The activities of CESSDA Data Archives in Europe

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Objective and outline

Provide an short overview about the state of play of Data Archives in Europe, their activities and CESSDA
As a first basis for further discussions during the workshop

• Data Archives ?
• Data archives activities
• CESSDA
• A case for a European Research Infrastructure
Data Archives?

• Some history
• First experience: the Roper Centre before the war
• The “sharing data” discussion led by socio-political researchers in the context of the after WW2: comparative research on values and socio-political changes in the different countries
• Arguments: rich resources for comparative research, financial issues, saving public money, replication needed for scientific validation, increase the value of the data for the producer (citation, feedbacks...)
• Main issues: preservation, metadata crucial for re-use, access
• Initial focus on academic and poll institutes surveys, less discussion about access to official microdata except censuses
• First data archives in the 70th ICPSR, UKDA, NSD, GESIS
Data Archives activities and competencies

- Preservation
  - Convince the producers to deposit data
  - Long term preservation
  - Metadata: collect metadata, improve metadata, use a standard for metadata (DDI), support producers for metadata
  - Anonymization

- Access
  - Promote the re-use and offer catalogue and search tools
  - Train the researchers on the use of microdata
  - Accredit the researchers and make contracts and licences
  - Give access: SUF, Confidential microdata (ScF), Campus files
  - Support the researchers for the use of microdata

- Feedback to producers

Promote re-use of data
CESSDA

- A network from 1976
- A portal
- A central catalogue harvesting the CESSDA members catalogues on NESSTAR servers
- NESSTAR: A widely used tool (Examples: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Slovenia, United-States, etc.
  - A unified way to look for data and metadata
  - Allows to browse into variables helping the researchers to discover data
- A standard for metadata DDI
- A thesaurus
- A transborder agreement
The case for a European research infrastructure

• In this context, a European Research Infrastructure can offer pathways for access by acting as a central data broker.

⇒ CESSDA Data Archives have played this role for several years at national level: what can be their place at European level?
Towards a CESSDA ERIC

- The European roadmap for Research Infrastructures and the ESFRI process (2006)
- Includes for the 1\textsuperscript{st} time the Humanities and Social Sciences
- CESSDA selected as a potential European Infrastructure
- The ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) process in Europe: a legal status, involves the Member States
- CESSDA to be set up as an ERIC in 2015
- Interim situation with a CESSDA assembly of governments’ representatives and a Norwegian institute supporting management and contractual issues
- Service providers will be designated by governments
- Service providers to be audited regularly
CESSDA Milestones

- **EC Preparatory Phase Project**: 2008-2010
- **Formalized**: 2006-2008
- **ESFRI Roadmap**: April 1992, Limerick
- **CESSDA**: May 31st / June 1st 1976, Amsterdam
- **Steering Committee Agreed on Documents**: 2010
- **MoU 12 Countries**: 2011
- **MoU 14 Countries**: 2013
- **CESSDA ERIC Formal Process**: 2006-2008

**Partners**: ZA, UKDA, DDA, Steinmetz, BASS, NSD, ADPSS

NSD©2013
Timeline

Set Up a Legal Vehicle

Early spring 2013

Member Countries sign MoU

Late spring 2013

First General Assembly and CESSDA Operation

June 2013

Autumn 2013

Official Opening

NSD©2013
CESSDA To-day

Members

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A Distributed Pan-European RI

Service Providers selected by the Ministries in each country

Deliverances to and from own countries

Have to follow specific rules and standards

Evaluated every second year

Service Providers Forum

Service Provider NO
Service Provider FI
Service Provider SE
Service Provider UK
Service Provider LT
Service Provider NL
Service Provider DK
Service Provider IA
Service Provider CZ
Service Provider RO
Service Provider FR
Service Provider CH
Service Provider DE
Service Provider SI
Service Provider GR

CESSDA Main Office
First steps

• Improve services
• Reinforce collaboration and transnational access within CESSDA
• Cooperate with NSIs and other OS providers (DwB project)
• Help to create and develop Data Archives in other countries (The SERSCIDA Project)
Thanks for Listening

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