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User Stories

Empowering social science research with CESSDA® tools & services

2022

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Disclaimer

CESSDA User Stories

In a world beset by challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to climate change, the social sciences have never been more important for impartial, evidence-based research and analysis.

The CESSDA® user stories place centre stage two CESSDA® services that are essential support for research in the social sciences:

➜ **CESSDA DC®: data catalogue** that contains the metadata of all 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.

➜ **CESSDA DMEG®: Data Management Expert Guide**, designed by European experts, to help European social science researchers make their research data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

The stories explore global research challenges from COVID-19, migration to climate change, cancer and chronic diseases and recycling. Designed with practicality in mind, they share advice and insights from both national service providers and researchers to help the community and newcomers navigate their way through datasets and manage their data plans in the best possible way, showing how data is being reused and shared.

The value of shared datasets on the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conversation with Sylvia Kritzinger from University of Vienna

The CESSDA podcast series explores the important world of data archiving and sharing and our researchers across disciplines and countries are benefiting from the CESSDA Data Catalogue.

This podcast focuses on cross-disciplinary research on the COVID-19 pandemic as the crisis evolves over time with the insights from Sylvia Kritzinger, Professor of Methods in the Social Sciences at the Department of Government of the University of Vienna. As one of the principal investigators of the Austrian National Election Study (AUTNES) and the Austrian Corona Panel Project (ACPP), Prof. Kritzinger explains the fundamental importance of the work being done to track the multi-faceted societal and economic impacts of the coronavirus, underscoring the wider benefits of sharing data, such as making recommendations for policy stakeholders, increasing awareness among citizens and enabling students to re-use the data for their own research. Overall, this demonstrates the added value of trusted repositories like CESSDA in the fascinating field of social sciences and its intersection with many other disciplines as we seek to tackle the grand challenges of our time.

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All disciplines can really benefit from these datasets because they can find indicators, theoretical variables, and combine them for other disciplines

Sylvia Kritzinger

Professor at the University of Vienna and principal investigators of the Austrian National Election Study (AUTNES) and the Austrian Corona Panel Project (ACPP)

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CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide User Story

Ana Slavec, PhD in Statistics, used chapter 5 "protect" on **data protection** for her work with personal data.

🗁 The Researcher

Ana Slavec - Consulting Statistician at InnoRenew CoE

In 2016, I obtained a PhD in Statistics from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana where I was a research assistant, first at the Centre for Social Informatics and later at the Slovenian Social Science Data Archives. I am currently employed as a consulting statistician and postdoctoral researcher at the InnoRenew CoE Renewable Materials and Healthy Environments Research and Innovation Centre of Excellence, an independent research institute established in 2017, that focuses mainly on research in wood modification and restorative environmental and ergonomic design.

🗁 My research project.

In my postdoctoral project I am studying the use of survey questionnaires used to study **human patterns of behaviour within the built environment to improve occupant well-being**.

The objective of the project is to identify the existing measurement instruments used by architects and building researchers to collect and understand the needs of building users in the design process and in post-occupancy evaluations, assess the validity and comprehensibility of existing instruments and then design and assess improved survey questionnaires.

In the first phase, the project includes a literature review of relevant works that use surveys or other social science research methods to study building users, a collection of examples of survey questions, and focus groups with architects and building researchers. In the second phase, **survey questions will be selected for evaluation with quantitative and qualitative questionnaire pre-testing methods.**

InnoRenew CoE is performing research on the **development of materials for a circular economy, which is one of the critical European and Global challenges**. By providing more accurate data on user behaviour and attitudes of building users, my postdoctoral project will contribute to making buildings more sustainable.

🗁 My use of the CESSDA DMEG

I learned about CESSDA when working at the Slovenian Social Science Data Archive. I came across the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide when I was preparing a data management plan for my postdoctoral project and used it to plan my use of data. I read several chapters but the most useful one was the one on **data protection** which is of crucial importance when working with personal data. In particular, I valued tips on how to process personal data, how to gain informed consent from research participants, including for data archiving and sharing, and best practices for data anonymisation. I think that the guide comprehensively covers all relevant topics for data management in social sciences but it could be improved by giving more guidance on the use of qualitative data that is less structured than quantitative surveys.

🗁 Across disciplines

The research institute where I work is very interdisciplinary, so when researchers ask me for help with data management and data analysis, they come from a wide range of areas and use different kinds of data. I wish there was a similar guide for researchers in the natural sciences and engineering.

🗁 EOSC in practice.

I have not used any services from the European Open Science Cloud Portal yet but I received a voucher to test them so I would be interested in attending a training.

CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide User Story

Peter Čerče, Data Officer, Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe (MICREATE) project, tells his story on using the guide for ethical challenges with interview data.

📂 The researcher

I head the Centre for IT and Infrastructural Support to Research at the Science and Research Centre Koper as well as its Research Library. As a librarian, I am interested in the possibilities Open Access provides in managing research data. My daily tasks involve informing researchers and other data users about the concepts behind FAIR Data and how to make sure their data respects them.

📂 The research project

The Horizon 2020 project Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe (MiCREATE) aims to gather their stories to support their needs and aspirations when it comes to integration. European countries and their education systems encounter many challenges due to ethnic, cultural, linguistic diversity, MiCREATE aims to:

- improve knowledge about children's experiences of life in new social environments
- explore school peer dynamics
- helpt teachers and educational staff to work with diversity
- develop child-centered tools for stimulating migrant integration
- design child-centered integration policy recommendations.

In the MiCREATE project, I am responsible for the Data Management Plan (DMP) and solving ethical issues in relation to Research Data Management (RDM). Ethical issues in data management are one of the main challenges in the MiCREATE project, as most of the qualitative research data will result from interviewing a particularly vulnerable group, namely migrant children.

📂 My use of the CESSDA DMEG

For the MiCREATE data management plan (DMP), we consulted with (national) experts in the field. We met with the Slovenian Social Science Data Archive, who directed us to the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide. We found the CESSDA Guide to be a very helpful tool, offering a wide variety of advice, tips, and examples from experts in the field.

In preparing the initial version of the MiCREATE DMP, we were using the DMPonline tool, offered in the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide. The guide turned out to be very helpful for the consortium of fifteen partners from twelve different countries. The CESSDA DMEG directs you to European diversity issues in every step of the research data lifecycle.

I was particularly grateful for the way that the CESSDA DMEG is structured. It is fairly easy to find your way around, even though quantity of information can be intimidating. That said, Research Data Management in itself is such a vast field of expertise, that trying to find what you need in the enormous amount of information available online seems like mission impossible. That is why it is so helpful to have a guide like CESSDA's, which gathers information in one place, from an array of international experts.

📂 Across disciplines

The Science and Research Centre Koper, where I work, consists of eight different research groups. Activities are predominantly based on interdisciplinary work, involving the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. As much as the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide is a helpful tool for general aspects of RDM, it would be particularly useful to have such exhaustive guides in other research fields as well.

📂 EOSC in practice

I have been on the EOSC web portal and participated in only a few EOSC events.
I am definitely interested in attending training sessions on how to use EOSC services and tools. I hope to be more available in 2021.

CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide User Story

Duncan Simpson, a Marie Curie Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Lisbon, tells his story on using the guide for heterogeneous data collection.

The Researcher

I'm **Duncan Simpson**, a Marie Curie Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences (ICS) of the University of Lisbon. I gained my doctoral degree (PhD) from King's College London, with a thesis on the relations between the Catholic Church and the Salazar dictatorship.

My research project.

My research project aims to challenge the existing historiographical narrative on the relation between ordinary citizens and the Salazarist political police (PIDE). The project will study the 'grey zone' of spontaneous interactions between common citizens and the political police, by highlighting the degree of social normalization of the PIDE, and by opening up new perspectives on the way power itself was exercised by the regime. Four research methodologies are used:

1. **State of the art and critical evaluation** of the relation between the historiography of the PIDE and 'anti-fascist' memory.

2. **Questionnaire-based opinion survey** directed to 400 participants in the cities of Lisbon, Viseu, Braga, and Faro.

3. **Oral history**: semi-directed interviews of 30 'ordinary citizens' with direct experience of life under the PIDE.

4. **Archival research**, focusing on the spontaneous interactions between individual citizens and the political police through letters of denunciation, petitions and letters of spontaneous application to join the PIDE.

My use of the CESSDA DMEG

I discovered the CESSDA DMEG thanks to the research methodology workshop on data management planning organised at ICS by Pedro Moura Ferreira and Patricia Miranda, on 6 November 2019. **For my research project** I used the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1 Plan**: A very useful introduction to Data Management Planning, allowing users to gain a clear knowledge of some of the key concepts in the area, such as FAIR Data.
- **Chapter 3 Process**: Particularly important in allowing users to grasp the methods needed to minimize errors during the processes of data entry and gain a practical knowledge of how best to manage the integrity and authenticity of the data during the whole of the research process
- **Chapter 4 Store**: Crucial in understanding and implementing adequate measures to protect the data against accidental loss and unauthorised manipulation, especially in relation to collecting sensitive personal data.

The benefits and impact of using the CESSDA DMEG were manifold and far-reaching. In collaboration with ICS's own Data Protection Officer, I was able to design a solid and secure DMP that was subsequently approved by the authorities of the Marie Curie Fellowship actions.

Across disciplines

Rather than across disciplines, the CESSDA DMEG helped me to plan my data management across different research methodologies. Where it proved to be particularly useful for the results of the large-scale opinion survey and the generation and treatment of data produced in the course of the oral history interviews.

EOSC in practice.

I have not used any services from the EOSC portal. I do not currently feel that I need any training in these services and tools, though this may be the case later in my career.

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The relationship between emotional support and quality of life for cancer survivors

A CESSDA Data Catalogue user story discovering the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing database

Presented during the CESSDA Roadshow on Cancer and Chronic Diseases in October 2021, this user story showcases data discovery via the CESSDA Data Catalogue (CESSDA DC®). The study in this case investigates the influence of emotional support on the quality of life of older cancer survivors relying on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) database accessible via the CESSDA Data Catalogue (CESSDA DC®).

Meet the Researcher

Dr. Patty Doran, member of the Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group at Manchester University, started this study as part of her doctoral thesis and continued researching this domain afterwards. **Read** Patty's full paper here.

Discovering the data

The study applies a mixed methodology based on a preliminary qualitative phase where interviews with people who had lived or were living through cancer treatment and surviving beyond cancer are conducted. Subsequently, the findings from the interviews are used to design a second quantitative phase which relies on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), a large dataset of English people aged 50 or above available via the **CESSDA DC ®** with the support of the **UK Data Service**. Despite being a general **database** (i.e. not focused on cancer patients), it **brings added value to the purposes of this research, thanks to its vast size**. The dataset indeed contains a total of 8736 observations, over six percent of those (specifically 533) represented by cancer survivors.

Making the difference with high quality data

Relying on this database accessible via the CESSDA DC ®, **contributes to excellence** in research as it allows to have enough quality data to:

- control for a whole range of social factors;
- compare the cancer and non-cancer patients;
- build the composite "quality of life" indicator as an outcome variable.

The relationship between emotional support and quality of life for cancer survivors

What the data show

On a descriptive level, the study shows that cancer survivors are more likely to be female, widowed or have a long-standing illness than the rest of the population. Also, cancer survivors report receiving more emotional support. This is measured via **a specific indicator built thanks to the variety of variables available in ELSA**, including data about the presence of family, friends, partners or children in the patient's life, as well as the level of understanding provided. The level of social support is then compared to the quality of life, computed by CASP-19, a multidimensional measure considering elements like control, autonomy, self-realization and pleasure. Regression analyses show that the higher the support received by friends, partners and other family members, the better the quality of life. However, quite surprisingly, receiving no support at all (e.g. in absence of partners or family to rely on) is associated with a better quality of life than receiving a little level of support.

This might be because those receiving little support are most likely the carers for the family members and friends. In other words, instead of receiving support they are giving support thus sacrificing their own time and quality of life. Conversely, those receiving no support at all are probably already used, prepared or adjusted to living on their own and do not expect any help. This overall translates into a better quality of life. Finally, quite predictably, in all circumstances, being a cancer survivor negatively affects the overall quality of life.

Possible routes for building on the research findings

Despite granting insightful results, the study presents some limitations that could be addressed in future research. These include **expanding the considered observations**, trying to reach out to an even wider number of cancer patients. This **could be done by linking ELSA with cancer registries**. Moreover, the composition of the subsamples of cancer patients and non-cancer patients should be made more homogeneous with reference to context variables, such as gender, age, or length of the illness. In this way the comparability of the subgroups could improve. Last, more types of social support should be considered, including support received outside primary relationship networks, such as support from third sector organizations or healthcare providers.

About CESSDA®

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. **Learn more** about the provided services and resources on cessda.eu

cessda DC Data Catalogue

UK Data Service

Enabling research on climate change through the reuse of data

How the Portuguese Archive of Social Information supports social sciences and cross-disciplinary research with the CESSDA Data Catalogue and Data Management Expert Guide

Presented during the CESSDA Roadshow on Climate Change in October 2021, this user story illustrates the importance of not only enabling data discovery via the Data Catalogue (CESSDA DC®) but also the value of making data findable, interoperable by enabling researchers to tap into the Data Management Expert Guide (CESSDA DMEG®). It is just one example of how CESSDA service providers play an instrumental role in connecting researchers with similar interests, data needs and expert support, in this case from the Portuguese Archive of Social Information (APIS) thanks to the wealth of data available for discovery, use and reuse.

Meet the Researchers

Data user and producer

Dr. Luís Junqueira is a Junior Researcher from the Methodology Innovation Lab and Associated Researcher at the Shift Research Group in Lisbon. He conducts research on science and technology, sustainability, food safety and digital methods.

As an expert on sustainable food, his research has produced valuable data on practices in Portugal, helping us understand the close correlation between such practices and efforts to combat climate change.

Data user

Dr. Vasco Ramos is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Lisbon. His research interests include social inequality, class and mobility and family sociology. More recently he has focused on food, food practices and human-animal studies. He also conducts research on the changes in food practices during lifetime transitions such as marriage, the birth of children, separation.

CESSDA has enabled Vasco to re-use the data coming from Luis's research.

Data Discovery, sharing and reuse – the benefits of connecting researchers and their findings

Data producer perspective

Luis's research team conducted research back in 2016 and 2018 as part of a wider cross-sectional research activity, producing a rich database with 1600 face-to-face interviews with Portuguese citizens.

With key insights for other researchers, policy makers and civil society, Luis and his team set out to make the data as findable and accessible as possible. Come into play CESSDA service provider:

Portuguese Archive of Social Information (APIS), a national repository with resources like the CESSDA DMEG® available in Portuguese and dedicated support to social science researchers across the country. **Patricia Miranda**, Data Manager at APIS, guided Luis and his team throughout the entire process of data sharing and management, such as navigating and using the chapter in the CESSDA DMEG® on Archive & Publish, with practical support on how to adopt FAIR practices for data sharing and follow the right data

Enabling research on climate change through the reuse of data

deposit procedures, thus enable data reuse, as illustrated by the research conducted by Vasco.

Data user perspective

During the second national COVID-19 lockdown in Portugal (March 2021), Vasco was **struggling to collect qualitative data** via face-to-face interviews and kitchen inspections. He therefore started to look for **alternative data sources** to help him continue his research. Come into play APIS, where he discovered recent surveys about food consumption, including the study that Luis was involved in. While from a different field of research, the study has important connections with Vasco's research goals.

The **metadata** was key to understanding the content of the study and with Patricia's expert advice and support on using the CESSDA DMEG®, Vasco was not only able to access the database and questionnaire in just one day but also use online the tools for quick data analysis. CESSDA thus played a central role in writing his research paper on food consumption in Portugal and publish it in a leading journal.

Making the difference in social science research with FAIR data

This story is just one example of added value that CESSDA brings to research in the social sciences, in this case on climate change at the intersection of food sustainability. Not only does CESSDA educate and support researchers, it also enables them to implement FAIR principles by making data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

The data producer perspective

For Luis, receiving support on the entire Data Management process via **CESSDA DMEG®** was key to **overcoming the challenges** of data discovery and usability such as:

- Vocabulary control and data classification to ensure understanding across disciplines.
- Keywords selection.
- Access and licensing decisions to ensure data is as accessible as possible while respecting privacy and meeting researcher expectations.

The data user perspective

For Vasco, being able to re-use data accessed through **CESSDA DC®** brought several important benefits:

- Reliability and quality of documentation enabling assess to methodologies used by other researchers.
- Being able to compare studies over time.
- Avoiding duplication of data collection, saving resources while enabling new valuable research.

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DC Data Catalogue

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DMEG Data Management Expert Guide

APIS

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Unleashing the potential of data complementarity in quantitative studies on migration

Empowering social science researchers with the Ethnic and Migrant Minority Survey Registry

Presented during the CESSDA Roadshow on Migration in October 2021, this user story perfectly illustrates how tools and services like the CESSDA Data Catalogue (CESSDA DC®) and the Ethnic and Migrant Minority (EMM) Survey Registry, an output of the H2020 SSHOC project, and **give researchers the data they need for invaluable, impartial research on this global challenge**.

With the **CESSDA DC®** giving access to over **3000 datasets on migration and minorities**, searchable and documented in 14 European languages with rich metadata enabling cross-disciplinary research all from a single access point, a data producer and data users shed light on the unique value of the Data Catalogue® and Registry.

Meet the Researchers

Data producer

Ami Saji is a Researcher at Sciences Po, an expert in ethnic and migration studies and member of the H2020 SSHOC Project.

Her background spans analytical knowledge stemming from her involvement in NGOs, especially on refugee resettlement, migrant integration, and workforce development. Ami has been involved in the development of the EMM Survey Registry, a service giving access to quantitative survey data on the integration and inclusion of ethnic and migrant minorities based on FAIR principles (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable). The EMM Survey Registry is the outcome of a significant collaboration between specialists in the social sciences and humanities.

Data users

Dr. Dimitri Prandner is a postdoctoral researcher from the empirical social research unit at the Johannes Kepler University of Linz. He has been a core member of the Austrian Social Survey (SSÖ) team since 2016 and is a founding member of AUSSDA, the Austrian Social Science Data Archive. His research deals with social science methodology, questions of inequality and information behaviour. In 2019 he joined ETHMIGSURVEYDATA, supervising the Metadata collection for Austria.

Dr. Meredith Winn is a postdoctoral researcher at Sciences Po, working on the ANR-funded FAIRETHMIGQUANT Project in close collaboration with ETHMIGSURVEYDATA. Her research focuses on migration, far-right politics, and their intersections.

Discovering the value and quality of a FAIR data service: a deep dive into the EMM Survey Registry

Ami's description of what the EMM Survey Registry offers

As highlighted by Ami, the **EMM Survey Registry** provides a live census of existing surveys conducted either at the national, subnational or international level. Surveys matching the following criteria are included in the repository:

 in just one day but also use online the tools for quick data analysis. CESSDA thus played a central role in writing his research paper on food consumption in Portugal and publish it in a leading journal.

- **Quantitative** and sample-based surveys, conducted since January 2000.
- Surveys conducted in one of the 35 countries (primarily in Europe) participating in the project ETHMIGSURVEYDATA.
- Surveys that examine at least one dimension of **integration** or **inclusion**
- Surveys with a **sizeable number of respondents. Such number has to be over specific thresholds** that vary based on the geographical scale of the survey

Due to these characteristics, the **EMM Survey Registry** is a **single access point to quality information on each survey** with **detailed metadata schema of over 200 variables compiled using DDI standardised procedure**. This ensures that the same information is captured for each survey.

For the metadata to be published and made freely accessible on the **EMM Survey Registry** it has to undergo a **rigorous and multi-step quality control process**.

This is key to ensuring that for each survey, the metadata provided is coherent and logical, enabling anyone looking at it to get a good understanding what the survey is about.

The service has been set up with diverse **user-friendly functionalities**, such as simple and advanced filtering, which facilitate navigation and discovery. It also presents various similarities with the **CESSDA DC®**.

The **EMM Survey Registry** now covers more than 1400 surveys from 31 different countries with more. countries being added. Partnerships with data producers that are not formal members of the data community are also ongoing.

Dimitri's experience with the valuable impatto of the EMM Survey Registry on research

As a contributor to the **EMM Survey Registry**, Dimitri witnessed first-hand a real renaissance for data in the field of **migration studies** which are **heavily dependent on international exchange of knowledge.** The Registry features **many indexed studies** that **are very rich in content freely available** to researchers, enabling them to make comparative studies and understand how changes are taking place at a political and social level impact on migration.

The research work that can be derived is impressive because the **EMM Survey Registry** also allows researchers to understand the field from the perspective of data producers, i.e. people supporting data access and reuse by other researchers. One of the contributions from Dimitri is a paper summarising all the insights and findings available in the registry.

Meredith has benefitted from the valuable insights from the EMM Survey Registry and the EMM Question Databank on research

Meredith sees the EMM Question Databank as an interesting extension of the **EMM Survey Registry**, as a logical next step after creating the registry. Using this tool gives access to 1400 surveys with questionnaire level metadata, including conceptual information about the question items, and displaying them in a public

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site similar to the registry. This tool is designed for inclusion in the CESSDA Euro Question Bank 2020, with both based on the same software for questionnaire documentation.

The main purpose of the **EMM Question Databank** is supporting the understanding of the various surveys developed independently, despite covering similar topics. By doing so, researchers can leverage existing data to answer novel questions, increasing the rigor with which existing theories are tested, as well as pre-harmonise research by adapting to the way existing questionnaires have been developed when producing a new survey . This is extremely important for future reuse of question items.

Boosting research quality via data integration and comparability: potential scenarios of joint adoption of the EMM Survey Registry and CESSDA DC®

The **EMM Survey Registry** and **CESSDA DC®** can be used together, as they both provide complementary information and have been created with some common features that ensure very high quality of research data. The key **common feature**s of the two services include:

- ⊘ **Created by trusted experts**, ensuring **high quality of the data** and **representativeness** of the state-of-art in each field covered.
- ⊘ Offering detailed, informative, structured and quality metadata through a **single access point**.
- ⊘ **Inclusively designed and user-friendly** so that any interested user can engage easily, discover and reuse research data.

While the EMM Survey Registry focuses on migration, the CESSDA DC® is a treasure trove of data across global challenges in the social sciences.

To put the challenge around ethnic minorities and migration into perspective, we can draw on international statistics with approximately 281 million people, or 3.6 % of the world's population, currently living outside their country of birth, calling for migration policies that are based on reliable and impartial evidence. The **EMM Survey Registry** and **CESSDA DC®** can potentially be used in a synergistic way to ensure research based on the data and metadata therein is both impartial and evidence-based.

For example, the Catalogue and Registry enable them to explore a wealth of data on migration and ethnic minorities by maximising their usage. In turn, this enables policymakers to make more informed decisions when defining or updating their policies on migration and ethnic minorities, as a win-win for both sides.

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DC Data Catalogue

ethmig survey data

SSHOC

Exploring data on sustainability and climate change across time and nations

Getting a sense of the evolution of climate change research priorities thanks to the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) available on CESSDA® Data Catalogue

Presented during the CESSDA Roadshow on Climate Change in October 2021, this user story illustrates the importance of leveraging the wealth of resources available on the Data Catalogue (CESSDA DC®), such as the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), to access high quality and replicable research data. In this case, the consulted resource supports the identification and analysis of evolutionary patterns in pivotal social science domains such as sustainability and climate change.

Meet the Researcher

Harri Melin holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Tampere, where he has been Professor of Sociology since 2003. His research focuses on social classes and sociology of work. He has been the Finnish representative in the ISSP since 2000.

Data Discovery and analysis in social sciences with the International Social Survey Programme – the benefits of survey replicability and comparability

ISSP is a **cross-national collaboration programme conducting annual surveys on diverse topics** relevant to social sciences established in 1984. Academic organisations, universities and survey agencies coming from **43 countries are members of ISSP** and since its foundation, over one million respondents have participated in the surveys.

The surveys, each counting at least 1,000 respondents per nation, are designed for replications. Therefore, they can be used for both cross-time and cross-nation comparisons. The ISSP regularly responds to current developments in social sciences by including **new topics** or developing **new modules** annually. ISSP is organised very democratically as all major decisions are made via voting rights equally distributed among the member countries.

Most importantly, **data are of very high quality** as ISSP conducts comprehensive study monitoring and publishes details on how the national ISSP surveys are conducted in the participating countries. All collected data and documentation are **available free of charge** and can be consulted via **CESSDA DC®.**

Exploring data on sustainability and climate change across time and nations

A wide set of social science topics available on ISSP: the example of sustainability and climate change

Sustainability and climate change topics are addressed in the **ISSP environment module** which has been **replicated four times**, most recently in 2020, with perspectives evolving over time. In the first and second iterations, launched respectively in 1993 and 2000, the focus was more on preferred governmental measures and attitudes towards environmental protection. In the third round of 2010 new themes were introduced and more focus was given to people's behaviour in terms of sustainable practices, e.g. recycling, reducing energy consumption, saving water, and avoiding buying products for environmental concerns. Last, in 2020 there was a clear focus on climate change instead of global warming or greenhouse effect. More questions were added regarding actual consumption decisions in terms of, for instance, travelling and food habits. **The shift has therefore moved from attitudes to concrete actions**.

The value of these data for the users

The ISSP modules available on **CESSDA DC®** are a useful teaching resource related to survey analysis and statistical analysis, as they provide a very rich international comparative dataset spanning four continents (Africa, America, Asia, Europe) and are very appreciated by students looking not only to conduct high-quality research on social sciences, but also understand better the survey instruments as well as get a boost on methodological aspects.

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cessda **DC** Data Catalogue

ISSP

Data production and re-use of datasets to support COVID-19 research

Pursuing an open science agenda and being able to share research rapidly thanks to CESSDA® Data Catalogue

Presented during the CESSDA Roadshow on COVID-19 in September 2021, this user story illustrates the characteristics of one specific dataset available on Data Catalogue (CESSDA DC®) , and produced by the Austrian Corona Panel Project (ACPP) to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in Austria.

Meet the Researcher

Julia Partheymüller is a Senior Scientist at the Vienna Center for Electoral Research (VieCER). She previously worked as lecturer at the University of Essex and was part of the team of the German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES) at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) at the University of Mannheim. She holds a doctoral degree in Social Sciences from the University of Mannheim. Her research interests include political communication and voting behaviour, campaign effects, dynamics of media coverage and public opinion. Julia is part of the project team of the Austrian National Election Study and the ACPP. **Read her article featuring some of the APPC results here**

Discovering the dataset produced by ACPP and accessible on CESSDA DC®

ACPP is a study monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Austria. Despite the data collection process is still ongoing, retrieved **data are quickly accessible via CESSDA DC® shortly after they are collected**. The study has a wide scope and started as soon as the COVID-19 crisis burst in 2020 to **capture the economic, psychological, social and political impact of COVID-19 on the Austrian population**. The research was initially funded by the national Government, then received seed funding from the University of Vienna and is currently funded by the **Austrian Science Fund**.

ACPP is designed as a multi-wave online panel survey with **about 1,500 respondents per wave**, representative of the Austrian resident population aged older than 14. The initial **response rate of 35.2% is particularly high** and is keeping similar in the following waves. Weekly surveys were conducted in the first 10 weeks, later the frequency reduced to monthly surveys. **Panel retention is also extremely good** as respondents have overall proved loyal to the research. At least 350 people have taken part in every single wave conducted so far. **The data is available in two versions, i.e. an open access and a scientific use edition**, the latter providing more details on data structure and methodology.

The data present key demographics matching with the official population statistics, as a sign of **data quality and representativeness**, except for some migrant minorities which are underrepresented as they are difficult to reach especially for language barriers: the survey is indeed only conducted in German.

Data production and re-use of datasets to support COVID-19 research

Finally, this study presents **novelty in the workflow**, due to the sensitivity of the topic covered. In the past, such types of research would follow sequential steps starting with data collection, then passing to data curation and analysis, research writing, presentation and impact analysis. In this case, all steps are instead happening simultaneously. The data is still being collected while papers are already being published with results to date, and public communication, interviews, as well as media releases are also happening at the same time because the interest from the community is still very vivid and new topics, such as vaccination policies or governmental decisions, come up frequently. **Being able to deliver quality data and interesting results** in such a fast and transparent way, also thanks to the support of CESSDA DC® has proved fundamental to face the challenges embedded in this new research workflow that requires combining and running multiple activities in parallel.

What the data show

The survey spans across various COVID-related issues, including questions on health behaviour and attitudes, propensity towards vaccination and measures to reduce hesitancy, political actions, solidarity, economic consequences of COVID. The results show that **trust** in institutions and **social norms** play a **very important role in containing the virus** via non-medical measures. Regarding vaccine hesitation, risk perceptions and age have an impact on the decisions to get the vaccination. However, also social norms and politics influence such decision, with people that are more socially connected and politically active becoming more supportive of vaccination policies. On the other hand, those who are more alienated tend to be much more sceptical towards this measure. The study also shows **inequal impact on society based on age**. Younger people have been more severely damaged by income loss and uncertainty about the job market, as well as psychological drawbacks like loneliness. At the same time, the younger population is also more optimistic and positive about their own future and that of the country.

What we can learn from this study

Through its **in-depth panel data collection**, analysis and insights into individual dynamics and behaviours, the ACPP study teaches that **COVID-19 has not only transformed our daily life, but also accelerated and opened up scientific research, while making it more interdisciplinary**. Through **CESSDA DC®** and open science repositories at large, everyone can contribute to data analysis to identify further insights and advice on this dramatic and unique COVID experience.

About CESSDA®

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. **Learn more** about the provided services and resources on cessda.eu

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DC Data Catalogue

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CESSDA is an ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) Landmark.
CESSDA is an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium), a European legal entity.

European values in civil society.

An interview with Ruud Luijkx from Tilburg University

This CESSDA podcast zooms in on the role of the European Values Study in sociology, political science and civil society, with insights from Prof. Ruud Luijkx, Tilburg University and Chair of the Methodology Study. The European Values Studies is a repeated, large-scale, cross-section survey research programme yielding insights into the ideas, beliefs, attitudes, preferences, values and opinions of citizens all over Europe. Prof. Luijkx highlights evolving values in Europe since the early 1980s in what can be described as a "silent revolution" across the generations bringing implicit changes in attitudes and ideas.

The European Values Study is an ideal starting point for understanding differences between the surveyed countries at any point in time, with researchers sharing more detailed information in publications. The datasets from the combined World and European Values Studies are a joint asset in the CESSDA Data Catalogue, which gives researchers direct access to all this insightful data without having to navigate across all the archives.

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" The great thing about the CESSDA Data Catalogue is that you do not need to make the journey across all the archives but can access the data in a central place. "

Ruud Luijkx

Associate professor at the department of Sociology of Tilburg University and chair of the Methodology Group of European Values Studies

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Voting trends and changes in recent years and their impacts on political debate.

With Georg Lutz, professor of political science and Director of FORS Centre in Switzerland

This CESSDA podcast with Georg Lutz, professor of political science and Director of FORS Centre in Switzerland gives key insights into voting trends and changes in recent years and their impacts on political debate.

Linking the Swiss VOTO election surveys and data archives at the Centre with the CESSDA Data Catalogue, Prof. Lutz highlights how datasets reveal election behaviour in terms of voter drivers or lack of interest, as well as the implications for local environmental issues to climate change. He gives examples of voting behaviour variation, the demise of traditional party systems and the rise of populist politics, explaining how this is creating volatility but also barriers to tackling global challenges like climate change, which are heavily dependent on acceptance.

Finally, he highlights the value of sharing national data archives through the CESSDA Data Catalogue, which is fundamentally important not only for setting standards but showing just how valuable the data is. Through the implementation of the FAIR principles, FORS and other service providers are using the Data Catalogue to ensure accessibility and enable re-use of the data, especially unexplored data. This is extremely advantageous for the social sciences at large, as the most strongly connected discipline in Europe.

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" The data FORS has made available through the CESSDA Data Catalogue will help policy makers to understand what drives people in their political choices and also provide general insights on human behaviour. "

Georg Lutz

FORS Director and professor of political science at the University of Lausanne

Migration and Ethnic Minorities Research Data

With Dr Dimitra Kondyli, Senior Researcher at theNational Centre for Social Research in Greece and Ami Saji, junior researcher at SciencePo

This podcast explores the very exciting world of the social sciences. To help us do that, we'll be looking at the value of data archives for migration, minorities and mobility in the context of CESSDA - the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives and its Data Catalogue. CESSDA is one of several European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) created to ensure high-quality research contributing to effective solutions to major challenges facing society today. Migration and ethnic minorities being one of them.

Stephanie Parker engages Dr Dimitra Kondyli, Senior Researcher at the National Centre for Social Research in Greece and Ami Saji, junior researcher at the Centre of European and Comparative Politics at SciencePo in France in this in-depth interview on how they are contributing to social science research and their links to CESSDA and other European initiatives.

Just to give you a bit more background, we'll also be touching on two key related initiatives. One of these is SSHOC - Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud, where Ami focuses on ethnic and migration studies. The other is EOSC - the European Open Science Cloud.

Ami Saji

Junior researcher at the Centre of European and Comparative Politics at SciencePo in France and Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud (SSHOC)

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In terms of helping to tackle global challenges, the value of the datasets is something that really resonates with ethnic and minority communities. This is why we're generating such rich metadata about the surveys, which really bring meaningful insights from the research done.
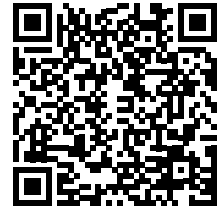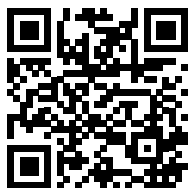
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Users visiting the CESSDA Data Catalogue can find datasets in 14 European languages with keywords linking to the European language database and the European repository for social sciences. This includes data on migration and related topics by topic, collection, year, country and publisher.

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Dimitra Kondyli

Senior Researcher at the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) in Greece

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