

Setting up a data archive. The Romanian experience

Adrian Duşa
Romanian Social Data Archive



- 1996:** initiation grant from the World Bank;
- 2000:** funding grant from the CNCSIS – National Council of Research in the Higher Education System;
- 2001:** official set up, as a national level development of the Institute for Quality of Life Research's database, in a joint project with the Department of Sociology, University of Bucharest;
- 2002:** RODA joins CESSDA – Council of European Social Science Data Archives and IFDO – International Federation of Data Organizations;
- 2003:** INFOSOC funding.



- Enables the use of existing data;
- Promotes the secondary analysis of social science research data;
- Supports the methodological training of social science students;
- Preserves the data obtained from social research and prevents them from being lost or damaged;
- Ensures information and expert services to the data creators and users, regarding the data documentation standards;
- Act as knowledge centers for policy makers.



- Research data is **locked** and **secret**: it is a strictly private property, even with the assumed risk of losing it;
- **Funding** issues: RODA was operated on a project by project basis, without any other continuous source of funding;
- Lack of **regular staff**: only one person from the initial team continued working for RODA until present day;
- Community **fragmentation**: there are strong university research centers, but a very weak and fragmented community.



- Tools available, but developed for other operating systems (usually Windows, we operate Linux servers)
- Didn't have dedicated server machines, due to financial limitations
- Open-source preferences, few tools available 10 years ago
- DDI compatibility: available tools were bounded to version 2.5, whereas data life-cycle needs at least version 3.0
- New web technologies available, severely underused



- **Integrate** in a wider network, CESSDA ERIC
- **Translate** everything into English
- Define an **standard** archiving format for data and documentation
- **Upgrade** the physical infrastructure (working stations, servers etc.)
- Tightly **secure** the data servers from unauthorised access
- Secure **funding** to operate RODA in at least the next few years
- Pull the **community** behind the project

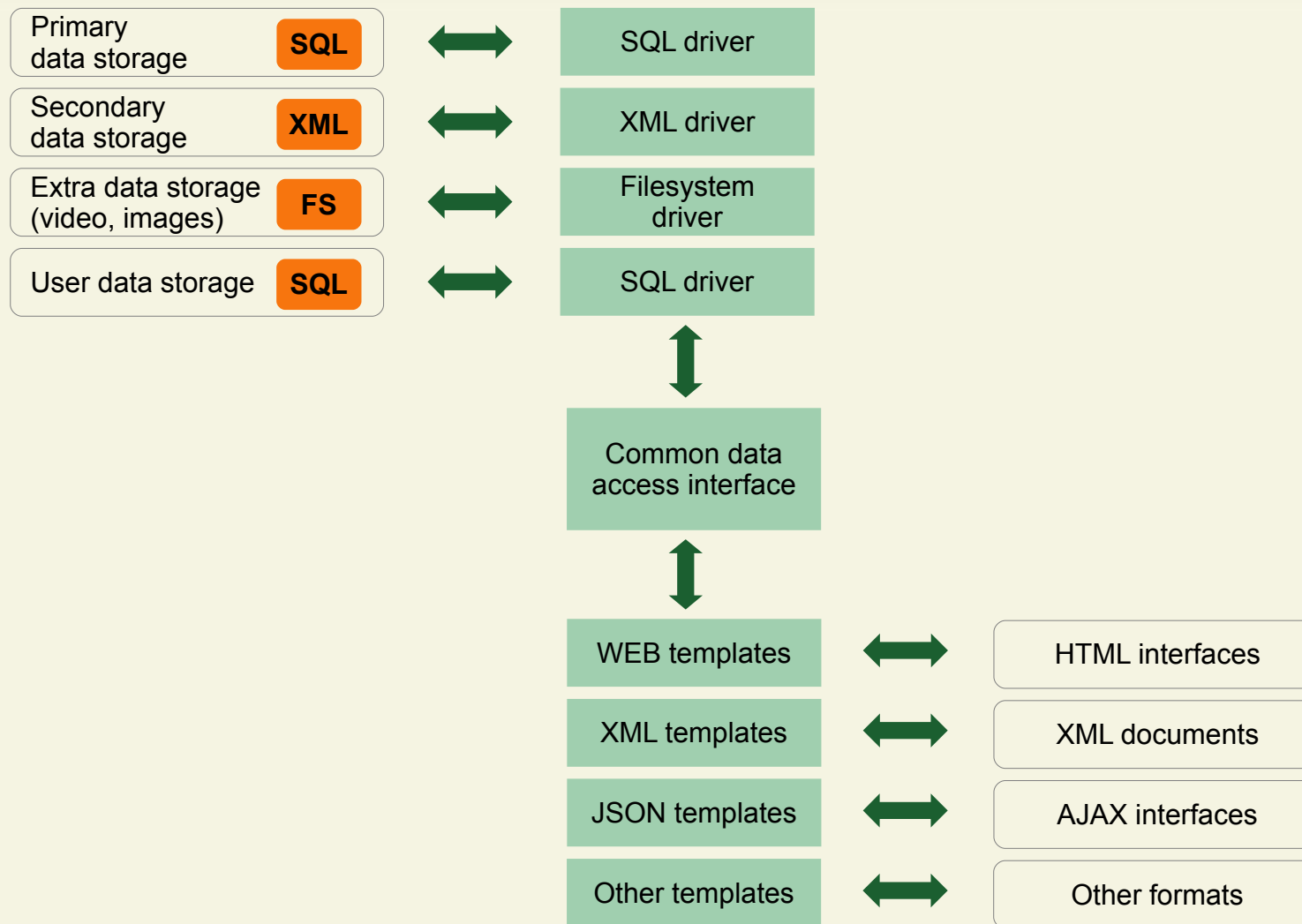


Cost: **500,000 euro** project, funded by ANCS

Develop a new software architecture:

- based on **MVC** (Model-View-Controller) principles
- more **secure** dual storage and that can accommodate more data types, including multimedia
- **plugin based** architecture allowing better interoperability
- employ **R** as a statistical engine
- complete **web based** administration, based on modern web technologies





CASPIS – Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Commission (2001 - 2004)

Research team:

- University of Bucharest, Department of Sociology
- National Institute of Statistics

Objectives:

- measure poverty rates across Romania
- develop and implement anti-poverty and social inclusion plan



PNAinc – National Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Plan
(adopted as the **official governing program** by the Prime Minister)

Poverty maps:

- data from Census and Household Budget Survey
- equivalised income, equivalent adults
- calculations adjusted by the PPP – Purchase Parity Power
- relative deprivation
- direct effect on social policies



CIMES – Centralizing and Integrating Metadata from European Statistics, under **Working Package 5**

RODA's involvement:

- Collect and structure available metadata for **Education**, **Living Standards** and **Labor Force** in Romania
- Document three different types of objects: *series*, *studies*, *datasets*



Romanian Census, 2012

- huge undertaking for the INS, under strong political pressure
- temporary migration: millions of people working abroad
- difficult methodological decisions

Top researchers on **migration** and **demography**, from both INS and University of Bucharest, working together at the final Census report.



Fruitful collaboration:

- helpful relationships with colleagues from INS
- exchange of experience in research methodology and best practices
- INS's standard quality reports very useful

The payoff:

- much better used research potential, exchange of ideas
- build trust for a solid, long term partnership



Thank you.

dusa.adrian@unibuc.ro

