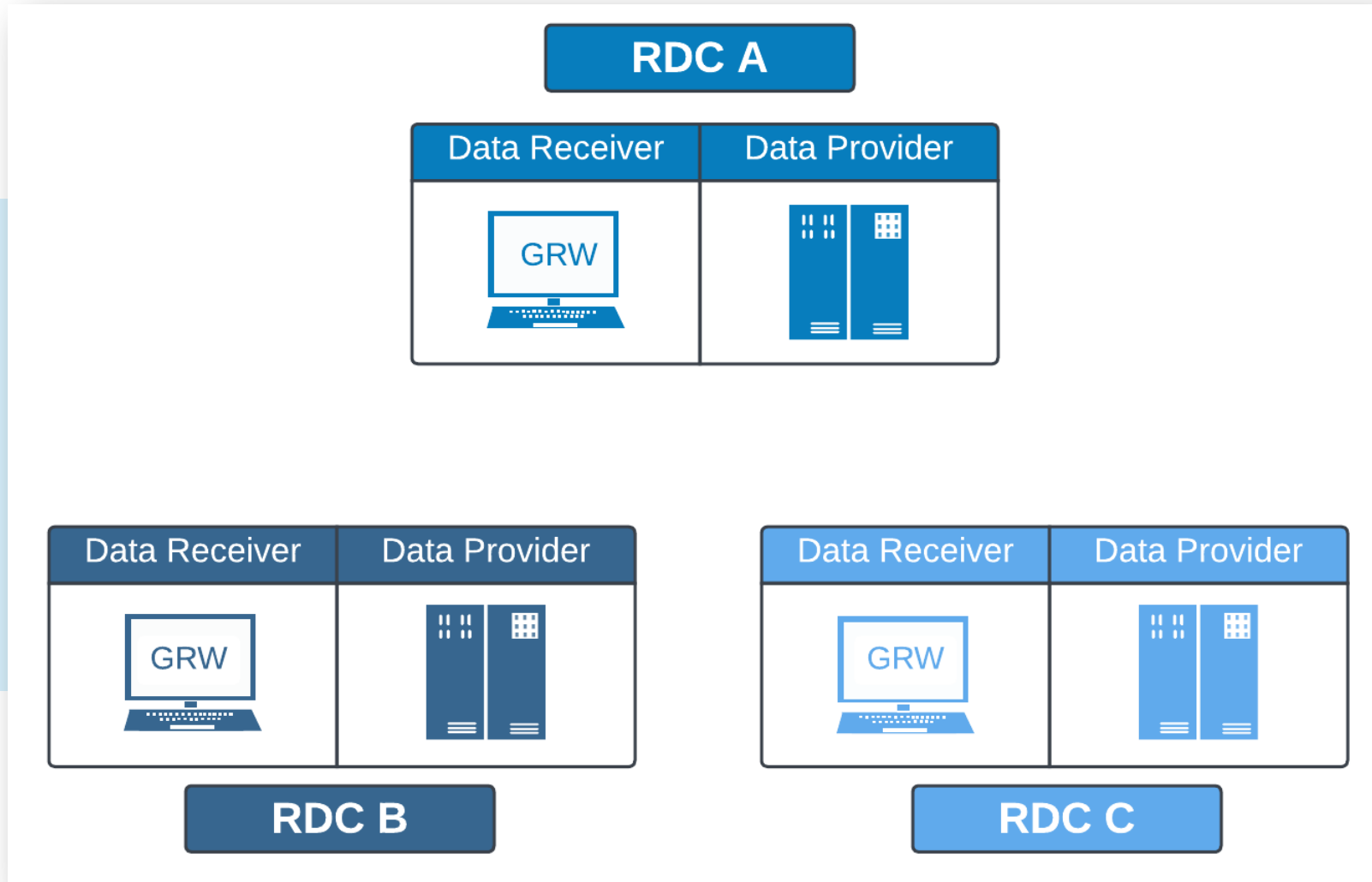


Flexibility

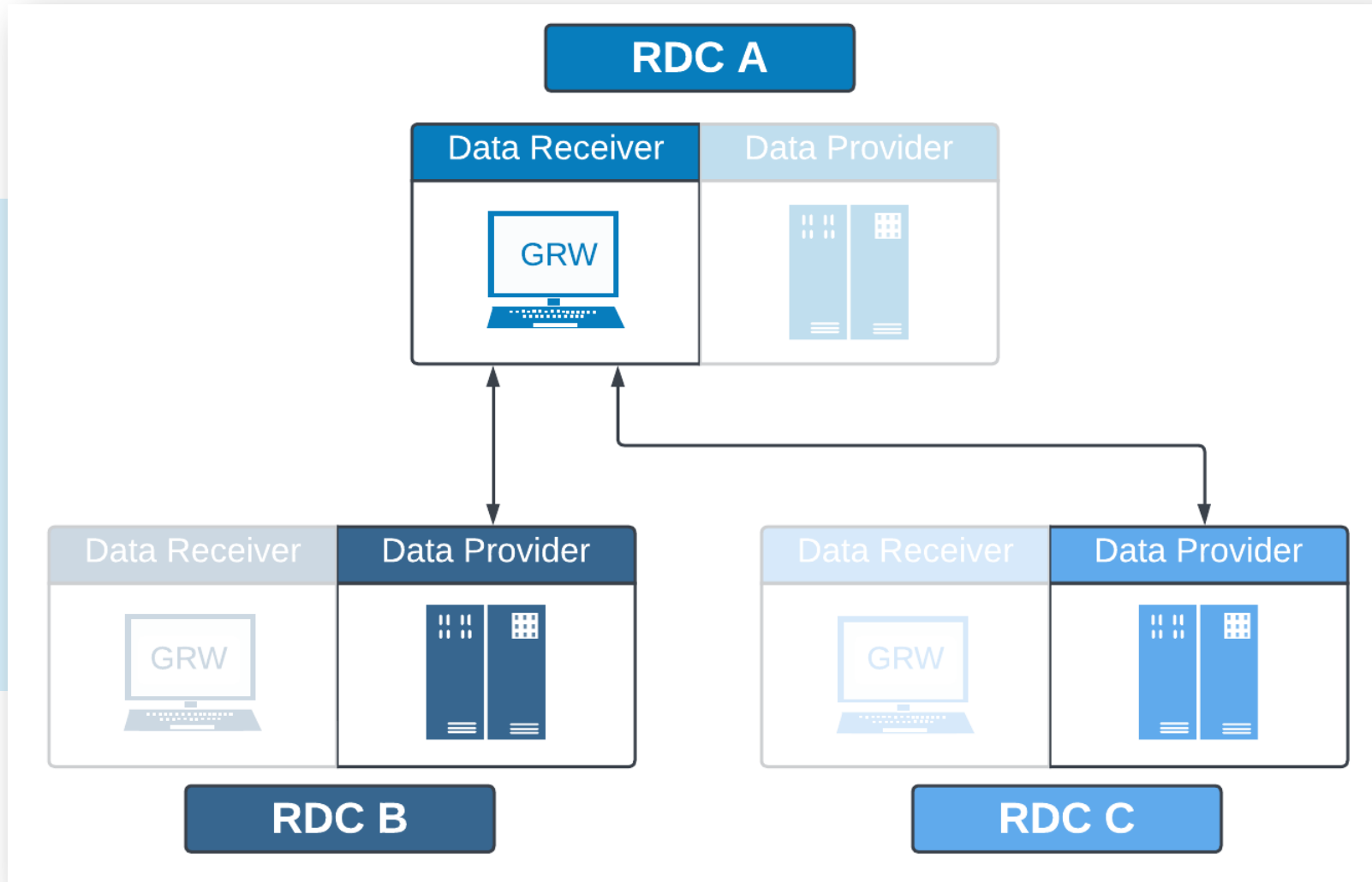
Data-providing RDCs decide where, when and by whom their data can be accessed, as well as which software and hardware is provided for the researcher.

Remote Access

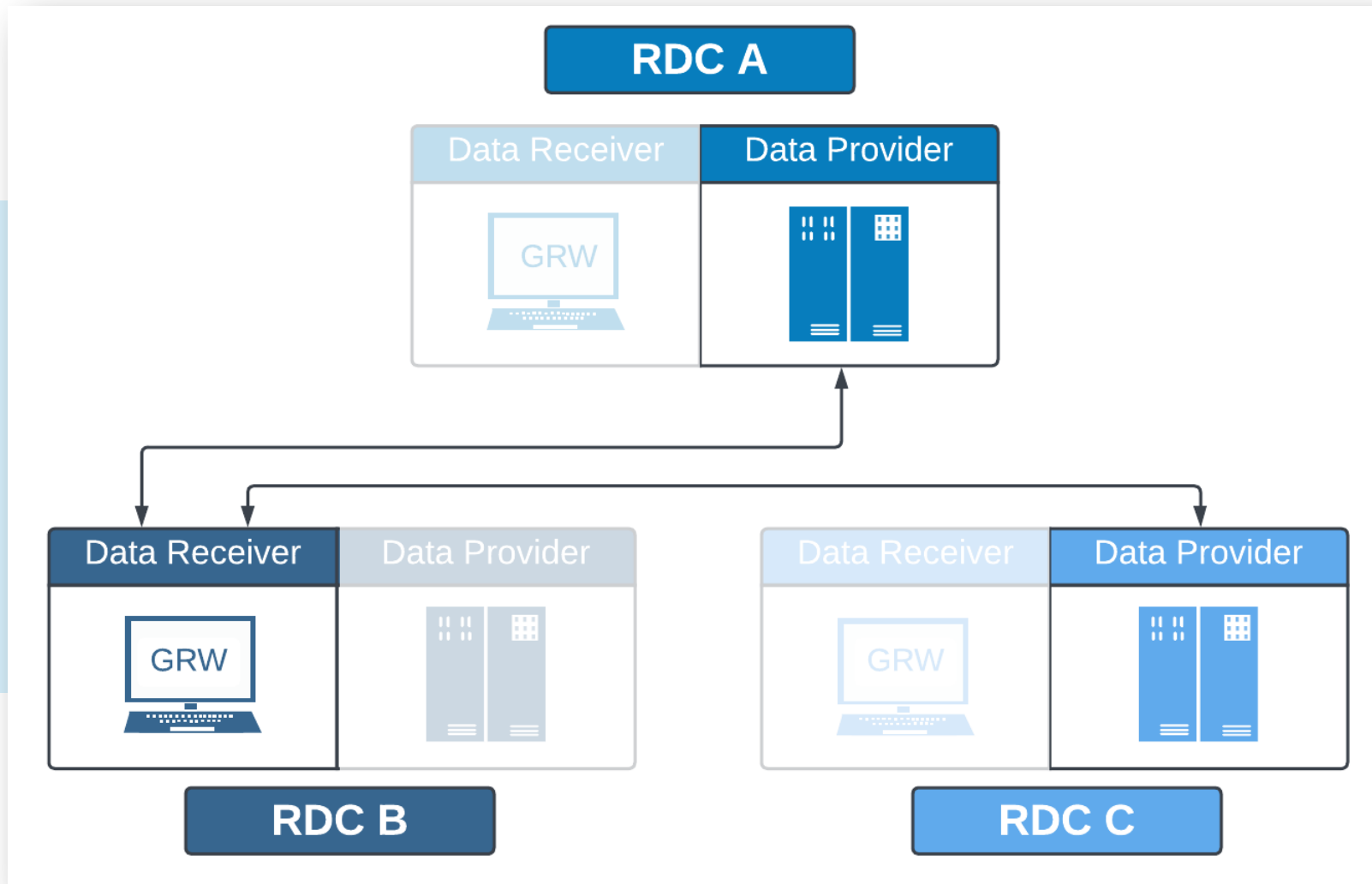
Agree on standardized software to minimize the implementation effort for all parties involved (**VMware or Citrix**)



Network-
structure




Network-
structure




Network-
structure

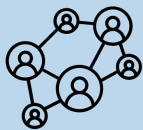
3. Support



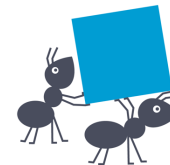
Provide contact and guide to meet technical criteria for participation in RDCnet.



1. Implementation of a GRW (using an IGEL thin client as an example) to fulfill the role of data receiver.



2. Implementation of remote access (using VMware Horizon as an example) to fulfill the role of data provider.



Setup Thin-Client

Folgend werden die notwendigen Schritte beschrieben, um einen Thin-Client der Marke "IGEL" aufzusetzen und zu konfigurieren. Die hier verwendeten Dokumentationen sind folgenden Handbüchern zu entnehmen: [Handbuch Lizenzierung](#), [UMS Reference Manual](#) und [Thin Clients Manual](#). Alle Informationen sind der offiziellen [IGEL Knowledge Base](#) entnommen und können hier im Detail nachgelesen werden. Folgende Dokumentation ist als eine Zusammenfassung der wichtigsten Schritte zur Implementierung eines IGEL Thin-Clients zu verstehen.

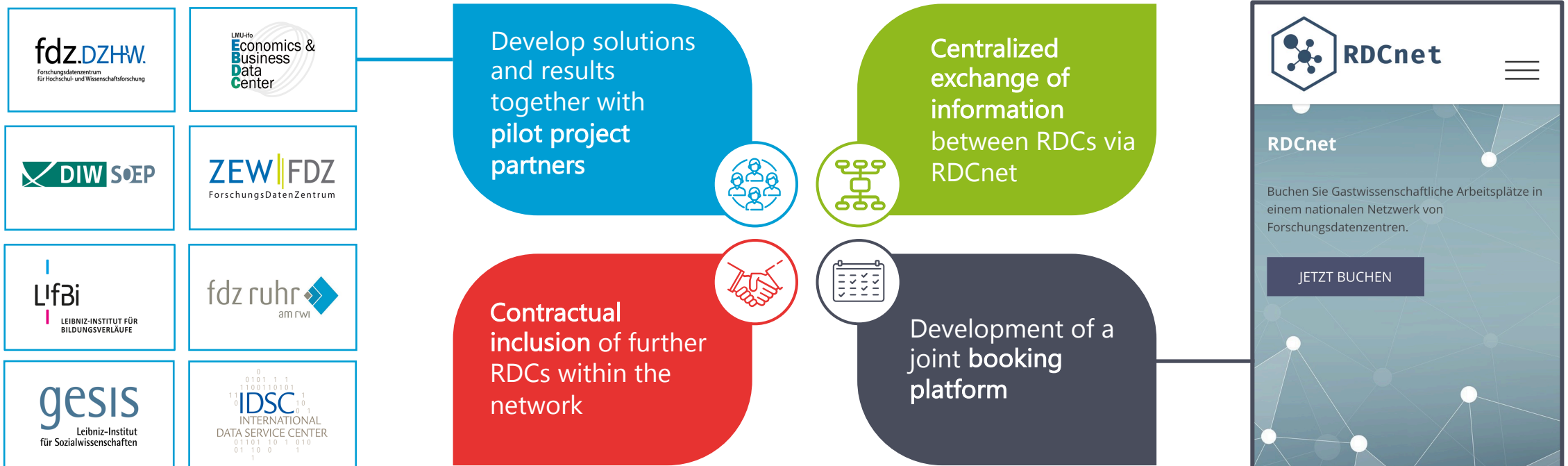
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 - 1.1 IGEL Lizenzportal
 - 1.2 Lizenzdatei generieren
- 2. Universal Management Suite (UMS)
 - 2.1 Installation und Voraussetzungen
 - 2.1.1 Installation UMS unter Windows
 - 2.1.2 Installation UMS unter Linux
 - 2.2 Thin-Client innerhalb UMS suchen
 - 2.3 Thin-Client innerhalb UMS registrieren
 - 2.4 Thin-Client innerhalb UMS lizenzieren

1. Lizenzierung

Example: Guide for implementing IGEL thin clients

4. Administration



Roadmap

Contractual Framework

Development of TOM and multilateral cooperation agreement

2021

Technical Foundation

Defining suitable remote access procedures

2022

Pilot Network

Successive integration of the pilot project partners in the prototype RDCnet

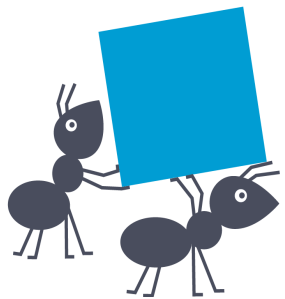
2023

Dissemination

Deployment of the RDCnet service

2024

Thanks for your attention



Good
cooperation
starts small

In cooperation with



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