cessda

Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives

Annual Report 2019

Foreword

Normally, I would start with an overview of our accomplishments. I would explain that CESSDA is an organisation reaching a state of maturity, that we are on track when it comes to deploying our core tools, that training is the most visited section of our website, that we have welcomed new members, and that the SSHOC cluster project is running prodigiously well.

But times are not normal. Of course, we could pretend that it is still 2019, and that Covid-19, despite its name, had not yet struck, and that this report is about 2019. But the annual report was written in Spring 2020, and we are fully aware of the virus' impact. Our economies are under pressure, societies are in lockdown, and millions of people are affected.

Scientists are racing to find medicine and a vaccine, so that we can return to how things were before. However, I do not believe that this 'old situation' will come back, but rather that we will return to 'a new normal'. What will society look like in this 'new normal'? How did people act and behave during this crisis, and what about in a future crisis? Looking back, what would have been an optimal strategy for a country to choose?

To answer these types of questions, and many more that will arise, we need a social data platform. We need to combine our data with environment and life data. We need storage and computational capacities. We need to

tackle language issues, agree on terminology and metadata standards.

We need EOSC, the European Open Science Cloud. However, beyond these facilities, we need people. People with expertise who are committed to this work and taking care of the data from research before it disappears, forever.

That is CESSDA. It is about people all over Europe that are committed to running European-scale research infrastructure, to serve the research community, and ultimately to serve society. Together we are CESSDA.

Ron Dekker
Director

Foreword
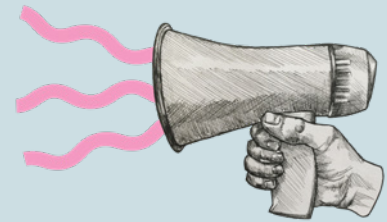
How does the data infrastructure of the social sciences compare to research infrastructures in other areas? How does CESSDA do in comparison to other international (or European) data organisations? These are questions that are not so easy to answer.

In the past year, several landscape inventories and analyses have been carried out (e.g. by ESFRI and by the EOSC-Synergy project). However, none of the available reports seem able to draw comparisons across scientific fields. Although a foreword to an annual report is hardly the place for another inventory, it is useful to look at some facts.

The social sciences were among the very first disciplines to initiate professional data archiving in order to make survey data reusable. The first data archives in the social sciences started to collect and distribute data sets in the early 1960s. For the younger generation, it is hard to imagine that data at that time were stored on punched cards and on large magnetic tapes, which could be read by devices connected to huge central computers called mainframes. File inventories were published in print, and requests to use such data were made by telephone or snail mail. The tapes were then sent to users via surface mail.

Most of the initial social science data archives in Europe are still in existence to this day, albeit having adapted both organisationally and technically. But essentially, the core functions of the service providers that are now part of CESSDA have remained the same: to collect data, to describe and catalogue the research files, and to make them accessible for reuse.

Long before the acronym FAIR was invented, CESSDA archives were making social science data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable. In several of the archives, data from the early years (sometimes dating back to the 1950s and 1960s) are still available for reuse.

The initial CESSDA was created as a council of data archives in 1976, and it was one of the few organisations that in 2015 requested a 'major upgrade' to become an ESFRI ERIC, to strengthen the 'old CESSDA' that already had a 40-year history.

Foreword

Social science data archives exist in over 35 European countries, and all of them participate in CESSDA. In 2019, 20 of them were members, and the others were partner organisations, several of which are in the process of becoming a CESSDA member. Together they provide access to tens of thousands of data sets. A growing number of these can be found via the joint CESSDA Data Catalogue as member data archives add their metadata to the catalogue (over 35,000 data sets on 1 September 2020).
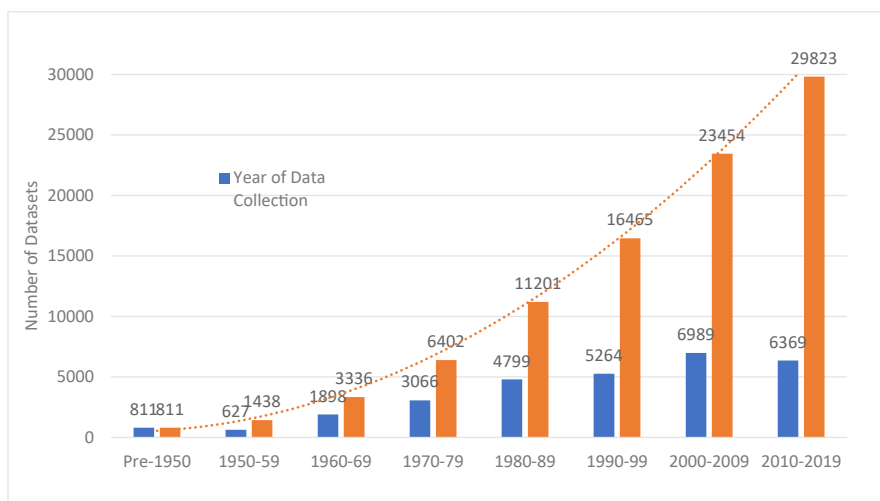

Figure 1: Growth of the data volume in CESSDA archives per decade since 1950. Note: 6,824 datasets are excluded from the graph due to an unclear or multi-year data collection period.

The growth of the data volume has been quite spectacular, as can be seen in Figure 1. Every decade the number of published data sets grew, the trend line taking the form of a second-order polynomial.

The CESSDA archives fulfil a much-needed function in the world of social science research. They are reliable and trusted archives of research data ready for reuse. Almost all CESSDA service providers comply with the CoreTrustSeal certification requirements, while others are in the process of acquiring the certification. They have been providing their services not just temporarily but in a stable and consistent manner, in some cases for half a century or more.

Moreover, CESSDA has been an inspiration for social scientists, research councils and governments in countries that did not yet have a national data service to create one. CESSDA provided checklists, meetings or site visits, temporary storage, and a platform for the exchange of expertise. Via its new mentorship programme, the young data archives can gain from the experiences of the older, more established ones.

Sometimes it may seem that research data is a hype, which became 'sexy' in the past decade, especially in the context of Open Science, FAIR Data and the EOSC ambitions of the European Commission. CESSDA and its member data archives know that providing data preservation and access services require dedication and stamina.

This annual report gives an overview of what has been achieved over the past year, and of which direction we are taking to continue to be a no-nonsense organisation providing indispensable services for the social science community.

Peter Doorn
Chair of the General Assembly

Table of Contents

This year, we decided to ask a local Bergen artist, Nadja Asghar, to create unique illustrations for this report. It was our way of showing support for the arts sector during the COVID-19 lockdown. Find out more: https://www.nadjaasgharillustration.com/
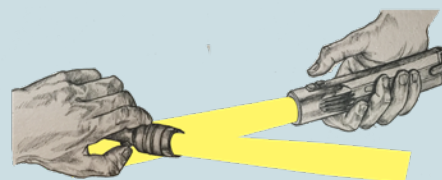
SSHOC project kicked off

The 14.5 M€ EU-funded project had its kick-off in March at the Jaarbeurs in Utrecht. More than 100 participants gathered and discussed the goals of this project. In October, there was a second meeting in Florence, discussing first results and planning future outputs. The project also organised a workshop with researchers, European Commission and project participants at the RDA 14th Plenary in October Finland, and it was presented at the first EOSC Symposium in Budapest in November.

New members

Serbia and North Macedonia became new members of CESSDA upon formal approval by the European Commission in 2019. The North Macedonian membership was combined with a CESSDA Widening event in Skopje and a meeting with the Minister of Science and Education.

During 2019, Iceland and Ireland showed interest in membership, which will be formalised in 2020.

RDA Interest Group

The Research Data Alliance accepted the proposal for a new RDA Interest Group on Social Science Research Data that was submitted by the Australian ARDC, CESSDA, and IFDO. There was a presentation at the RDA Plenary in Finland in October 2019. Focus areas will be quality of data, data policy, and sensitive data.

Hackathon

As a side event to the EDDI conference in Tampere in December, CESSDA organised a technical infrastructure training session. The attending service providers learned about our implementation of Docker and Kubernetes using Google Cloud by taking example applications through the entire building and testing pipeline and deploying.

Code Refinery Hackathon shows CESSDA MO Technical Team plus Bjørn Lindi (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) and João M. da Silva (CSC - IT Center for Science) – consent for publication, including name & affiliation, on record

To prepare the training day and design the lessons and material, the CESSDA Main Office technical team attended a train-the-trainer workshop and hackathon organised by Code Refinery, a project of the Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration.
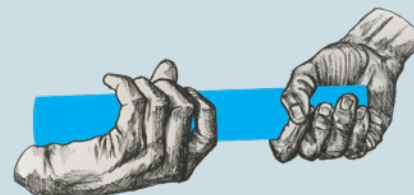
Introduction

CESSDA provides large-scale, integrated and sustainable data services to the social sciences. It brings together social science data archives across Europe, with the aim of promoting the results of social science research and supporting national and international research and cooperation.

In 2019, CESSDA ERIC had 19 member countries and 1 observer (Switzerland).
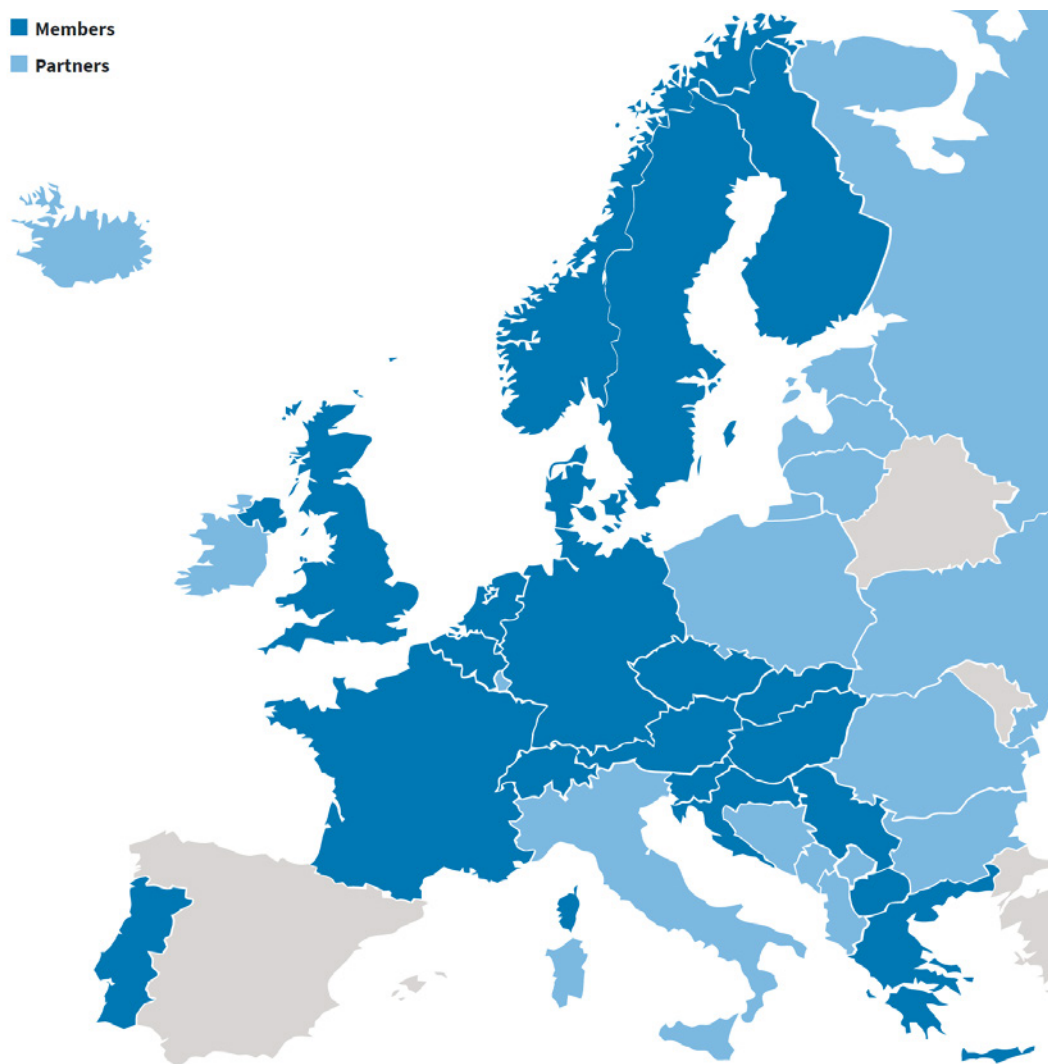
Each member assigns a national data service that takes care of data curation and data services. These CESSDA Service Providers act as trusted repositories and demonstrate their reliability to researchers as well as national and international research funders.

Activities and results

The activities carried out in 2019 build on the CESSDA Strategy 2018-2022, which has four pillars:

1. Building on TRUST
2. Renown for TRAINING
3. Proficient in TECHNOLOGY
4. User-friendly TOOLS & SERVICES

In 2020 we will start mainstreaming the Technology pillar as the technical backbone of CESSDA is reaching completion, and the same goes for the core products: the CESSDA Data Catalogue, Vocabulary Service, European Question Bank and the European Language Social Science Thesaurus. We will also investigate the development of a new pillar on Widening & Outreach in 2020/21.

Training activities

The Training Group had several on-line and two face-to-face meetings. Activities online focused on the production of training materials on CESSDA tools, and work started on the upcoming CESSDA Data Archiving Guide, which will be created in a similar look and feel as the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide.

A Community of Practice of Trainers was set up, involving other social science and humanities ERICs[1] and international projects, where members of the group cover all scientific disciplines. The idea behind the group was to learn from each other. This community is involved in setting up a training part of the EOSC and is holding a workshop addressing this in February 2020 (Workshop on Training in EOSC).

Online training courses took place for both researchers and experts from Service Providers. One training was on maintenance of the training website. A protocol was prepared for the email inbox and for updating the training website.

Outtakes, outcomes and impact
Throughout the chapter, certain results are highlighted in boxes like this one.

Outtakes
Short-term, target group responses & reactions taken as a result of activities, e.g. engagement with content, follow-up actions, etc.
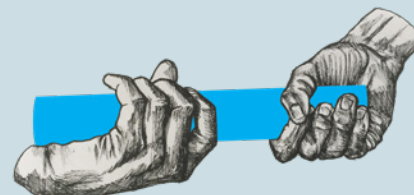
Outcomes
Mid- to long-term, measures the effect of the communications activities on the target audience, e.g. increased understanding, changed attitude to the topic, increased trust and/or preference, impact on the intention to do something.

Impact
Impact on the organisational goals is evaluated (reputation improvement, relationship improved or established, increase in sales, change in policy or improved social change).

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1   European Research Infrastructure Consortium

Activities and results

CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide

The CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide and training group activities were presented at the following events:

» Open Access to Research Information, Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, May 2019.
» International doctoral summer school on Quality of Living and Working Conditions in Europe; Rijeka, Croatia (June 2019) – 3 hours training session (25 participants; a blog post about it).
» European Survey Research Association in Zagreb, Croatia (ESRA19, July 2019)
» Poster and presentation, co-presented by Peter Doorn, Chair of Science Europe Working Group on Research Data and Chair of CESSDA General Assembly.
» 4th National Day of Large Research Infrastructures of the Czech Republic. LINDAT/CLARIAH, Prague, November 2019.
» Open Research Data in Slovenia conference and workshop, Maribor, November 2019.

Webinars and workshops

CESSDA organised six training webinars in 2019. Three of the webinars were organised by the CESSDA Training WG, one was organised as part of work on the CESSDA European Question Bank and two with the SERISS project.

» SERISS Webinar on "Meeting funders' requirements – archiving and data sharing" was attended (33 participants)
» SERISS Webinar on "Finding and reusing data" (32 participants)
» "The EuropeanQuestionBank: Search, find and reuse questionnaire items from social scientific research" (35 participants)
» "The GDPR and research one year on: experiences across Europe" (195 participants)
» "Data Discovery" (36 participants)
» "Data on aspects of digital life" (50 participants)

CESSDA Training Days 2019 was a two-day event showcasing diverse training resources on both CESSDA tools and services, which took place on 27-28 November in Cologne, Germany, hosted by the GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences . The first track of events was directed toward training resources for researchers and the second track was on resources for direct use by service provider staff.

The individual sessions covered materials both at introductory and advanced levels in a variety of formats, including presentations, training videos, demonstrations, and workshops. 24 participants from sixteen European countries attended the event (of which 20 participated in both days). The event was received very positively, and the vast majority of attendees agreed that they would recommend the event to others. Based on participants' feedback, future Training Days may cover new data types (big data, geodata etc.) and more hands-on sessions.
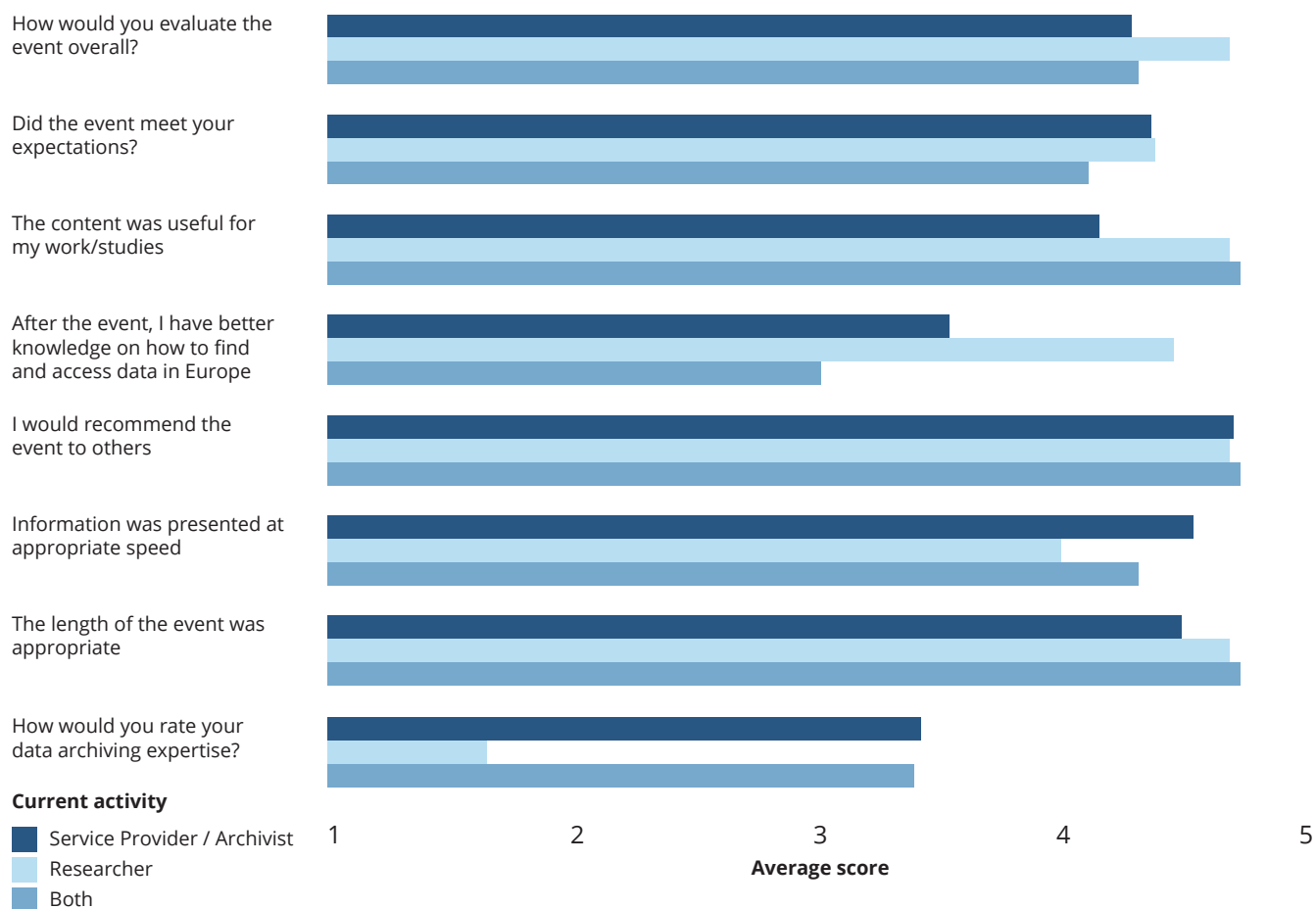
Activities and results

Figure 2: participants' average rating of the event, separately for each subgroup.

A CESSDA Training Workshop took place in Athens on 14 May, hosted by the Greek CESSDA Service Provider, SoDaNet. The aim of the workshop was to present the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide (DMEG), with an emphasis on new materials around RDM, GDPR and Data Discovery.

Webinar and workshop materials can be found in the CESSDA Community on Zenodo.

CESSDA Training roadmap update in 2020

The Training Working Group team reviewed the CESSDA Training roadmap 2019-2022 and made strategic decisions on the work expected to be done in 2020. The focus will be on users' needs as well as the existing capacity of CESSDA SPs and the available budget.

Activities and results

Trust activities

As part of their commitment to CESSDA, all Service Providers work towards the internationally accepted standard for trustworthy digital repository status: the CoreTrustSeal. The CoreTrustSeal now forms part of the EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda agenda as a recommended certification approach for data repositories and services and is seen as important for enabling FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data.

CESSDA Service Providers must be perceived as trusted bodies by stakeholders including universities, national statistical offices, funders and researchers. Six Service Providers with experience in the CoreTrustSeal participate in the Trust Working Group to address CESSDA-related trust landscape issues and offer peer review and guidance to those repositories applying for or renewing against the CoreTrustSeal Requirements (UK Data Service, FSD, GESIS, SND, DANS, ADP).

These developments reflect well on CESSDA's early selection of and support for core certification standards. Updates to the CoreTrustSeal (CTS) Requirements and a three-month freeze on applications during the transition period reduced the window for certification in 2019, with a number of repositories choosing to delay CTS certification until the new version is available.
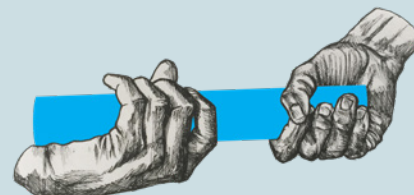
The members of the CESSDA Trust Working Group have a variety of roles in relation to trust activities including the CoreTrustSeal, Nestor Seal (DIN31644), RDA Repository Certification Interest Group and trustworthy digital repository support in the SSHOC and FAIRsFAIR projects. This ensures a broad knowledge base of ongoing trust, FAIR and EOSC landscape issues, which can be fed into the group's work.

Trust Workshops

The first of a round of two training and consultancy workshops was hosted by the French Service Provider PROGEDO on the theme of complex partnerships. Service Providers with more relationships and dependencies to manage may face a greater challenge when seeking certification. These may range from relationships between partner organisations or with host organisations, to dependencies on cloud services or third-party repository service providers. The Trust Working Group also responded to a request from the new Director of PROGEDO to hold a dedicated session on their partnership model and the challenges this implies for CoreTrustSeal certification.

The Trust Workshop in Cologne on 26 November 2019 was arranged to coincide with the CESSDA Training Days and therefore provided an introduction to the CoreTrustSeal for those less familiar with the standard, and an introduction to the changes introduced in the latest version of

CoreTrustSeal. There were nineteen attendees from thirteen countries.

The Workshop focused on the CoreTrustSeal requirements. Best practice recommendations were made for each requirement, though it was acknowledged that further work is necessary to clarify the CESSDA Annex 2 obligations for Service Providers.

The evaluations were positive, the most valuable aspects being discussions, practical advice on CoreTrustSeal, and meeting other staff. Topics suggested for future seminars include OAI-PMH, providing evidence for CoreTrustSeal, and using tools provided by CESSDA.
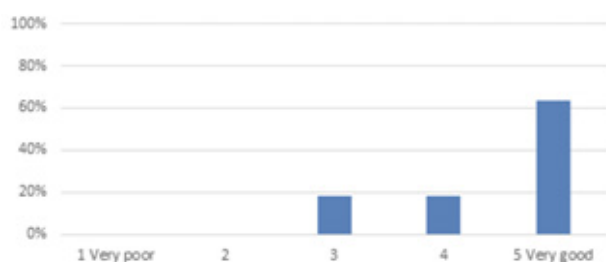

Figure 3. How would you evaluate the seminar overall= (1.Very Poor - 5. Very Good) (n=11)

CESSDA Support Approach

For community standards such as the CoreTrustSeal, support between Service Providers is a peer-driven two-way process. Knowledge sharing comes from all participants and the results are used to improve CESSDA, Service Providers and the CoreTrustSeal itself.

2   https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3725868

The Trust Working Group created a working paper entitled CESSDA Trust Group: Overview of Support Approaches. This paper was designed together with others working on trusted infrastructures, including the SSHOC[2] project, the CoreTrustSeal Board and the FAIRsFAIR project. It provides a basis for strategic cooperation with these groups in 2020 and beyond.

Certification Progress

Ten of the twenty CESSDA Service Providers were either certified or had submitted their application by the end of 2019. The newest CESSDA members have taken their first steps towards certification.
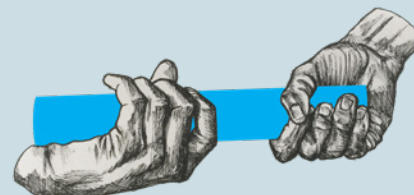
Outtakes
During 2019, two additional service providers, Austria (first time) and the UK (renewal), submitted applications to the CoreTrustSeal and reviews are in progress.

Outcomes
2019 was also an opportunity for the newest CESSDA members, Croatia, Serbia and North Macedonia, to develop knowledge around the CoreTrustSeal and take their first steps towards certification.

Activities and results

Certification process 2019

Country	Abbreviation	CoreTrustSeal Status	CoreTrustSeal Version
Austria	AUSSDA	Submitted	2017-2019
Belgium	SOHDA		
Czech Republic	CSDA	Approved	2017-2019
Denmark	DNA		
Finland	FSD	Approved	2017-2019
France	PROGEDO		
Germany	GESIS	Approved	2017-2019
Greece	So.Da.Net		
Hungary	TÁRKI		
Netherlands	DANS	Approved	2017-2019
Norway	NSD	Approved	2017-2019
Portugal	APIS		
Slovakia	SASD		
Slovenia	ADP	Approved	2017-2019
Sweden	SND	Approved	2017-2019
Switzerland	FORS	Approved	2017-2019
United Kingdom	UKDS	Submitted	2017-2019
Serbia	DCS		
North Macedonia	ISPJR		
Croatia	FFZG		
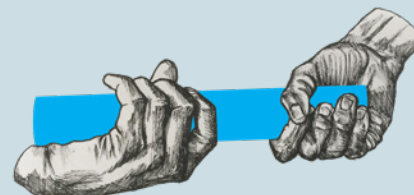
Future Plans

CESSDA Trust Group activities for 2020 will prioritise the following areas:

- » CoreTrustSeal support,
- » Landscape research, and
- » CESSDA Statutes Annex 2 evaluation.

Tools & Services activities

The aim of the Tools and Services Working Group is to capture and promote the interests of internal and external users: data users (researchers) and data producers. The Working Group has five members (FSD, DNA, SoDaNet, GESIS, TÁRKI) and provides advice from the user's perspective on which services and tools CESSDA should provide. The group works closely with the Technical Working Group to prioritise enhancements made to CESSDA services.

In 2019, the general goals for the Working Group were to enhance the Work Plan process; stabilise routines; and work with Service Providers and the external community with a view of recognising collaboration opportunities and sharing knowledge. The Working Group worked together with the Main Office and other Working Groups to improve the Work Plan process, and coordinated Work Plan Task projects.

Furthermore, work on several CESSDA tools continued in line with the Work Plan 2019. The Work Plan projects and their outcomes are building blocks that enable CESSDA to provide enhanced data discovery services for the research community.
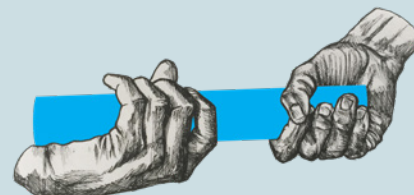
Some important publications were:

- » The CESSDA Metadata Model version 1.0 was published in November (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3236171),
- » ELSST annual update was released in September (https://www.cessda.eu/News-Events/News/CESSDA/New-release-of-ELSST-thesaurus) and
- » an updated version of CESSDA ERIC Persistent Identifier Policy (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3611316) was finalised together with the CESSDA ERIC Checklist for the Usage of Persistent Identifiers (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3611332).

European Question Bank

Results from the ongoing work on the European Question Bank (EQB) were shared via a webinar in November, where topics included the user interface, the EQB architecture and the requirements for metadata providers if they plan to supply their metadata to EQB.

Activities and results

CESSDA Vocabulary Service tool

The [CESSDA Vocabulary Service](#) is a unique tool which enables developers to search, browse, and download controlled vocabularies in a variety of languages. The tool is also useful for researchers, for administrators and translators of controlled vocabularies, and for data repositories providing metadata.

As explained on the [DDI Alliance](#) website, researchers can use the tool to study the terms used in the data descriptions which in turn enables them to do more precise searches in the CESSDA Data Catalogue. For translators and data repositories, the CVS facilitates easy and robust vocabulary management.

> **Impact**
> This collaboration between [CESSDA](#) and the [DDI Alliance](#) means that internationally-recognised and widely-used DDI controlled vocabularies are hosted within the CESSDA Vocabulary Service alongside CESSDA's own Topic Classifications

CESSDA Expert Seminar 2019

The CESSDA Expert Seminars have a long history as friendly occasions for distributing best practices and sharing knowledge. CES2019 was no exception. The CESSDA Expert Seminar 2019 ([CES2019](#)) took place on 26-27 September 2019 in Colchester, UK, hosted by the UK Data Service. CES2019 targeted both senior and junior level professionals working with data management and dissemination within CESSDA Service Providers and Partners. The focus was on peer exchange and sharing experiences.

The main topics were:

» Service Providers' access conditions to data
» Sharing metadata
» Tools that Service Providers currently use in their data ingest and curation.

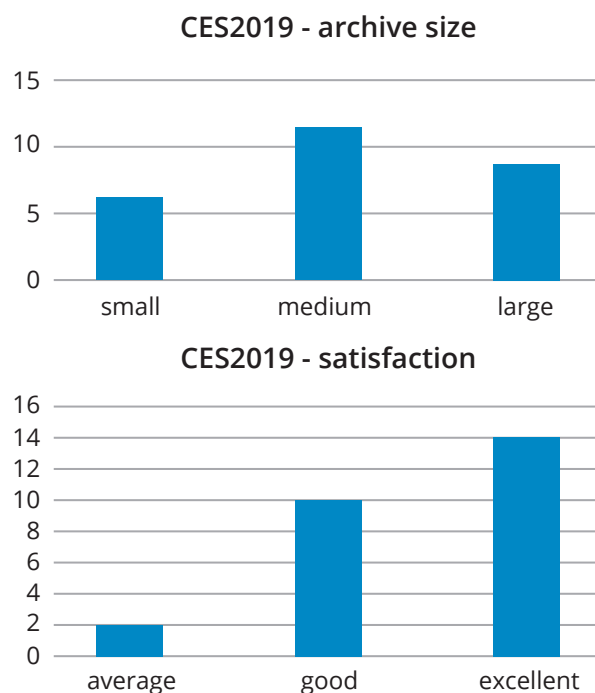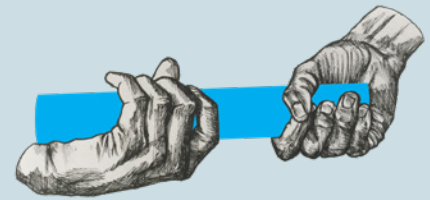CES2019 had 34 attendees from 15 organisations. The 20 presentations were published on the CESSDA website[3].

CES2019 - archive size

CES2019 - satisfaction

Figure 4. CES2019 event evaluation.

Activities and results

Future work

Outreach to user communities is important and webinars should be used to further promote the visibility of tools and services. Valuable feedback from a broader audience would be beneficial. Information about the variety of tools available within the CESSDA community should be shared and promoted to a greater degree than it has been until now.

Technical activities

2019 saw extensive changes being made to the cloud-based technical infrastructure to reduce operational costs by reducing computing resource usage, standardise the build and test pipelines for CESSDA applications, enable reuse and disseminate the knowhow to relevant Service Providers.

CESSDA Data Catalogue

The CESSDA Data Catalogue contains the metadata that describes the data in the holdings of CESSDA's service providers. It is a one-stop-shop for search and discovery, enabling effective access to European social science research data. In the first half of 2019, work was undertaken to improve the User Experience and the range and quality of its contents. An updated version of the catalogue went live in June 2019, with another version being released in December 2019.
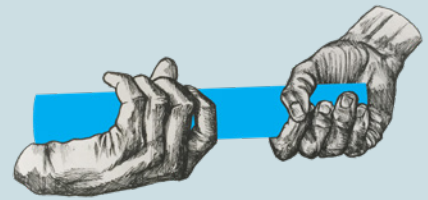
CESSDA Technical Working Group

Based on feedback from the user group and others, the CESSDA Data Catalogue was updated[4]. Changes included improvements to the user interface, performance and quality assurance.

4   https://ddialliance.org/announcement/cessda-data-catalogue-updated

Activities and results

Monitoring infrastructure, monitoring tools and services

Two open source tools, Prometheus and Grafana, have been deployed to gather and display performance indicators for tools on our platform, and to submit technical alerts when issues arise.

Outcomes
Greater understanding in the Technical Working Group of how CESSDA's infrastructure and its tools and services respond to changing patterns of usage.

Updated Technical Architecture and 'How To' documents

Major aspects of CESSDA's Technical policy have been formally described and disseminated, consisting of:

» The platform guidelines WIKI
A restricted access introduction to the CESSDA Technical Framework, in terms of its structure and composition. It provides both an overview and detail of the various Google Cloud Platform projects.

» The Technical Architecture document (public access)
This is intended to promote good software development practice across the Service Provider community. The CESSDA Infrastructure follows a modern design of micro services operated on cloud infrastructure services.

» The Software Maturity Levels document (public access)
This document is concerned with mandating and checking the

sustainability and usability of the software components of CESSDA's technical Research Infrastructure. The need to measure the maturity of software designed for use by CESSDA is essential to ensure the quality of the technical Research Infrastructure is maintained.

» The User Experience Guide (public access)
The guide describes the general user experience for CESSDA tools and search applications, based on initial feedback and user group discussion.

Work on an updated Tools and Services implementation document began in the second half of 2019.

Outtakes
Aspects of CESSDA's Technical policy are agreed by a representative group of experts from Service Providers, before dissemination.

Outcomes
Major aspects of CESSDA's Technical policy are formally disseminated via these documents.

Workshops and events in 2019

» A CESSDA Technical Infrastructure Training Day took place on 5 December 2019, co-located with EDDI19 at the University of Tampere, Finland. The content was based on feedback from the previous year's event and covered deploying an application on the CESSDA Technical Infrastructure.

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Activities and results
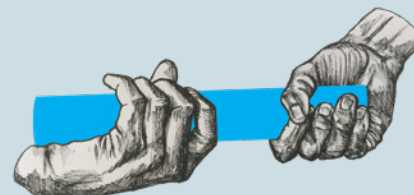
» The EURISE Workshop : Software Sustainability within Research Infrastructures was co-organised and chaired by CESSDA.

Following the common workshop on "Software Sustainability: Quality and Re-Use" in 2017 together with CLARIN and DARIAH, CESSDA organised a workshop on "Software Sustainability within Research Infrastructures" in March 2019 in Utrecht, The Netherlands, under the common umbrella of the EURISE Network.

The workshop covered a wide range of topics from individual approaches and challenges for infrastructures to ensure sustainability to architectural solutions and business models. Invited talks covered security frameworks and IT service management.

Outtakes

A training proposal based on the training day was submitted to the ICTeSSH (International Conference on ICT enhanced Social Sciences and Humanities 2019) conference.
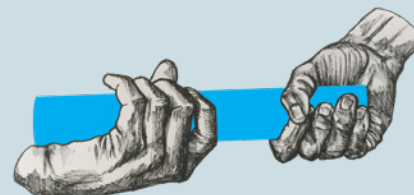
Outcomes

The presentations (which included one on CESSDA's Software Maturity Model) and discussions at the workshop made clear that technical and procedural frameworks are needed as a solid foundation for the operation of research infrastructures. Within CESSDA, technical training was provided later in the year and in 2020 a new workshop will be held on practical implementation of automation and testing for quality assurance.

Impact

CESSDA's reputation enhanced, seen as a leader in this area.

Widening activities

Widening its European coverage and developing its pan-European data services has been a CESSDA priority from the beginning. Widening Activities in 2019 followed up on several previous activities and projects.

The main objectives of these efforts were the following:

» To maintain and foster CESSDA pan-European coverage in collaboration with non-member Service Providers (SPs) within the network of CESSDA Partners.
» To share existing CESSDA support services, tools and knowledge among partnerships with non-member SPs.
» To maintain and further develop CESSDA strategic knowledge about existing non-member SPs and emerging national data archive activities.
» To increase CESSDA's visibility in non-member countries.

CESSDA Widening Activities

FORS
explore.understand.share.

ČSDA

SND
Swedish National Data Service

adp

TÁRKI

There were two planned activities for the year: the CESSDA Widening Meeting 2019 and the launch of a "CESSDA helpdesk" (later referred to as the "Support Service for Data Archives"). In addition to these, a Mentorship Programme was launched and a local widening event in Poland was planned for early 2020 (and unfortunately postponed due to COVID-19).

Widening events in 2019

The main widening event was organised in Skopje on 5-6 November 2019, hosted by the Macedonian Social Science Data Archive (MK DASS) of the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research (ISPJR) at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje[5]. The meeting was primarily intended for representatives of Service Providers and relevant ministries from CESSDA non-member countries and CESSDA countries with small Service Providers.

The event had several aims: to share information about CESSDA, address the political aspects of building research infrastructures in the European Research Area and provide a platform for the exchange of information between CESSDA members and non-members.

The event in Skopje hosted 37 participants from sixteen countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland,

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5   Find out more: https://www.cessda.eu/skopje2019/

Activities and results
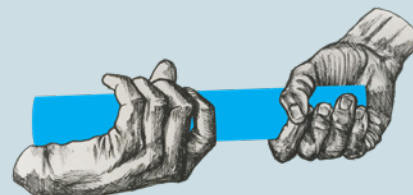
and Ukraine. The Minister of Education and Science of North Macedonia, Dr. Arben Ademi, opened the meeting and expressed his support for the activities of the national Service Provider MK DASS.

Welcome by Dr. Arber Ademi, Minister of Education and Science

North Macedonia was the second country after Serbia to become a new CESSDA member in 2019. Representatives of Data Centre Serbia for Social Sciences were also present at the event and they actively joined the discussion. Representatives from SND, Slovenian ADP, and Swiss FORS shared their experiences from building national data archives. An

important part of the discussion was a panel of new and aspiring CESSDA members discussing possibilities and challenges for the establishment and financing of national Research Infrastructures.

Outtakes
The announcement of North Macedonia's upcoming membership in CESSDA at the event demonstrated the success of CESSDA widening policies.

Outcomes
Integration of non-member SPs into collaborative activities of CESSDA & monitoring of developments in non-member countries.

Impact
Maintenance of a collaborative CESSDA Network of Partners beyond CESSDA membership & support for data services outside of CESSDA.

Participants of the Widening event in Skopje 2019

Support Services and the CESSDA Mentorship Programme

A "Support Service for Data Archives" was developed and published online. The goal of this service is to offer direct support to data archives that are aiming to join CESSDA. It allows them to both receive help quickly and receive personalised feedback to specific questions that they might have.

The CESSDA Mentorship Programme was launched in 2019. It offers one-on-one support, matching experts active in Widening Activities with interested CESSDA Service Providers and partners during the year. The aim is to assist the mentees in defining and realising their short-term goals. These could be strategic, policy related, practical, or technical. The mentor is responsible for actively accompanying partners throughout the year.

The Mentorship Programme is a way to ensure that CESSDA Service Providers and partners stay active during the year, clarify and move towards realistic goals, and are closely supported and encouraged. Widening project partners from five well-established CESSDA Service Providers provided mentoring support via two calls for potential mentees, in December 2018 for the year 2019 and in January 2020 for 2020. The following seven countries received support in 2019: CREDI (Bosnia and Herzegovina), FFZG (Croatia), UniData (Italy), CPC (Kosovo), LiDA (Lithuania), MK DASS (Macedonia), and DCS (Serbia).
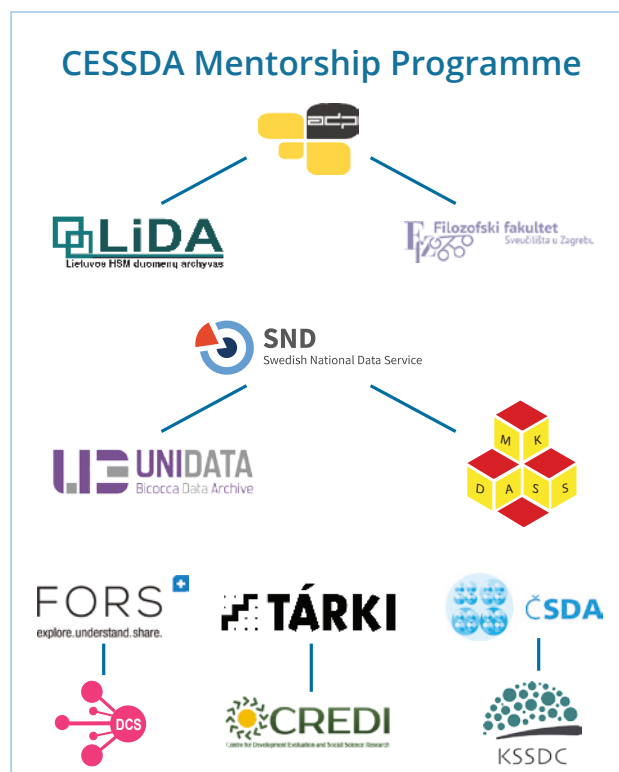
In addition to regular online communication and consultations between the mentors and their mentees, several onsite visits were organised (e.g. LiDa and DCS visit to ADP, CPC visit to CSDA, and CREDI visit to TARKI).
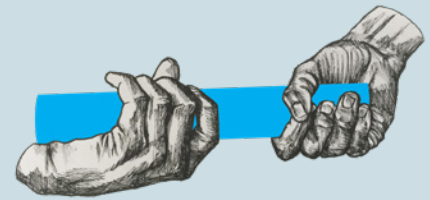
Communications

In 2018, CESSDA renewed its graphic profile and launched a more user-friendly website. The focus was on making the main tools and services more available, such as the CESSDA Data Catalogue and the Training website. In 2019, efforts were mainly aimed at further improving online content and the visibility of CESSDA as European Research Infrastructure via digital marketing.

Website visits more than doubled in 2019 with the CESSDA website attracting over 110,000 visitors during the year. Over 70% of page views went to the training website, making it the most popular section of the website. The CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide (DMEG) alone reached over 139,000 page views during the year. It is designed by European experts to help social science researchers make their research data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR).

A specific training event calendar was launched on the training website and website visitors can suggest an event to be added directly online. A CESSDA Training YouTube channel was launched which had seven videos by the end of 2019. These were all webinar recordings, as the Training Working Group organised many webinars during the year. An animated video was created and published as an introduction to the DMEG, "What is the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide & how can it help you?". Testimonials by researchers having used the DMEG were gathered to be used for future marketing purposes.

Online activity

Website visits

47 088 (2018)

114 291 (2019)

File downloads

4 114 (2018)

5 455 (2019)
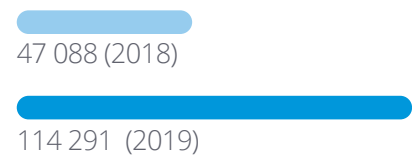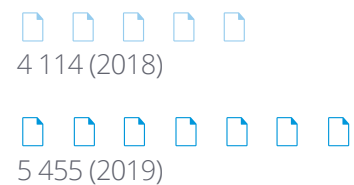
Twitter impressions

345 400 (2018)

568 300 (2019)
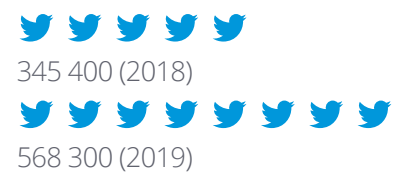
Top visitor countries

USA
UK
DE
NL
CA
NO

Top website sections

Training
About
News & Events
Tools & Services
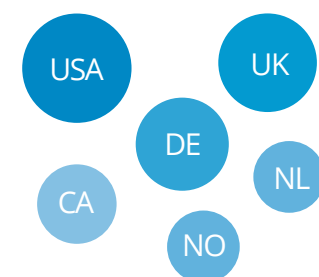
Activities and results

Two Twitter campaigns were ongoing in 2019:

» one on the CESSDA Data Catalogue, using UN International Days to draw attention to relevant thematic data available; and

» one highlighting elements from each of chapter of the DMEG.

The interview series "CESSDA asks ten questions to…" launched in December 2018 picked up speed in 2019, and interviews with five research and science policy experts were published on the CESSDA website. These interviews also attracted attention on social media channels such as Twitter. Another series of online articles kicked-off in January 2019, "Tour of CESSDA", aiming to highlight each of CESSDA's national service providers one at a time, starting with the Austrian service provider. Four such articles were published in 2019, with the rest of the series to follow in 2020.

The monthly virtual meetings of the communication group help ensure the flow of internal information between CESSDA MO, the Service Providers (SPs) and between the SPs themselves and allow for the sharing of best practices. In 2019, the monthly calls were dedicated to a thematic topic each time. These were organised by the Main Office Senior Communication Officer and attended by communication staff of the Service Providers.

Communication group topics
- social media
- internal communications
- web accessibility
- interviews
- blogs
- newsletters
- annual reports
- CESSDA Data Catalogue

An in-house communication training was organised in June for CESSDA Main Office staff with the aim of improving internal communication and addressing challenges such as rapid growth of the office, diverse national, cultural and educational backgrounds, existing overlaps in terms of job roles and areas of responsibility, etc.

In 2019, two general posters were created, and document templates were updated. CESSDA was also a sponsor of the ESS 4th international conference in April in Mannheim.

European Union funded projects

Ongoing projects

Several projects started in 2019 and which will continue for the next few years.

SSHOC

Social Sciences & Humanities Open Cloud (SSHOC)

Duration: 01.01.2019 – 30.04.2022, funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

The start of the large European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) cluster project Social Sciences & Humanities Open Cloud (SSHOC) marked 2019 as an especially successful year for CESSDA. CESSDA took on the role of leading partner and coordinator of the SSHOC project with a budget of 14.5 million Euro.

The SSHOC consortium brings together all the key players in the European Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and Cultural Heritage, and consists of organisations from sixteen European countries. It thus covers all SSH ESFRI Landmarks and Projects and important international SSH data infrastructures and associations. In total, 45 partner organisations participate in the project: 20 beneficiaries and 25 Linked Third Parties (LTPs).

The overall objective of the project is to actualise and structure the social sciences and humanities' part of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). Specifically, SSHOC aims at realising the transition from the current landscape with disciplinary silos and separated e-infrastructure facilities into a cloud-based infrastructure, where the data are FAIR, and where tools and training are readily available. These resources are for SSH scholars who have adopted a data-driven scientific approach and have an interest in the innovation and integration of their methodological frameworks.

CESSDA SSHOC Team

YHTEISKUNTATIETEELLINEN TIETOARKISTO
FINLANDS SAMHÄLLSVETENSKAPLIGA DATAARKIV
FINNISH SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVE

UK Data Service

SND
Swedish National Data Service

NSD
NORSK SENTER FOR FORSKNINGSDATA

RIGSARKIVET

gesis
Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

FORS
explore.understand.share.

adp

AUSSDA
AUSTRIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVE

Activities and results

The project kick-off meeting was held in Utrecht in March 2019 and attracted over 100 participants. It was an opportunity to meet with representatives of all partner organisations to discuss project implementation as well as prepare our joint activities.

In 2019, the SSH Open Marketplace was prepared, the first version of the ethnic and migrant minority (EMM) Survey Registry was released, and a Training Hub was launched. Coming up are innovations in data production and access, as well as solutions and resources for the digital aspects of research. The creation of a secure environment for sharing and using sensitive and confidential data will also be explored, as it would contribute to the EU Open Science agenda.

ERIC Forum

ERIC Forum Implementation project (ERIC Forum)

Duration: 01.01.2019 – 31.12.2022, funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

The ERIC Forum Implementation project represents the opportunity to reinforce collaboration and coordination of European Research Infrastructure Consortiums (ERICs) by enhancing and further developing the structure of the ERIC Forum and its activities.

The project supports the organisation of specific meetings and targeted thematic workshops, e.g. on procurement rules, harmonised reporting, VAT exemption practices, insurances and pensions policies and the training of governance bodies representatives. The project also supports ERICs in the preparation phase and strengthens the external representation of ERICs as stakeholders in consultations and other relevant policy actions.

CESSDA ERIC is one of the 23 beneficiaries that make up the project consortium and
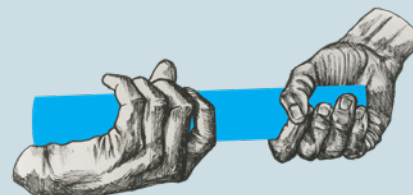
participates in all project work packages. The main areas of CESSDA's activities were on setting up a new governance for the ERIC Forum, the development of KPIs, and the exchange of best practices. The Norwegian based ERICs CESSDA and ECCSEL were the chairs of the forum in 2019.

TRIPLE

Transforming Research through Innovative Practices for Linked Interdisciplinary Exploration (TRIPLE)

Duration: 01.10.2019 – 31.03.2023, funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

The project aims to address the fragmentation of research in the Social Sciences and Humanities and to overcome obstacles to interdisciplinary research by providing a discovery platform dedicated to SSH data, researchers and projects at a European scale. It will offer solutions for the use and reuse of SSH research and increase the societal impact of SSH research. The project had its kick-off meeting in Paris in December 2019.

CESSDA ERIC participates in the project as a beneficiary with the UK Data Service (United Kingdom), FSD (Finland) and ADP (Slovenia) as Linked Third Parties. The main contribution of the CESSDA team will be designing specifications for harvesting protocols, process, and resource metadata, as well as machine learning, open science and EOSC integration, guidelines, training and advocacy on Open Science.

HumMingBird

Enhanced migration measures from a multidimensional perspective (HumMingBird)

Duration: 01.12.2019 – 30.11.2023, funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

The significance of migration as a social, political, and broader public concern has intensified significantly over the last few years. Migration is increasingly seen as a high-priority policy issue by many governments and within our societies.

The project's overall objective is to improve the understanding of the changing nature of migration flows and the drivers of migration. It will also analyse patterns, motivations, and new geographies. Moreover, HumMingBird aims to calculate population estimates, determine emerging and future trends, and identify possible future implications of today's policy decisions.

The CESSDA team consists of CESSDA Main Office with EKKE (Greece) and IEN (Serbia) as Linked Third Parties. Its main contribution will be in identifying migration data systems and the coherence of definitions, exploring the links between migration policies and migration dynamics, as well as considering ethical matters. One of the deliverables is a thematic Migration Data Catalogue.

EOSC Enhance

Enhancing the EOSC portal and connecting thematic clouds (EOSC Enhance)

Duration: 01.12.2019 – 30.11.2021, funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

The EOSC Enhance project started in December 2019 as an upgrade and extension of a previous EOSC project. Its main objectives are to enhance the service provider interface and to accelerate the deployment and uptake of EOSC services and resources in the EOSC catalogue.

As one of the ESFRI Cluster representatives, CESSDA will principally be involved in activities relating to the adaptation and further development of the EOSC catalogue, as well as in advising on functional specifications and testing API for interconnecting and harvesting the thematic services. Participation in this project is an opportunity for reaching new users and for aligning SSHOC project instruments and resources with EOSC.

Activities and results

Finalised projects

The following projects came to an end in 2019.

SERISS

Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS)

Duration: 01.07.2015 – 30.08.2019, funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

The project contributed to a supportive landscape for social research by strengthening the synergy between infrastructures and addressed some of the key challenges in cross-national research.

The CESSDA ERIC team included the following CESSDA Service Providers: UK Data Service (United Kingdom), ADP (Slovenia), FORS (Switzerland), CSDA (Czech Republic), GESIS (Germany) and NSD (Norway). They provided expertise on cross-national and longitudinal data harmonisation, translation processes, metadata and data linkage. Training guidelines, webinars and tools for the social science community were also created and promoted.

The project had a strong emphasis on new forms of data particularly in a social survey context, including biomarker data, social media data and administrative data. Thanks to SERISS, new standards and paths have been created which support further development of social science research.

RISCAPE

European Research Infrastructures in the International Landscape (RISCAPE)
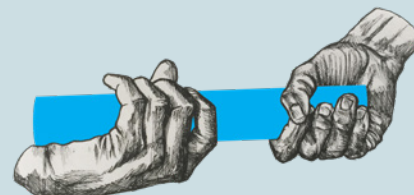
Duration: 01.01.2017 – 31.12.2019, funded by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

The result of the project was presented in December 2019 in Brussels. The landscape report is intended to support European and other strategic developments taking place in Research Infrastructures (RI) and to highlight future collaboration possibilities. The report illustrates the position of European RIs by research area in the international RI landscape. It considers all fields of ESFRI activities: Energy, Environment, Health & Food, Physical Sciences & Engineering, Social and Cultural Innovation and e-infrastructures.

The contribution of the CESSDA team (CESSDA Main Office and the UK Data Service) was to present a complete overview of social surveys and social science data archive research infrastructures. The report investigated compliance to FAIR principles, the cost of operation and investments, data access and policies, societal impact as well as possibilities of integration and collaboration with other RIs.

Activities and results
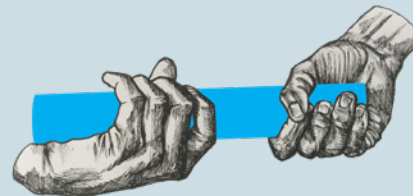
European Commission projects in the pipeline

CESSDA was involved in the preparation of several project proposals:

- » SSOE, Social Science Observatory in Europe, updated and improved version of the EuroPanel proposal, a probability-based panel for Europe (INFRADEV-01, led by ESS, submitted November 2019);
- » COORDINATE (INFRAIA-02, led by Manchester Metropolitan University, submitted May 2020);
- » RITRAIN+ on training for Research Infrastructure managers (INFRASUPP-02, led by University of Milan-Bicocca, submitted May 2020);
- » ACROSS, Addressing the Challenges to Responsible Open Science in Society on (SwafS-30, led by European Science Foundation, submitted May 2020);
- » EURhisCOM, Integrating long-term company-level data (INFRAIA-02, led by Paris School of Economics, submitted May 2020).
- » EOSC Future (INFRAEOSC-03, led by Technopolis Group, submitted June 2020);

Governance

The governance structure of CESSDA ERIC consists of the General Assembly; the Director; the Service Providers and the Service Providers' Forum (SPF), which has an advisory role; and the Scientific Advisory Board.

The General Assembly is the ultimate authority of CESSDA ERIC, and consists of the Members of CESSDA and Observers without voting rights. The Director is the chief executive officer, chief scientific officer and legal representative of CESSDA.

In 2019, CESSDA continued on its path to fulfilling goals set out in the Strategic Plan 2018-2022. This process has gained external momentum due to the development of the European Open Science Cloud and the prominent role CESSDA has taken on via SSHOC and membership of the EOSC Executive Board. CESSDA has a strong position among other ERICs through chairing the ERIC Forum, and in relation to the development of KPIs by the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).

CESSDA General Assembly and the Service Providers' Forum met twice in 2019, in the spring and in the autumn, both bodies covering more strategic agendas involving scenarios for further CESSDA development. The Spring meeting of the SPF was combined with the first Directors' meeting to discuss new developments and strategic issues.

CESSDA Working Groups together with CESSDA Main Office monitored the progress and developments in each of the four strategic areas (Technology, Training, Trust, and Tools and Services) through related projects and their compliance with the CESSDA Strategic Plan 2018-2022 and their respective Roadmaps.

CESSDA Main Office worked on describing the processes such as publication, procurement and employment policy, providing support for more transparent processes and decision-making with clear procedures and policies.

It also continued its participation in initiatives such as the EURISE network (where research infrastructures meet research software engineers), EASSH — European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (co-designing the Open Science initiative and supporting ongoing projects on open publications such as OPERAS-P), and participation in the ENRIITC project to create a European network of liaison officers to strengthen the collaboration between research infrastructures and industry.

Management

Management of the daily operational activities of CESSDA ERIC is done by CESSDA Main Office. Its main activities are project management, communications, finance, IT-platform, acquisition and European networking and lobbying.

In 2019, CESSDA Main Office administratively managed nine internal projects (Work Plan Tasks 2019) and nine European-funded projects, one of them being a landmark for CESSDA: the 14.5 million Euro INFRAEOSC-04 project "Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud – SSHOC". It also supported preparations for new applications with deadlines in Spring 2020.

The Technical Backbone was improved, focussing on quality checks and transparency. The Google Cloud Platform was maintained and expanded to host new CESSDA Core Products such as ELSST and EQB.

Total staff at the Main Office is 10.4 FTE; ten people in Bergen and one seconded in Essex. Compared to other distributed research infrastructures, the number of staff at CESSDA is relatively low.

Staffing at distributed infrastructures	
ELIXIR Office	27
CERIC ERIC Office	20
BBMRI ERIC	18
CLARIN ERIC	16
LIFEWATCH ERIC	16
CESSDA ERIC	11
DARIAH ERIC	8

Looking ahead
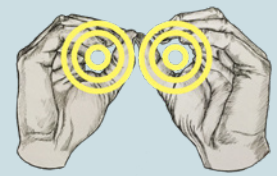
CESSDA will soon enter a new, more mature phase as we have developed core tools, built the technological framework, met basic quality certifications, set up training courses and applied for European grants[6]. In preparation, CESSDA has developed an Agenda 2021-2024 that was discussed with the Service Providers' Forum and the General Assembly in 2019.

The focus will be less on developing new tools and more on the current (four) core products – their sustainability, maintenance, and continuous improvement. We will continue with training and trust, and we will focus more on our users and stakeholders via a new strategic pillar, Widening & Outreach.

We want to concentrate metadata activities and actions in a Metadata Office, run by experts from the Service Providers. It will coordinate and support work on metadata standards and persistent identifiers, contribute to new developments, e.g. on the DDI-standard, and increase awareness among data producers on the need for high-quality metadata.

We will work on Key Performance Indicators (KPI), as ESFRI has set up a list of KPIs that the European Commission and countries will likely use to monitor the performance of research infrastructures.

CESSDA will remain active in developing and deploying the European Open Science Cloud. The SSHOC project will feed into the EOSC by providing data tools and services such as the SSH Open Marketplace. SSHOC will seek further cooperation with other Science Clusters to make

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6   This development is confirmed in the European Commission report Supporting the Transformative Impact of Research Infrastructures on European Research (Rossi High Level Expert Group), p 136; doi: 10.2777/3423.

Looking ahead
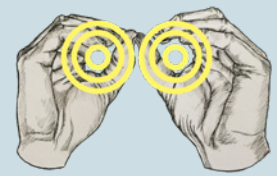
cross-domain data available for researchers from various disciplines. CESSDA and SSHOC have a significant role in the 41 million Euro EOSC Future proposal that will deploy the EOSC.

CESSDA has set up a COVID-19 web page, relating to specific data provided by its Service Providers. It has also appointed the director of FSD, Helena Laaksonen, as a special envoy on COVID-19. Although we hope that this pandemic will be over soon, we are exploring how we can add social data to the European Commission COVID-19 data platform. Until there is a vaccine, it will be human behaviour that determines the extent to which the virus can manifest itself. Society and governments need trusted and reliable data to develop policies to act upon.

CESSDA's mission

» To provide a distributed and sustainable research infrastructure that enables the research community to conduct high-quality research in the social sciences, and contributes to the production of effective solutions to the major challenges facing society today

» To facilitate teaching and learning in the social sciences

CESSDA wants to:

» Provide access to European research data from social sciences
- Data Catalogue
- Training for data producers, data users, experts (trainers)
- Connect with research communities

» Increase efficiency
- Joint technological framework via a CESSDA platform
- Core Products
- Joint development of new tools and services
- Synergies in project management
- Network of experts

» Ensure Quality of national Service Providers
- Certification via CoreTrustSeal and FAIR compliance checks
- Quality of services, long-term preservation

» Participation in European RI bodies
- ESFRI Landmark – meeting KPIs
- Apply for EC grants
- EOSC membership

» Strive for full European coverage
- All 27 Member States, all Associated Countries, UK
- Other countries if they are willing to meet ERIC requirements and CESSDA Statutes.

Financial statements 2019
CESSDA ERIC

Financial statements

Income statement 2019 (EUR)

Operating income and expenses	Note	2019	2018
Operating income			
Other operating income	4	2 262 915	1 763 200
Total operating income		**2 262 915**	**1 763 200**
Operating expenses			
Payroll expenses	1	933 776	714 707
Depreciation of fixed assets	2	14 297	14 568
Other operating expenses	1	1 837 243	1 791 253
Total operating expenses		**2 785 317**	**2 520 529**
Operating profit		**-522 402**	**-757 329**
Financial income and expenses			
Other interest income		236	349
Other financial income		24 299	94 012
Other financial expenses		-33 070	-94 136
Net financial income and expenses		**-8 536**	**225**
Operating result		-530 938	-757 104
Annual net result		**-530 938**	**-757 104**
From/ to other equity	5	-530 938	-757 104
Net brought forward		**-530 938**	**-757 104**

Financial statements

Balance statement 2019 (EUR)

Assets	Note	2019	2018
Tangible fixed assets			
Equipment and other movables	2	8 436	16 517
Total tangible fixed assets		**8 436**	**16 517**
Total fixed assets		**8 436**	**16 517**
Current assets			
Debtors			
Accounts receivable		-	-
Other receivables		65 182	18 545
Total debtors		**65 182**	**18 545**
Cash and bank deposits			
Cash and bank deposits	3	1 561 672	2 314 141
Net financial income and expenses		**1 561 672**	**2 314 141**
Total current assets		**1 626 853**	**2 332 686**
Total assets		**1 635 290**	**2 349 203**

Financial statements

Balance statement 2019 (EUR)

Equity and liabilities	Note	2019	2018
Retained earnings			
Other equity	5	613 625	1 119 096
Total retained earnings		**613 625**	**1 119 096**
Total equity		**613 625**	**1 119 096**
Liabilities			
Trade creditors		27 091	51 215
Public duties payable		79 677	39 579
Other short term liabilities	6	914 897	1 139 313
Total short term liabilities		**1 021 665**	**1 230 107**
Total liabilities		**1 021 665**	**1 230 107**
Total equity and liabilities		**1 635 290**	**2 349 203**

Bergen, 22 April 2020

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Ronald Jacobus Paulus Dekker
Chief Executive Officer

Accounting principles

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Norwegian Accounting Act and good accounting practice in Norway. The accounting principles are described below.

From 2019, CESSDA ERIC has changed reporting currency from NOK to EUR. Balance statements 2018 have been converted with the exchange rate at year-end, income statements have been applied with annual average rate.

Operating income and expenses

Revenues consist mainly of grants and project revenues. Received payments related to activities not carried out at year-end are recognised in the balance sheet as unearned income and classified as other short-term debt.

Expenses are recognised in accordance with the matching principle. This means that expenses are recognised in the same period as the related income.

Classification of assets and liabilities

Assets meant for long-term ownership or use are classified as fixed assets. Other assets are classified as current assets. Outstanding receivables to be repaid within one year are classified as current assets. The classification of liabilities is based on analogous criteria.

Fixed assets are valued at acquisition cost. Fixed assets which have a limited economic life shall be depreciated in accordance with a reasonable depreciation schedule. Fixed assets shall be written down to their fair value when a decline in value is not expected to be temporary. The write down shall be reversed when the basis for the write down is no longer present.

Current assets are valued at the lower of acquisition cost and fair value.

Liabilities are appraised at the nominal value on the acquisition date.

Taxes

Since the business is a non-profit organisation it is not liable for corporation tax in accordance with the Tax Law § 2-32.

Currency

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are valued at the exchange rate at year-end.

Pension

The Norwegian branch has established a defined benefit pension scheme. The pension premium is classified as payroll expenses.

Financial statements

NOTES

Note 1- Payroll expenses, numbers of employees , loans to employees etc

Payroll expenses	2019	2018
Wages and holiday allowances	705 564	553 406
Payroll tax	126 649	81 911
Pension premium	87 176	59 190
Other benefits	14 388	20 201
Total	933 776	714 707
Average number full time equivalent	9,67	7,2
Directors' remuneration	131 844	132 784
Board fees	0	0

The company is obliged to have a pension scheme according to the Norwegian Law of compulsory occupational pension scheme and have established a defined benefit pension scheme which satisfies the requirements.

Audit Fees	2019	2018
Audit	7 299	3 517
Other services	1 541	6 306
Total	8 840	9 823

Audit costs are exclusive value added tax.

Financial statements

Note 2 - Tangible fixed assets

Assets	2019	2018
Acquisition cost 01.01	60 828	58 103
Acquisition	6 980	2 725
Acquisition cost 31.12	67 808	60 828
Accumulated depreciation	-59 372	-44 311
Accounted value	**8 436**	**16 517**
Depreciation of the year	**14 297**	**14 568**
Expected economic life	3-5 years	3-5 years
Deprecation plan	Linear	Linear

Note 3 - Cash and bank deposits

The bank deposits includes EUR 39 941 of tax deduction funds.

Deposit	2019	2018
Restricted cash- employee tax deduction funds	39 941	58 129
Bank deposits in NOK	2 130	543 785
Bank deposits in EUR	1 519 601	1 712 227
Total	**1 561 673**	**2 314 141**

Cessda ERIC has a currency risk associated with the exchange rate developments. Allocated funding to projects are paid in EUR. The bank deposits are in NOK and EUR.

Note 4 - Breakdown of income

Income in the year was derived from the following sources:

Source	2019	2018
Members' contributions	1 920 954	1 637 260
Other Grant income	341 961	125 939
Total	**2 262 915**	**1 763 200**

Financial statements

Note 5 - Changes in equity

Equity	2019	2018
Equity 01.01	1 119 096	1 869 702
Translation difference, change in reporting currency	25 466	6 498
Result of the year	-530 938	-757 104
Total equity 31.12	**613 624**	**1 119 096**

Note 6 - Other short term liabilities

Liability	2019	2018
WPT; funds granted to projects, not paid as of 31.12	811 524	1 069 751
EC projects; funds granted to projects, not paid as of 31.12	23 774	-
Other short term liabilities	79 600	69 562
Total other short term liabilities per 31.12	**914 897**	**1 139 313**

Projects that have been granted funds from CESSDA ERIC, where payments has not taken place at year-end, is classified as other short term liabilities. As of 31 December this amounts to EUR 811.524.

Note 7 - Change in reporting currency

The functional currency for CESSDA ERIC is considered to be in EUR. From 2019, the financial statements will be submitted in EUR instead of NOK in previous years. The comparison numbers for 2018 have been converted from NOK to EUR as follows:

» Balance items per 31.12.2017 (when conversion was relevant, have been applied with balance day rate per 29.12.2017 of 9,8403.
» Balance items per 31.12.2018 have been converted with balance day rate 9,9483.
» Profit and loss accounts have been converted with average rate for 2018 of 9,5962.

Financial statements

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the General Meeting in Cessda Eric

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cessda Eric.

The financial statements comprise:	In our opinion:
- The balance sheet as at 31 December 2019 - The income statement for 2019 - Notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies	The accompanying financial statements are prepared in accordance with the law and regulations and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2019 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Norwegian Accounting Act and accounting standards and practices generally accepted in Norway.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with laws, regulations, and auditing standards and practices generally accepted in Norway, including International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company as required by laws and regulations, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The responsibilities of the Managing Director for the Financial Statements

The Managing Director (management) is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Norwegian Accounting Act and accounting standards and practices generally accepted in Norway, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern. The financial statements use the going concern basis of accounting insofar as it is not likely that the enterprise will cease operations.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material

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misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

For further description of Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements reference is made to:
https://revisorforeningen.no/revisjonsberetninger

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Opinion on Registration and Documentation

Based on our audit of the financial statements as described above, and control procedures we have considered necessary in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000, «Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information», it is our opinion that management has fulfilled its duty to produce a proper and clearly set out registration and documentation of the company's accounting information in accordance with the law and bookkeeping standards and practices generally accepted in Norway.

BDO AS

Charlotte Bårdsen
State Authorised Public Accountant
(This document is signed electronically)

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Independent Auditor's Report Cessda Eric - 2019   side 2 av 2

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Annex

CESSDA ERIC Members / Observers and Service Providers November 2019

Country	Representing entity	Service Provider	GA Delegates	SPF Delegates
Austria	Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research — BMBWF	The Austrian Social Science Data Archive — AUSSDA	- Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy, BMBWF - Bettina Glazer, BMBWF (deputy) - Lars Kaczmirek, AUSSDA - Julian Ausserhofer, AUSSDA (deputy) - Mr. Lars Kaczmirek, AUSSDA	- Lars Kaczmirek - Julian Ausserhofer
Belgium	Belgian Scientific Policy Office — BELSPO	Social Sciences and Humanities Data Archive — SOHDA	- Laurence Lenoir, BELSPO - Aziz Naji, BELSPO	- Benjamin Peuch - Rolande De Poortere
Croatia	Ministry of Science and Education	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb	- Slaven Mihaljević, Ministry	- Marijana Glavica
Czech Republic	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	The Czech Social Science Data Archive — CSDA	- Kamila Gabrielova, Ministry - Jindrich Krejci, CSDA	- Jindrich Krejci - Yana Leontiyeva

Annex

Denmark	Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education	Danish Data Archive — DNA	- Katinka Stenbjørn, Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education -Anne Sofie Fink (deputy), DNA	- Anne Sofie Fink
Finland	Academy of Finland	Finnish Social Science data Archive — FSD	- Vilma Lehtinen, Academy of Finland - Helena Laaksonen, FSD	- Helena Laaksonen
France	Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research	PROGEDO/CNRS	- Fabrice Boudjaaba, CNRS - Nicolas Dromel, Ministry	- Sebastien Oliveau
Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research — BMBF	GESIS	- Miriam Schriefers, Ministry - Alexia Katsanidou, GESIS	- Libby Bishop - Alexia Katsanidou
Greece	Greek research infrastructure for the social sciences — So.Da.Net	So.Da.Net	- John Kallas - Dimitra Kondyli	- Dimitra Kondyli - Apostolos Linardis (deputy)
Hungary	The National Research, Development and Innovation Office — NRDI Office	TÁRKI Foundation	- Gábor Csirikusz, NRDI - Bela Janky, TÁRKI	- Peter Hegedus - Bela Junky
Netherlands	The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research — NWO	Data Archiving and Networked Services — DANS	- Joris Voskuilen, NWO - Peter Doorn, DANS	- Ricarda Braukmann - Ingrid Dillo

Annex

North Macedonia	Ministry of Education and Science	SS Cyril and Methodius University	- Klime Babunski - Violeta Atanasovska	- Aneta Cekikj
Norway	Research Council of Norway	Norwegian centre for Research Data — NSD	- Bjørn Tore jellemo, Research Council - Vigdis Kvalheim, NSD	- Vigdis Kvalheim - Dag Kiberg
Portugal	Institute of Social Science, University of Lisbon	Portuguese Archive of Social Information — APIS	- Pedro Moura Ferreira, University of Lisbon - Jose Manuel Mendes	- Pedro Moura Ferreira - Jose Manuel Mendes
Serbia	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	Data Centre Serbia for Social Sciences — DCS	- Aleksandra Bradic-Martinovic, DCS - Marija Kuzmanovic, Ministry	- Aleksandra Bradic-Martinovic
Slovakia	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (Expert: Institute for Sociology of Slovak Academy of Sciences)	Slovak Archive of Social Data — SASD	- Miloslav Bahna, Institute for Sociology of Slovak Academy of Sciences	- Miloslav Bahna
Slovenia	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport — MIZs	Social Science Data Archives — ADP	- Albin Kral, MIZs - Janez Stebe, ADP	- Janez Stebe - Irena Vipavc Brvar

Annex

Sweden	Swedish Research Council	Swedish National Data Service — SND	- Mikael Hjerm, Umeå University - Magnus Eriksson, Research Council	- Iris Alfredsson - Max Petzold
Switzerland	The Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences — FORS	FORS	- Georg Lutz, FORS - Brian Kleiner, FORS	- Brian Kleiner - Alexandra Stam
United Kingdom	Department for Business, Energy& Industrial Strategy — BEIS	UK Data Service — UKDS	- Joseph Ellery, BEIS - Matthew Woollard, UKDS	- Herve L'Hours - Matthew Woollard

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