



**Directorate General IV  
Directorate of Culture and of Cultural and Natural Heritage**

## Survey on Access to Archives

2022

Dear Participant,

this survey is undertaken in order to assess the current state of implementation of Recommendation R(2000)13 of the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe to the member states on a **European Policy on Access to Archives**, adopted on 13 July 2000 and to identify current and future challenges regarding Access to Archives. It is a follow-up to the study "Access to Archives - A handbook of guidelines for implementation of Recommendation No R(2000)13 on a European policy on access to archives" written by Charles Kecskeméti and Iván Székely and published by the Council of Europe in 2005.

The text of the Recommendation can be accessed under: <https://rm.coe.int/16804cea4f> (EN) and <https://rm.coe.int/16804ca098> (FR).

*This questionnaire concerns only holdings transferred to the custody of national and other public archival institutions and services, including independent specialised and agency archives. Access to current records still in the agencies is not covered by the questionnaire.*

This questionnaire and its Appendix are intended for public Archives or archival institutions. If possible, please fill in the survey form not only on the basis of the regulation and practice of your own Archives or institution, but also take into account the regulations and practices of other public Archives in your country.

**If you have any questions regarding the survey, please feel free to contact us:**

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Thank you for your cooperation.

► **0. INTRODUCTION** ◀

**0.1 Has Council of Europe Recommendation R(2000)13 been published in your country?**

YES  NO

*0.1.1 If yes, please specify:*

Language(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Bibliographical reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**0.2 Is the national legislation in your country compatible with the Recommendation?**

Fully compatible

Compatible with a few exceptions

Partly compatible

Not compatible

*0.2.1 If the national legislation in your country is **not** fully compatible with the Recommendation, please explain in what way this is the case:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**0.3 Have you encountered difficulties in following the Recommendation?**

YES  NO

*0.3.1 If you encountered difficulties in following the Recommendation, please mark the relevant checkboxes to indicate in which respect these problems occurred::*

Legislation not harmonised

Significant differences at various levels of the Administration

Documents classified without time limit

Cumbersome downgrading and declassification procedures

Access to former political police archives

Set-backs in arrangement and description

Destination of the records of suppressed agencies

Mass privatisation

Inadequate resources (staff, financial means, equipment etc.)

Lack of knowledge about the Recommendation

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

► **1. ARCHIVAL AND RELATED LEGISLATION** ◀

**1.1 Are the following types of legislation in force in your country?**

Archives Act	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Act on former secret service archives	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information Act	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Secrecy Act	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
National Data Protection Act	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Copyright Act	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Other relevant Acts relating to access to Archives	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

**1.2 In recent years, have laws been enacted or modified in your country, which had an impact on access to archives and documents?**

YES  NO

*1.2.1 If yes, please explain which laws affect access to archives and documents in what way:*

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► **2. ARCHIVAL REGULATIONS** ◀

**2.1 Are the following types of regulations in force in your country?**

Enforcement orders of the Archival Act	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Ministerial instructions	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
General regulations or operational rules of the Archives	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Professional Codes	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Other instruments	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

**2.2 In recent years, have archival regulations been issued or modified in your country, which had an impact on access to archives and documents?**

YES  NO

*2.2.1 If yes, please explain what archival regulations have been issued or modified and how they affect access to archives and documents:*

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**2.3 Are there special/internal regulations issued by your archives/organization?**

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Reading room regulation                              | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special regulation on access to restricted documents | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other regulatory texts                               | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

▶ **3. NATIONAL VALIDITY** ◀

**3.1 Are there public archival institutions (or organizations maintaining public archives) which are exempt from the general access rules laid down in the Archives Act or in other laws?**

YES  NO

*3.1.1 If yes, please mark which public archival institutions are exempt from the general access rule:*

**(a) Archives of central state authorities and institutions**

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Archives of the Head of State / Presidential Archives  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives of the Parliament                             | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives of the Prime Minister's Office                | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs            | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives of the Ministry of Defence/ Military Archives | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives of the Ministry of the Interior               | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Police Archives  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Former Secret Service / Political Police Archives      | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Judicial archives                                      | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

Archives of other authorities exempted from the general access rules:

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**(b) Special archives**

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Public Archives / Documentation centres on war, prosecutions or military occupation | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives of the Central Statistical Office  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives of the Academy of Sciences   | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Civil Register Archives   | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Land register / cadastral archives  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

**3.2 Is access to unrestricted files in these Archives subject to special authorisation?**

YES  NO

**3.3 Can special permissions be obtained for research in restricted files in these Archives?**

YES  NO

**3.4 Are access provisions uniform or equivalent at the levels of the central (federal) state, regional (member-state), and local administration? Are access provisions uniform or equivalent throughout the territory of the State?**

YES  NO

*3.4.1 If access provisions are not uniform or equivalent throughout the territory of the your country (or federal state), please explain the differences*

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**3.5 Are there typical differences between the levels of central (federal) state, regional (member-state), and the local administration regarding the *implementation* of access provisions (because of lack of human, financial or other resources)?**

YES  NO

*3.5.1 If there are typical differences between the levels of central (federal) state, regional (member-state), and the local administration regarding the implementation of access provisions (because of lack of human, financial or other resources), please explain these differences*

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**3.6 Does the current legislation forbid the creation and maintenance of secret archives (the existence of which is not revealed) by public agencies?**

- Yes, explicitly
- Yes, implicitly
- No

*3.6.1 If the current legislation forbids the creation and maintenance of secret archives (the existence of which is not revealed) by public agencies, please specify the source of the provisions concerned:*

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Agency's internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



**4. ACCESS CONDITIONS**



**4.1 Is access to archives regarded as a right in the relevant legislation?**

YES  NO

**4.2 Is access to unrestricted documents systematically subject to authorization?**

YES  NO

**4.3 Are the archives entitled to deny production of documents they consider irrelevant for the submitted research theme?**

YES  NO

**4.4 Are there specific rules applicable to specific categories of users?**

YES  NO

**4.4.1 If yes, please mark for which groups specific rules are applicable:**

- Academic users
- Non-academic researchers
- Non-national users
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**4.4.2 If there are specific rules, what are these based on?**

- The Archives Act
- Other legal instruments
- The operational rules of the Archives

**4.4.1.1 If academic users are privileged, recognition of academic status**

- Is based on a legal definition
- Is left at the discretion of the Archives

► **5. FEES** ◀

**5.1 Is access to the paper-based documents and their microfilmed or digitized copies – as a main rule defined by law – free of charge?**

YES  NO

**5.2 Is access to the documents online – as a main rule defined by law – free of charge?**

YES  NO

**5.3 Is the issue of the reader's card free of charge?**

YES  NO

**5.3.1 If not, amount charged (in Euro):**

For one visit EUR \_\_\_\_\_  
 For a month EUR \_\_\_\_\_  
 For a year EUR \_\_\_\_\_

**5.4 Fees above the cost of production may be charged on the following services:**

- Production of photocopies
- Delivery of authentic copies
- Production of microforms
- Production of scans (on archive equipment)
- Access to audio-visual records
- Access to electronic records
- Access to records on loan from other custodial institutions
- Other services, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Source of the provisions concerned:

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Archives' internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

▶ **6. GENERAL CLOSURE PERIOD** ◀

**6.1 Is there a general closure period specified in the archival legislation for documents transferred to Archives for permanent preservation?**

YES  NO

**6.1.1 If yes** Length of the general closure period: \_\_\_\_\_ years

**6.1.2 If no** Is there a general provision for immediate access to documents transferred to Archives?

YES  NO

Source of the provisions concerned:

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Archives' internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**6.2 Do the Archives proceed, every year, with the opening of records that are no longer covered by the general closure period?**

- Yes, systematically
- Yes, occasionally
- No

**6.3 Do the Archives keep accessible those documents which were accessible under the Freedom of Information Act or similar Acts, while they were held in the originating agency?**

- Yes, systematically
- Yes, occasionally
- No

► **7. CLOSURE AND DISCLOSURE** ◀

*The Recommendation specifies that exceptions to the general access rule may be necessary for the protection*

- of public interests (national defence, foreign policy, public order) or
- of private individuals against the release of information concerning their private lives.

**7.1 Are there other criteria for exceptions to the general rule, such as**

- |                                  |                              |                             |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Office secrets                   | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Private economic interests       | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working and background documents | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) _____     |                              |                             |

Source of the provisions concerned:

- |                          |                          |                          |                                    |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Archival Act             | FOIA                     | Secrecy Act              | The Archives' internal regulations | Other                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7.2 Substantial criteria of classifying secret/non-accessible documents:**

- |                                    |                              |                             |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Defence                            | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| National security                  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diplomacy, international relations | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public order                       | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |



Criminal investigation and prevention of crime      YES       NO   
 Judicature      YES       NO   
 The economic interests of the State      YES       NO   
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Source of the provisions concerned:

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Archives' internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7.3 Is there a *general* restriction for protecting personal data in archival documents?**

YES       NO

**7.4 Are there *specific* restrictions for protecting personal data in archival documents regarding**

Statistical material      YES       NO   
 Civil register      YES       NO   
 Medical data      YES       NO   
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7.5 In the Archives access to documents containing personal data is principally governed by**

Provisions of the Data Protection Act        
 Provisions of the Archival Act        
 Other legal provisions (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7.6 Decisions about the classification of restricted documents, for reasons other than the protection of personal data, is made by**

The originating agency        
 A national agency or commission     

**7.7 Are there provisions for regular review/downgrading of classified documents?**

YES       NO

**7.8 Is a formal declassification procedure needed at the expiration of the closure period?**

YES  NO

**7.9 Are there documents classified without time limit?**

YES  NO

**7.10 Authority entitled to declassify such documents:**

The originating agency or its successor

One agency or ad-hoc body for documents of any provenance

**7.11 Are there provisions for re-classification?**

YES  NO

► **8. FINDING AIDS (CATALOGUES)** ◀

**8.1 Are there specific rules governing access to finding aids?**

YES  NO

**8.1.1 If yes**

Access to *all* finding aids (except those published) is subject to authorization

Access to *certain* finding aids is subject to authorization

**8.2 Do the Archives prepare finding aids describing restricted holdings?**

Yes

Only in certain cases

No

**If yes**

**8.2.1 Are these finding aids accessible without restriction**

YES  NO

Source of the provisions concerning finding aids:

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Archives' internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

► **9. SPECIAL PERMISSIONS** ◀

**9.1 Can users apply for special permission for access to restricted/non-accessible documents?**

YES  NO

9.1.1 *If yes, please specify for what purposes can special permissions be granted:*

For private legal reasons   
 For academic research   
 For journalistic investigation

*If yes:*

**9.1.2 Special permissions are granted by**

The Archives without consulting other agencies or commissions   
 The parent ministry/authority of the Archives   
 The originating agency or its successor   
 Another authority (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**9.1.3 These special permissions are given**

For individual inspection, or   
 Through declassification of the documents concerned

Source of the provisions concerned:

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Archives' internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**9.2 If your country has special institutions for preserving documents relating to former repressive organizations (such as the secret police in non-democratic regimes) or are there special rules governing access to these documents in other public Archives?**

YES  NO

9.2.1 *If yes, please explain which special rules regarding access to documents relating to former repressive organizations (such as the secret police in non-democratic regimes) are in place:*

▶ **10. PARTIAL ACCESS** ◀

**10.1 Are there provisions relating to partial release of restricted documents (separation of parts of the document, anonymization, blanking etc.)?**

YES  NO

*10.1.1 If there are provisions relating to partial release of restricted documents (separation of parts of the document, anonymization, blanking etc.), please explain in what way:*

Source of the provisions concerned:

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Archives' internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

***10.1.2 If there are provisions relating to partial release of restricted documents, please explain whether the Archives are in a position (staff and expertise) to implement partial release?***

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only certain Archives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only in special cases	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

▶ **11. REFUSALS – APPEALS** ◀

**11.1 Are there provisions for obligatory written communication of refusals of access requests?**

YES  NO

***11.1.1 If yes ,what is the source of the provisions for obligatory written communication of refusals of access requests?***

Archival Act	FOIA	Secrecy Act	The Archives' internal regulations	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11.2 Are there possibilities of making administrative appeals?**

YES  NO

**11.2.1 If yes, the authority to appeal to:**

- Parent Ministry/authority of the Archives
- Ministry of the Interior
- Prime Minister's Office
- Other administrative authority  
(please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11.2.2 If yes**

Source of the provisions concerned:

- | Archival Act             | FOIA                     | Secrecy Act              | The Archives' internal regulations | Other                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11.3 Are there possibilities for appealing to courts?**

YES  NO

**11.3.1 If yes**

Source of the provisions concerned:

- | Archival Act             | FOIA                     | Secrecy Act              | The Archives' internal regulations | Other                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11.4 Are there other possibilities for legal redress (e.g. Ombudsman, Information Commissioner etc.)?**

YES  NO

**11.4.1 If yes, please specify what other possibilities for legal redress (e.g. Ombudsman, Information Commissioner etc.) exist:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**11.4.2 If yes**

Source of the provisions concerned:

- | Archival Act             | FOIA                     | Secrecy Act              | The Archives' internal regulations | Other                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11.5 In the past 12 months, according to your knowledge, did your institution refuse full or partial access to documents in its custody upon researchers' request?**

YES  NO

*11.5.1 If your institution refused full or partial access to documents in its custody upon researchers' request in the past 12 months, what were the reasons for denying access?*

- General closure period
- Documents containing personal data
- Classified data/documents
- Copyright
- Researcher's insufficient qualification
- Documents not necessary for the research topic
- Donor's wish stipulated in contract
- Other reasons

**11.5.2 Did the researchers turn to higher authorities or courts against the refusal?**

YES  NO

*11.5.1.1 If yes, what was the outcome of their appeal?*

- Access granted to the requested documents
- Access granted to certain documents or certain parts of documents
- Refusals upheld

▶ **12. PRIVATE ARCHIVES** ◀

**12.1 Are there legal, financial or other provisions intended to encourage access to private archives?**

YES  NO

*12.1.1 If yes, please specify legal, financial or other provisions intended to encourage access to private archives*

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**12.2 Is there**

A Register of protected private archives?

- A Register of private archives open to the public?
- A specialized authority/service to assist private archives?
- A special budget/budget line for subsidising private archives?

***Additional information you consider important***

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**13. DIGITIZATION / DIGITAL DOCUMENTS<sup>1</sup>**

**13.1 Have digital technologies introduced in your Archives facilitated lawful access to documents?**

- Yes, because digital technologies reduce the reference archivists' burdens
- Yes, because digital documents are easier to use in research rooms
- Yes, because digital documents can be made available remotely over the internet
- Partly, because only some documents are digitized
- No, because these technologies detract resources from processing and preservation tasks
- No, because researchers develop exaggerated demands for digitization
- No, because researchers can copy and publish documents illegally

**13.2a What percentage of your holdings are born-digital?**

Textual documents:

- less than 5%
- 5-15%
- 15-25%
- 25-50%
- more than 50%

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<sup>1</sup> A „digital document“ is any document in digital form. A “digitized document” is a digital document created by (retro-)digitizing earlier analogue documents. Born-digital documents refers to documents that originate in a digital form.

Audio, film and video documents:

- less than 5%
- 5-15%
- 15-25%
- 25-50%
- more than 50%

**13.2b What percentage of your (analogue) holdings have been digitized?**

Textual documents:

- less than 5%
- 5-15%
- 15-25%
- 25-50%
- more than 50%

Audio, film and video documents:

- less than 5%
- 5-15%
- 15-25%
- 25-50%
- more than 50%

**13.3 When defining priorities in digitizing archival documents, which is of primary importance in your institution:**

- Responding on researchers' demand
- Provide documents to a larger user group via online access
- The logic of archival management
- Regular preservation and migration of digital documents (format migration, creating copies on new media)
- Conservational reasons (vulnerable documents)

**13.4 Do you involve users in describing and/or commenting archival documents through crowdsourcing?**

YES  NO



**13.4.1** *If yes, please explain how you involve users in describing and/or commenting archival documents through crowdsourcing:*

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**13.5** **In your opinion, does enhanced digital accessibility of documents result in:**

- Increasing national security risks?
- Increasing privacy/data protection risks?
- Increasing copyright infringement risks?
- Increasing risks of forging or modifying documents?

## 14. REMOTE ACCESS

**14.1** **Are your catalogues/finding aids available online?**

**14.1.1** *If yes, are there digital cross-references in the catalogues?*

- Only in the description
- Links to other parts of the collection
- Links to individual documents
- Links to other Archives' collections

**14.2** **Do you provide free access to digital/digitized documents online?**

YES  NO

**14.2.1** **If yes, which parts can be accessed free of charge?**

- Only selected samples
- Complete collections or series
- Most, or all of the archival holdings are available online

**14.2.2** **If not, what are the alternatives?**

- The archive provides online documents itself
- The archive provides online documents in collaboration with a commercial service provider

**14.3** **What kind of online channels does your institution use for communicating with archival users?**

- Providing information on your institutional website
- Providing information on social networks
- Direct e-mail connection with reference archivists
- Real-time chat connection with reference archivists

**14.4 Does your institution provide remote access to its holdings?**

YES  NO

*14.4.1 If yes, how?*

- Through a detailed online catalogue
- Through a dedicated private channel established for registered users
- By uploading significant parts of your holdings to the internet
- By offering a digitization-on-demand service for remote users
- By offering artificial intelligence-based applications for finding documents

**15. POSSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL POINTS**

15.1 If you feel that the questions and items listed are not adequate to describe the situation of access to archives in your country, please let us know in which way this is the case:

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**16. THANK YOU**

**16.1 End of the survey**

Thank you very much for your participation in the access to archives survey. The results of the survey will be submitted to the Council of Europe at the end of the year. Publication is scheduled for the beginning of next year.

If you wish to be notified of the survey results, you can enter your e-mail address in the box below.

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With "continue" you close the survey and then you cannot make any more changes.



**Directorate General IV  
Culture and Cultural Heritage Division**

## Survey on Access to Archives

2022

Dear Participant,

this survey has been undertaken in order to assess the applicability and the impact of Recommendation R(2000)13 of the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe to the member states on a **European Policy on Access to Archives**, adopted on 13 July 2000. It is a follow-up to the study "Access to Archives - A handbook of guidelines for implementation of Recommendation No R(2000)13 on a European policy on access to archives" written by Charles Kecskeméti and Iván Székely and published by the Council of Europe in 2005.

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*This questionnaire concerns only holdings transferred to the custody of national and other public archival institutions and services, including independent specialised and agency archives. Access to current records still in the agencies is not covered by the questionnaire.*

This questionnaire is intended to cover the views of academics on archival access. Since the questionnaire is being sent to a sample of academics, we would like to ask you not only to complete the survey form based on your personal experience, but also to consider the opinions and experiences of other academic users of public archives in your country when completing it, if possible. The questions are intended to explore actual practice, not the legal provisions for access, nor the opinion of the Archives themselves.

**If you have any questions regarding the survey, please feel free to contact us:**

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Thank you for your cooperation.

► **0. INTRODUCTION** ◀

**0.1 Is the academic community of your country aware of the existence of this Recommendation?**

- It is practically unknown
- Some scholars know it
- It is well-known

► **1. ARCHIVAL AND RELATED LEGISLATION** ◀

**1.1 Do you encounter obstacles to research, based on the *provisions* of legislation?**

- In pre-1989 documents?      YES       NO
- In post-1989 documents?      YES       NO

**1.1.1 If yes, these obstacles are based on**

*(please mark the relevant checkboxes)*

<b>pre-1989 documents</b>		<b>post-1989 documents</b>	
Archives Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	Archives Act	<input type="checkbox"/>
Act on former secret service archives	<input type="checkbox"/>	Act on former secret service archives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	Freedom of Information Act	<input type="checkbox"/>
Official secrets Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	Official secrets Act	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Data Protection Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Data Protection Act	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copyright Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	Copyright Act	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Acts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Acts	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Acts (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**1.2 Do you encounter obstacles to research because of the restrictive *interpretation* of the legislation?**

- YES       NO

▶ **2. REGULATIONS, RESEARCH CONDITIONS** ◀

**2.1 Do you consider the organisation and internal regulations of the reading room in the Archives satisfactory from the users' point of view?**

YES  NO

**2.1.1 If your answer is no, please indicate the reason(s) for your dissatisfaction:**

- Too short opening hours
- Long waiting period for receiving the documents
- Limitation of the number of items produced per day in the reading room
- Limitation of the number of hard copies or microcopies the reader is authorised to purchase
- Inadequate working conditions (light, chairs, tables etc.)
- Obsolete or inadequate equipment (e.g. microfilm readers)
- Use of laptops not permitted
- Use of cameras or smartphones not permitted
- Availability of scanners/document cameras
- No plugs for laptops

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

▶ **3. NATIONAL VALIDITY** ◀

**3.1 Do public archival institutions/services and organisations maintaining public archives, which are independent from the national archival authority, follow the access rules set forth in the national Archives Act?**

YES  NO

**3.1.2 If not, please give some examples:**

Research is easier in

\_\_\_\_\_

Research is more difficult in

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.2 Is research hindered by differing access rules at various levels of the administration and/or in various regions/States of the country?**

YES  NO

► **4. ACCESS CONDITIONS IN UNRESTRICTED MATERIAL** ◀

**4.1 Is access to public archives subject to authorisation?**

Yes   
In certain archives   
No

**4.1.1 If access to public archives is subject to authorisation, where must applications be submitted?**

To the Archives you visit   
To the national archival authority   
To another national authority

**4.1.2 If access to unrestricted material is subject to authorization, are the Archives entitled to deny production of documents they consider irrelevant for the submitted research theme?**

Yes   
In certain archives   
No

**4.2 Is the presentation of academic qualification/recommendation necessary for access to the documents?**

Yes   
In certain archives   
No

**4.3 Is the presentation of a research description necessary for access to the documents?**

Yes   
In certain archives   
No

► **5. FEES** ◀

**5.1 Are there Archives where payment of a fee (other than for the issue of the reader's card) is requested for access to paper-based records and their microfilmed/digitised copies?**

YES  NO

**5.2 If the issue of the reader's card is not free of charge, do you consider the fee**

Reasonable?

Unreasonably high?

**5.2.1 If unreasonably high, do you consider the charges unreasonably high for**

Production of photocopies?

Delivery of authentic copies?

Production of microforms?

Production of electronic scans?

Access to audio-visual records?

Access to electronic records?

Use of scanning devices?

Access to records on loan from other custodial institutions?

Other services (please specify)

► **6. GENERAL CLOSURE PERIOD** ◀

***If there is a general closure period specified in the archival legislation for documents transferred to Archives:***

**6.1 Do the Archives proceed, every year, with the opening of records that are no longer covered by the general closure period?**

Yes, systematically

Yes, occasionally

No

**6.2 Do the Archives keep accessible the documents, which were accessible under the Freedom of Information Act or similar Acts while they were held in the originating agency?**

Yes, systematically

Yes, occasionally

No

► **7. ACCESS TO RESTRICTED DOCUMENTS** ◀

*The Recommendation specifies that exceptions to the general access rule may be necessary for the protection of*

- *public interests (national defence, foreign policy, public order) or*
- *private individuals against the release of information concerning their private lives.*

**7.1 In research practice, are you aware of other criteria being applied for exceptions to the general rule, such as**

Office secret	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Private economic interests	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Working or preparatory (background) documents	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____		

**7.2 Are you aware of specific restrictions applied to certain periods of national history?**

YES  NO

*7.2.1 If yes, please indicate which periods of national history are affected by special restrictions:*

Before 1920	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interwar period	<input type="checkbox"/>
World War II	<input type="checkbox"/>
After World War II	<input type="checkbox"/>
After 1989	<input type="checkbox"/>

**7.3 Are you aware of specific restrictions applied to certain aspects of national history?**

YES  NO

*7.3.1 If yes, please indicate which aspects of national history are affected by special restrictions:*

National conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military occupation of the country	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decolonisation, colonial wars	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social and political conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repression and persecution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change of the political system	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	



**7.4 At the end of the restriction period**

- Documents become accessible  
without any formal declassification procedure
- Documents are regularly declassified
- Documents are declassified only when requested
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7.5 To your knowledge, are there documents in the Archives classified without time limit?**

YES  NO  DON'T KNOW

**7.6 Is the academic community consulted by the Archives on declassification priorities?**

YES  NO

▶ **8. FINDING AIDS (CATALOGUES)** ◀

**8.1. Are there finding aids to unrestricted documents which are**

- Not accessible to users at all? YES  NO
- Accessible only by special permission? YES  NO

**8.2 Are finding aids to restricted material accessible?**

YES  NO

**8.3 Are there holdings, other than those recently transferred to the Archives, inaccessible because of the absence of finding aids?**

YES  NO

▶ **9. SPECIAL PERMISSIONS** ◀

**9.1 Can users apply for special permission for access to restricted/non-accessible documents?**

YES  NO

**9.2 In your experience, are requests for special permissions**

Usually granted?

Usually rejected?

**9.3 In your opinion, is it preferable to**

Grant special permissions on an individual basis, or

Declassify and open the files concerned to research?

▶ **10. PARTIAL ACCESS** ◀

**10.1 Do the Archives give partial access to restricted documents through blanking, anonymization or partial release?**

YES  NO

**10.1.1 If yes, do you consider partial access useful?**

YES  NO

▶ **11. APPEALS** ◀

**11.1 If an application for special permission is rejected, can the applicant appeal to...**

A higher administrative authority?

A court?

An Information Commissioner, Ombudsman?

**11.2 In your experience, are such appeals...**

Usually successful?

Usually rejected?

**11.3 In the past year, did you, or researchers you know, experience refusals to access documents in Archives?**

YES  NO

**11.3.1 If yes, on what grounds was the refusal based?**

General closure period

Documents containing personal data

- Classified data/documents
- Copyright
- Your insufficient qualification
- Documents declared as not necessary for your research topic
- Donor's wish stipulated in contract
- Other reasons

**11.3.2 Did you turn to higher authorities or courts against the refusal?**

YES  NO

*11.3.2.1 If yes, what was the outcome of your appeal?*

- Access granted to the requested documents
- Access granted to certain documents or certain parts of documents
- Refusals upheld

▶ **12. PRIVATE ARCHIVES** ◀

**12.1 Does the Government/national archival authority pursue a policy promoting the accessibility of private archives to academic research?**

YES  NO

▶ **13. RESEARCH ABROAD** ◀

**13.1 When visiting archives in foreign countries, have you experienced discriminatory measures, with respect to access?**

YES  NO

*If your answer is yes:*

**13.1.1 Please indicate in which countries:**

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**13.1.2 Difficulties encountered**

- Bureaucratic clearance requirements

Refusal of access to documents accessible to nationals

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

► **14. RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES OF SUPRANATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS** ◀

**14.1 Have you visited the Archives of supranational and intergovernmental organisations?**

YES  NO

If yes

**14.2 Are you satisfied with the research conditions encountered in the archives of supranational and intergovernmental organisations?**

Yes, in: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Not, in: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**14.2.1 If you are not satisfied, what are the reasons?**

Restrictive regulations

Lack of finding aids, catalogues

Poor reading conditions

Making of photocopies /digital scans too expensive or not permitted

Use of cameras or smartphones not permitted

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

***Additional information you consider important***

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**15. DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

**15.1 When accessing archival documents, which of the resources below do you generally use?**

- The website of the archival institution
- Social network sites of the archival institution
- Online catalogue
- Documents uploaded to the internet
- Digitization-on-demand service onsite
- Digitization-on-demand service offered to remote users
- A dedicated private channel established for registered users
- Artificial intelligence-based applications for finding documents

**15.2 Have you, or researchers you know, been involved in describing or commenting archival documents through crowdsourcing?**

YES  NO

*15.2.1 If you, or researchers you know, have been involved in describing or commenting archival documents through crowdsourcing, please specify*

---

**15.3 Which channels do you prefer for communicating with archivists remotely?**

- Telephone calls
- Social networks
- Direct e-mail connection with reference archivists
- Real-time chat connection with reference archivists

**15.4 In your opinion, does remote access substitute onsite research today?**

- Yes, because it is convenient, spares time and traveling
- No, because not everything is available in digital format
- No, because direct contact with original documents is inevitable for serious research
- Partly, because online access can well complement onsite research
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**15.5 In your opinion, what could further advance access to contemporary archives?**

- More documents digitized
- More documents uploaded to the internet
- More detailed catalogues and finding aids
- Lifting of restrictions
- Easier communication with archivists
- Increased usability of the archives' internal search engines
- Use of artificial intelligence-based applications
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 16. POSSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL POINTS

16.1 If you feel that the questions and items listed are not adequate to describe the situation of access to archives in your country, please let us know in which way this is the case:

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## 17. THANK YOU

### 17.1 End of the survey

Thank you very much for your participation in the access to archives survey. The results of the survey will be submitted to the Council of Europe at the end of the year. Publication is scheduled for the beginning of next year.

If you wish to be notified of the survey results, you can enter your e-mail address in the box below.

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**Directorate General IV  
Directorate of Culture and of Cultural and Natural Heritage**

## Survey on Access to Archives

2022

Dear Participant,

this survey has been undertaken in order to assess the applicability and the impact of Recommendation R(2000)13 of the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe to the member states on a **European Policy on Access to Archives**, adopted on 13 July 2000. It is a follow-up to the study "Access to Archives - A handbook of guidelines for implementation of Recommendation No R(2000)13 on a European policy on access to archives" written by Charles Kecskeméti and Iván Székely and published by the Council of Europe in 2005.

The text of the Recommendation can be accessed under: <https://rm.coe.int/16804cea4f> (EN) and <https://rm.coe.int/16804ca098> (FR).

*This questionnaire concerns only holdings transferred to the custody of national and other public archival institutions and services, including independent specialised and agency archives. Access to current records still in the agencies is not covered by the questionnaire.*

This questionnaire is intended for nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). Please fill in the survey form not only on the basis of your personal experience, but also taking into account the opinions and experience of other NGOs and civil users of Archives in your country, wherever you feel their insights could be an asset to the survey.

**If you have any questions regarding the survey, please feel free to contact us:**

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Thank you for your cooperation.

**0.0 Is access to archives important for the work of your organization?**

If “No” → finish

▶ **0. INTRODUCTION** ◀

**0.1 Do civil society organizations know the Recommendation?**

- It is practically unknown
- Some NGOs know it
- It is well-known

**0.2 Have you (or other NGOs you know) cited the Recommendation when doing research in Archives?**

YES  NO

**0.3 Have you participated in a campaign to promote the accessibility of Archives (or are you aware of such an NGO campaign in your country)?**

YES  NO

*0.3.1 If you participated in a campaign to promote the accessibility of Archives (or are aware of such an NGO campaign in your country), where and how was it organized?*

- In the media
- Among civil society organizations
- By lobbying
- Otherwise

*0.3.2 If yes, has the Recommendation been cited in the campaign?*

YES  NO

▶ **1. ARCHIVAL LEGISLATION** ◀

**1.1 In your opinion, does the current legislation ensure adequate research conditions?**

YES  NO

*1.1.1 If not, to which legislative Acts are the obstacles due?*

- Archival Act
- Act on former secret service archives
- State / Official Secrets Act
- Freedom of Information Act



- National Data Protection Act
- Copyright Act
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union
- Other Act (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

► **2. REGULATIONS, RESEARCH CONDITIONS** ◀

**2.1 In your opinion, do the current internal regulations and procedures in the Archives ensure adequate research conditions?**

YES  NO

*2.1.1 If **not**, to which internal regulations or procedures are the obstacles due?*

- Research room regulations
- Opening hours
- Special regulation of access to restricted documents
- Procedures of requesting/granting authorization for research
- Other regulations or procedures (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2.2 Please evaluate the assistance of reference archivists in**

	Useful	Adequate	Limited	Missing/ useless
<b>Explaining research conditions:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Providing catalogues (finding aids):</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Explaining the use of catalogues:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Locating requested documents:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2.3 What kind of practical assistance do civil users need for more efficient access to documents?**

- Extended opening hours
- Information leaflets
- More information on archival websites
- Personal consultation with archivists
- E-mail, chat or video consultation with archivists
- Explanation of catalogues (finding aids)
- Assistance in formulating access requests
- Documents uploaded to the internet

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

▶ **3. NATIONAL VALIDITY** ◀

**3.1 Are there typical differences in civil users' opportunities for access to archival documents depending on the level of administration and/or the regions/States of the country they do research?**

YES  NO

*3.1.1 If yes, please give some examples:*

Research is easier at/in: \_\_\_\_\_

Research is more difficult at/in: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ **4. ACCESS CONDITIONS** ◀

**4.1 In your experience, is authorization needed for doing research in public Archives?**

Always

In some cases

No

**4.2 Do civil society organizations or users need support from academics or research institutions in order to obtain authorization to do research in Archives?**

Always

In some cases

No

▶ **5. FEES** ◀

**5.1 Is payment of a fee (other than for the issue of the reader's card) requested by the Archives for access to paper records and their microfilmed/digitised copies?**

YES  NO

**5.2 If the issue of the reader's card is not free of charge, do you consider the fee**

Reasonable?

Unreasonably high?

**5.3 Do you consider the charges unreasonably high for**

Production of photocopies?

Delivery of authentic copies?

Production of microforms?

Access to audio-visual records?

Remote access to digital records?

Use of cameras or smartphones

Access to records on loan from other custodial institutions?

Other services? (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

▶ **6. GENERAL CLOSURE PERIOD** ◀

**6.1 If there is a general closure period, how can users become aware of its expiry and of documents becoming accessible?**

The Archives publish lists of newly available documents

From the finding aids

In the course of individual research requests

This information does not reach users

**6.2 In your experience do documents that are accessible under the Freedom of Information Act or similar Acts remain continuously accessible after they have been transferred to the Archives?**

YES  NO

▶ **7. ACCESS TO RESTRICTED DOCUMENTS** ◀

***The Recommendation specifies that exceptions to the general access rule may be necessary for the protection of***

- public interests (national defence, foreign policy, public order) or***
- private individuals against the release of information concerning their private lives.***

**7.1 Have you experienced other criteria for exceptions to the general rule, such as**

- Office secrets
- Working or preparatory (background) documents
- Private economic interests
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7.2 Are you aware of specific restrictions applied to certain periods of national history?**

YES  NO

*7.2.1 If yes, please indicate which periods of national history are affected by special restrictions:*

- Before 1920
- Interwar period
- World War II
- After World War II
- After 1989

**7.3 Are you aware of specific restrictions applied to certain aspects of national history?**

YES  NO

*7.3.1 If yes, please indicate which aspects of national history are affected by special restrictions:*

- National conflicts
- Military occupation of the country
- Decolonisation, colonial wars
- Social and political conflicts
- Repression and persecution
- Change of the political system
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7.4 To your knowledge, are there documents in the Archives classified without time limit?**

YES  NO  DON'T KNOW

**7.5 How can users become aware of the expiration of the restriction period and of documents becoming accessible?**

- The Archives publish the list of newly available documents

- From the finding aids
- In the course of individual research requests
- This information does not reach users

► **8. CATALOGUES (FINDING AIDS)** ◀

**8.1 Do you find archival catalogues satisfactory in terms of**

- Number and range? YES  NO
- Content? YES  NO
- Availability? YES  NO

**8.2 Are finding aids to restricted material accessible?**

YES  NO

**8.3 Are there holdings, other than those recently transferred to the Archives, inaccessible because of the absence of finding aids?**

YES  NO

**8.4 Have you experienced, or heard about, cases when special permission was needed to obtain access to finding aids?**

YES  NO

*8.4.1 If yes, was permission granted?*

YES  NO

► **9. SPECIAL PERMISSIONS** ◀

**9.1 Can users apply for special permission for access to restricted/non-accessible documents?**

YES  NO

**9.2 In your experience, are requests for special permissions**

- Usually granted?
- Usually rejected?

**9.3 In your opinion, is it preferable to**

- Grant special permissions on an individual basis, or   
Declassify and open the files for research?

▶ **10. PARTIAL ACCESS** ◀

**10.1 In your experience, do the Archives give partial access to restricted documents through blanking, anonymization or partial release?**

YES  NO  DON'T KNOW

**10.1.1 If yes, do you consider partial access useful?**

YES  NO

**10.2 Have you used this opportunity in the course of your research?**

YES  NO

▶ **11. APPEALS** ◀

**11.1 If an application for special permission is rejected, can the applicant appeal to**

- A higher administrative authority?   
A court?   
An Information Commissioner, Ombudsman?

**11.2 In your experience, are such appeals**

- Usually successful?   
Usually rejected?

**11.3 In the past year, did you, or researchers you know, experience refusals to access documents in Archives?**

YES  NO

**11.3.1 If *yes*, on what grounds was the refusal based?**

- General closure period
- Documents containing personal data
- Classified data/documents
- Copyright
- Your insufficient qualification
- Documents declared as not necessary for your research topic
- Donor's wish stipulated in contract
- Other reasons

**11.3.2 Did you turn to higher authorities or courts against the refusal?**

YES  NO

**11.3.2.1 If *yes*, what was the outcome of your appeal?**

- Access granted to the requested documents
- Access granted to certain documents or certain parts of documents
- Refusals upheld

▶ **12. PRIVATE ARCHIVES** ◀

**Please evaluate research conditions in private Archives in terms of**

	The same as in public Archives	Better	Worse
<b>Access to documents</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Number and content of catalogues</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Internal regulations and procedures</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Working conditions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Use of scanners/document cameras</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Use of own imaging devices (like smartphones)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Documents uploaded to the internet</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Practical assistance of reference archivists</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

▶ **13. RESEARCH ABROAD** ◀

**13.1 In your opinion, under what conditions can users from NGOs/CSOs of your country have access to documents in Archives abroad?**

- Same as in your country
- Better than in your country
- Worse than in your country
- I don't know

**13.2 In your opinion, under what conditions can users from foreign NGOs/CSOs have access to documents in Archives in your country?**

- Same as domestic users
- Better than domestic users
- Worse than domestic users
- I don't know

► **14. RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES OF SUPRANATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS** ◀

**14.1 Have you visited the Archives of supranational and intergovernmental organisations?**

YES  NO

*14.1.1 If yes, were the research conditions, compared to those of public Archives in your country*

Similar?

Better? (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Worse? (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



## 15. Digital Technologies

### 15.1 When accessing archival documents, which of the resources below do you generally use?

- The website of the archival institution
- Social network sites of the archival institution
- Online catalogue
- Documents uploaded to the internet
- Digitization-on-demand service onsite
- Digitization-on-demand service offered to remote users
- A dedicated private channel established for registered users
- Artificial intelligence-based (smart) applications for finding documents

### 15.2 Have you, or researchers you know, been involved in describing, commenting archival documents through crowdsourcing?

YES  NO

*15.2.1 If you, or researchers you know, have been involved in describing or commenting archival documents through crowdsourcing, please specify*

---

### 15.3 Which channels do you prefer for communicating with archivists remotely?

- Telephone calls
- Social networks
- Direct e-mail connection with reference archivists
- Real-time chat connection with reference archivists

### 15.4 In your opinion, can remote access substitute onsite research today?

- Yes, because it is convenient, spares time and traveling
- No, because not everything is available in digital format
- No, because direct contact with original documents is inevitable for serious research
- No, because engaging with Archivists face to face is inevitable for serious research

Partly, because online access can well complement onsite research

**15.5 In your opinion, what could further advance access to contemporary archives?**

- More documents digitized
- More documents uploaded to the internet
- More detailed catalogues and finding aids
- Lifting of restrictions
- Easier communication with archivists
- Increased usability of the archives' internal search engines
- Use of artificial intelligence-based (smart) applications for finding aids
- Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**16. POSSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL POINTS**

16.1 If you feel that the questions and items listed are not adequate to describe the situation of access to archives in your country, please let us know in which way this is the case:

\_\_\_\_\_

**17. THANK YOU**

**17.1 End of the survey**

Thank you very much for your participation in the access to archives survey. The results of the survey will be submitted to the Council of Europe at the end of the year.

Publication is scheduled for the beginning of next year.

If you wish to be notified of the survey results, you can enter your e-mail address in the box below.

\_\_\_\_\_