

## CESSDA Work Plan 2020

### CESSDA Euro Question Bank 2020

# D1 Report on numbers, workflow and challenges of the MK DASS documentation for future integration into EQB

#### Document info

Dissemination Level	PU
Due Date of Deliverable	31/12/2020
Actual Submission Date	08/12/2020
Type	Report
Approval Status	(Waiting WGL approval)
Version	V1.1
Number of Pages	p.1 – p.22
DOI	10.5281/zenodo.4585434

The information in this document reflects only the author's views and CESSDA ERIC is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. The information in this document is provided "as is" without guarantee or warranty of any kind, express or implied, including but not limited to the fitness of the information for a particular purpose. The user thereof uses the information at his/her sole risk and liability. This deliverable is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



## Version history

Version	Date	Comment	Revised by
0.1	01.12.2020	First draft send to EQB for review	Aneta Cekikj
0.2	01.12.2020	Review and resulting amendments	Bojana Naumovska
0.3	02.12.2020	Review and resulting amendments	Esra Akdeniz
0.4	07.12.2020	Review and resulting amendments	Aneta Cekikj
1.0	08.12.2020	Final version send to CESSDA MO for review	Esra Akdeniz
1.1	09.02.2021	Revised version re-submitted to CMO	Esra Akdeniz

## Author List

Organisation	Name	Contact information
MK DASS	Aneta Cekikj	<a href="mailto:anetac@isppi.ukim.edu.mk">anetac@isppi.ukim.edu.mk</a>
MK DASS	Jovan Bliznakovski	<a href="mailto:jovan.b@isppi.ukim.edu.mk">jovan.b@isppi.ukim.edu.mk</a>

## Peer-review

Organisation	Name	Contact information
Institute for sociological, political and juridical research	Bojana Naumovska	<a href="mailto:bojana@isppi.ukim.edu.mk">bojana@isppi.ukim.edu.mk</a>
GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences	Esra Akdeniz	<a href="mailto:Esra.Akdeniz@gesis.org">Esra.Akdeniz@gesis.org</a>

## Contents

Background	4
Challenges in securing studies and documentation	5
Collecting missing metadata	6
The workflow of the GESIS Questionnaire editor	6
Conclusion	7
Appendix	8

## Executive Summary

This project aimed to help develop expertise for the preparation of question-level metadata and related documentation by MK DASS, using currently stored studies at FORS. Since MK DASS does not currently possess these studies, challenges with securing consent from researchers for this purpose arose. They were overcome by preparing a letter and consent document for researchers and contacting them separately. One study for which consent was obtained was prepared for inclusion in EQB, using the GESIS Questionnaire editor. The remaining studies for which consent will be secured will be documented in the future and will be shared with the European research community once MK DASS is operational.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

EQB	Euro Question Bank
FORS	Swiss Centre for the Expertise in the Social Sciences
GESIS	GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
ISPJR-UKIM	Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research
MK DASS	Social Science Data Archive of North Macedonia
RRPP	Regional Research Promotion Programme
SEEDS	South East European Data Services

## Background

The purpose of this project was to evaluate, collect, and prepare question-level metadata from selected national and international studies from North Macedonia. These studies were financed by the Regional Research Promotion Programme for the Western Balkans (RRPP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and are currently stored at FORS. The aim of the project was to contribute in developing expertise at MK DASS to enhance the metadata quantity and quality on question-level documentation using question documentation tools that produce DDI and meet EQB's requirements. Previously MK DASS had the expertise for the preparation of metadata only at the study level. The project also aimed to produce a report on MKDASS's experiences aimed to help other archives to estimate the work needed to prepare question-level documentation for the integration into EQB.

The social science data archive of North Macedonia (MK DASS), which is in the process of establishment, is part of the Institute for sociological, political, and juridical research, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia (ISPJR-UKIM). ISPJR-UKIM is the

first social science institute in the country, established in 1965. In 2015-2017 ISPJR-UKIM was part of the SEEDS project, a regional project financed by the Swiss national science foundation, the goal of which was to build capacities and help establish social science data archives in Western Balkan countries. The project significantly increased the capacities and ISPJR-UKIM for data documentation and archiving. Subsequently, through the RRPP data rescue project (2016-2017), staff from ISPJR-UKIM worked on archiving 19 research projects conducted within the RRPP program, in which Macedonian research institutions were either the single partner or lead partner of a regional project. This project enabled ISPJR-UKIM's staff to use the knowledge gained through the SEEDS project practically.

Since ISPJR-UKIM staff is now well equipped for metadata preparation on study level and preparation of data files for archiving and dissemination, the EQB project was an opportunity to advance the knowledge on question level metadata documentation. However, there were several challenges in performing this task.

## Challenges in securing studies and documentation

The studies selected to be used for this purpose (7 studies with around 400 question items) are currently stored at FORS. This means that researchers have deposited their data and signed a contract with FORS, while MK DASS does not possess permission from researchers to store and disseminate their data. From 2017 to the 30th of March 2020, study level metadata and related research instruments and datasets were publicly available through SEEDSbase. SEEDSbase was a separate portal, created and maintained by FORS, which stored projects and data from RRPP projects only. Almost all of the projects were for open access use. Starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, SEEDSbase is closed, while the projects are now part of FORSbase. Study level metadata are still publicly available (open access), while datasets and other documentation can be provided to researchers via e-mail request and for individual use. Thus, MK DASS had to provide new consent from researchers permission to use information from their studies specifically for the purpose of inclusion in EQB. Since MK DASS still does not possess any data, consultation with the management and legal person from ISPJR-UKIM was needed in order to support the team of MK DASS. A consent form/statement was prepared, which is sent jointly with a letter for researchers explaining our request. As of the 4th of December 2020, we had obtained consent for the inclusion of two studies in EQB.

## Collecting missing metadata

Since documentation in DDI from these studies is a prerequisite to integrate the metadata to the Euro Question Bank in the future, collecting missing metadata from researchers and preparing a documentation in a format that can be delivered to EQB was also part of MK DASS's work. MK DASS evaluated a part of the studies for which it has sufficient information and concluded that the level of information that currently exists is sufficient to enable us to include these studies in EQB. The researchers' input will be low and will be needed only for part of the studies. However, one of these studies uses a specific mixed methodology, which involves more than 80% of open-ended questions, which will be documented in the questionnaire editor and will be included in EQB in the future.

## The workflow of the GESIS Questionnaire editor

For the preparation of question-level metadata, we used the GESIS Questionnaire editor, a tool developed by GESIS. We used the tool to fill in the information needed for EQB, using the EQB metadata schema that was provided. For that purpose, we needed the questionnaire and related dataset/data file of the study. We had two training meetings with staff from GESIS, who introduced us to the functionalities of the tool and answered our questions. Two persons from ISPJR-UKIM have completed this training and are equipped to work with the tool. They will train two more persons who will work on metadata preparation for EQB in the future. The questions from one national-level study (survey on nationally representative samples) are now included in the editor. The study consists of 22 questions.

All 22 questions from the study questionnaire were documented with the use of the GESIS Questionnaire editor. The questions from the survey were designed as single-answer multiple-choice questions, and all of them contained only a *question text* and *answers*, but neither of the questions contained the other types of data that the Editor can document (such as, *pre-text*, *post-text*, *filter*). The survey is used to evaluate the perceptions of the Macedonian citizens regarding the role of the EU and other international actors in inter-ethnic conflict management in the country, and 15 of the 22 questions are devoted to this topic, while the other seven gather information on the demographic background of the respondents (gender, age, education, occupation, nationality/ethnicity, place and region of residence). The *question text*, *answers*, *numbers and titles* were provided to the Editor for all 22 questions (as obtained from the survey questionnaire), as well as the *variable name* and the *variable label* (as obtained from the dataset).

Our impression from documenting the survey questions with the Editor is generally positive. The application is user-friendly, simple to command, and it allowed us to enter all the

meta-data on the survey questions which were available. On the downside, the application, which is currently in the development phase, is somewhat slow in processing the entered data, some pop-ups are available only in German and it did not allow us to export the questions by their original order in the questionnaire (see Appendix). However, the sequence of questions is currently not shown in the EQB application. All in all, the application is very useful for its purpose and improved our workflow in documenting the questions.

## Conclusion

After completing these tasks, we conclude that the challenges we faced are mostly related to the establishment of our archive. The fact that we do not have contracts with researchers and that their data are not stored in infrastructure within MK DASS, increased the time needed to collect the necessary materials we need to work on this project. This refers mostly to contacting researchers, explaining the reason why we need their permission, and preparing a statement/consent for them to be signed and then delivered to us. The securing of data documentation and data files was less challenging since part of them are publicly available.

The metadata preparation for question-level documentation is less challenging. The studies that we selected are well documented previously by us. Also, ISPJR-UKIM's staff have a research background, which helps in understanding the questionnaire design, purpose, and other elements of question-level information that are needed to complete the required EQB metadata schema.

In the future, using the GESIS questionnaire editor, we will include questions from all planned studies for which consent from researchers will be secured. Once the establishment phase of MK DASS is completed, and the relevant documentation and datasets are transferred from FORS to MK DASS, we will be able to include all suitable studies financed by RRPP in EQB. Since we acquired the needed expertise for the preparation of question-level metadata, in the future we will be able to include additional studies in EQB, which will be deposited in MK DASS, and which we consider useful to be shared with the European research community.

## Appendix

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>1</b>	<b>Support for the Republic of Macedonia's aspirations to join the EU</b>
Variable names	p1
Question	Do you support the aspirations of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union?
Response scale	(1) Yes, completely (2) Yes, to some extent (3) No, not at all
Missing Values	(4) I don't know (5) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>2</b>	<b>Evaluation of EU's influence on democracy building in Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p2
Question	How do you evaluate the influence of the EU in the democracy building process in the Republic of Macedonia?
Response scale	(1) Good (2) Somewhat good (3) Somewhat bad (4) Bad
Missing Values	(5) I don't know (6) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>3</b>	<b>International actor that had most positive influence in democracy building in Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p3
Question	Which state/organization had the most positive influence in democracy building in the Republic of Macedonia?
Response scale	(1) EU (2) USA (3) NATO (4) OSCE (5) Council of Europe
Missing Values	(6) I don't know (7) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>4</b>	<b>Evaluation of EU's influence on interethnic relations in Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p4
Question	How do you evaluate the role of the EU in regards to the interethnic relations in the Republic of Macedonia?
Response scale	(1) Good (2) Somewhat good (3) Somewhat bad (4) Bad
Missing Values	(5) I don't know (6) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>5</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement's role for Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p5
Question	Is the Ohrid Framework Agreement a good or a bad solution for the state?
Response scale	(1) Good (2) Somewhat good (3) Somewhat bad (4) Bad
Missing Values	(5) I don't know (6) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>6</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement's role in guaranteeing equal rights for all ethnic communities in Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p6
Question	Does the Ohrid Framework Agreement guarantee equal rights for all ethnic communities in the country?
Response scale	(1) Completely (2) Only in few areas (3) Not at all
Missing Values	(4) I don't know (5) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>7</b>	<b>Evaluation of EU's influence in drafting the Ohrid Framework Agreement</b>
Variable names	p7
Question	What is your opinion of the role of the EU during the drafting of the Ohrid Framework Agreement?
Response scale	(1) Very positive (2) Somewhat positive (3) Somewhat negative (4) Negative (5) No influence
Missing Values	(6) I don't know (7) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>8</b>	<b>Desire for changes in the municipal division in Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p8
Question	Do you think that there should be a change in the territorial organization passed in 2004 in Macedonia?
Response scale	(1) No, not at all (2) Some changes are necessary (3) Yes, it should be completely changed
Missing Values	(4) I don't know (5) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>9</b>	<b>Perception on US influence in the drafting of the Law on territorial organization in Macedonia</b>	
Variable names	p9	
Question	What was the influence of the USA during the drafting of the Law on territorial organization?	
Response scale	(1) Very positive (2) Somewhat positive (3) Somewhat negative (4) Negative (5) No influence	
Missing Values	(6) I don't know (7) No answer	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>10</b>	<b>Perception on EU influence in the drafting of the Law on territorial organization in Macedonia</b>	
Variable names	p10	
Question	What was the influence of the EU during the drafting of the Law on territorial organization?	
Response scale	(1) Very positive (2) Somewhat positive (3) Somewhat negative (4) Negative (5) No influence	
Missing Values	(6) I don't know (7) No answer	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>11</b>	<b>Support for providing state welfare of victims from the 2001 conflict in Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p11
Question	Do you support the provision of material and social welfare for the former NLA members of the conflict and their families?
Response scale	(1) Yes, completely (2) Yes, to some extent (3) No, not at all
Missing Values	(4) I don't know (5) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>12</b>	<b>Attitudes on legislation pertaining to inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia</b>
Variable names	p12
Question	Do you think that a new law should be passed on the provision of material and social welfare for the victims of the 2001 conflict and their families or is the existing framework sufficient?
Response scale	(1) New law (2) Existing framework
Missing Values	(3) Don't know (4) No answer

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>13</b>	<b>Attitudes on government formation in Macedonia pertaining to inter-ethnic relations</b>	
Variable names	p13	
Question	Do you think that the Government has to be formed on the basis of the winners of the elections in the Macedonian and the Albanian blocks?	
Response scale	(1) Yes (2) No	
Missing Values	(3) Don't know (4) No answer	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>14</b>	<b>Perceptions of EU's influence on the 2007 May Agreement in Macedonia</b>	
Variable names	p14	
Question	To what extent did the EU influence the outcome of the May Agreement?	
Response scale	(1) Completely (2) To some extent (3) No influence	
Missing Values	(4) Don't know (5) No answer	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>15</b>	<b>Opinion on EU's role in Macedonia for the forthcoming period</b>
Variable names	p15
Question	What do you think will be the EU's role in Macedonia in the next period?
Response scale	(1) Positive (2) Somewhat positive (3) Somewhat negative (4) Negative (5) No influence

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>16</b>	<b>Gender of respondent</b>
Variable names	Gender
Question	Gender
Response scale	(1) Male (2) Female

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>17</b>	<b>Age of respondent</b>	
Variable names	Age	
Question	Age	
Response scale	(1) From 18 to 29 years (2) From 30 to 39 years (3) From 40 to 49 years (4) From 50 to 59 years (5) Over 60 years	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>18</b>	<b>Education of respondent</b>	
Variable names	Education	
Question	Education	
Response scale	(1) Unfinished primary school (2) Primary school (3) Secondary school (4) College (5) Higher education	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>19</b>	<b>Occupation of respondent</b>	
Variable names	Profession	
Question	Profession/Occupation	
Response scale	(1) Student (2) Worker (3) Officer (4) Farmer (5) Pensioner/Retired (6) Housewife (7) Self employed (8) Unemployed (9) Intellectual (10) Other	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>20</b>	<b>Ethnicity of respondent</b>	
Variable names	Nationality	
Question	Nationality	
Response scale	(1) Macedonian (2) Albanian (3) Turk (4) Serb (5) Roma (6) Vlach (7) Bosniak (8) Other	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>21</b>	<b>Place of residence of respondent</b>	
Variable names	Place of residence	
Question	Place of residence	
Response scale	(1) Village (2) Small town (3) Big town (4) Skopje	

The Role of the European Union in the Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia: Survey questionnaire xxxx, Version 1.0.0,

<b>22</b>	<b>Region of residence of respondent</b>	
Variable names	Region	
Question	Region	
Response scale	(1) Skopje (2) Ohrid (3) Pelagonija (4) Polog (5) Povardarie (6) Kumanovo (7) Bregalnica	