

cessda

# CESSDA Annual Report 2025



## Disclaimer

The information in this document is provided “as is” without guarantee or warranty of any kind, express or implied, including but not limited to the fitness of the information for a particular purpose. The user thereof uses the information at his/ her sole risk and liability. This deliverable is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.15646767

© Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives - 2026

Published in 2026

# Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Foreword by the Chair</b> .....   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Foreword by the CESSDA Director</b> .....   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>CESSDA 2025 Highlights</b> .....  | <b>6</b>  |
| CESSDA Publications .....  | 6         |
| CESSDA KPIs .....  | 7         |
| Change in CESSDA Memberships - Lithuania new member .....  | 7         |
| The French National Research Data Conference (ANDOR).....  | 8         |
| <b>WIDENING EVENTS</b> .....   | <b>8</b>  |
| BRIDGE CONFERENCE .....  | 8         |
| CESSDA Supporting the Development of the EOSC .....  | 8         |
| <b>CESSDA Governance</b> .....   | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>CESSDA in the European Landscape</b> .....  | <b>10</b> |
| The ERIC Forum .....   | 10        |
| CESSDA in SSHOC.....   | 10        |
| Reflections on How a CESSDA Knowledge Hub Can Contribute to the SSHOC Marketplace and OS-CARS as Destination EOSC..... | 10        |
| The SSH Open Science Cluster (SSHOC) and the SSHOC Competence Center .....   | 10        |
| OSCARS .....   | 11        |
| <b>Researchers and Data Communities</b> .....  | <b>12</b> |
| EGU 2025 - Crossing the disciplines .....  | 12        |
| 50 Years of IASSIST .....  | 12        |
| ESRA - New Developments in Survey Research .....   | 13        |
| ISA.....   | 13        |
| MEDem .....  | 14        |
| <b>CESSDA at the International Level</b> .....   | <b>15</b> |
| International Data Science Week Brisbane Australia.....  | 15        |
| <b>CESSDA Promoting Metadata Standards</b> .....   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>CESSDA's Internal Work - Reports from the CESSDA Working Groups</b> .....   | <b>17</b> |
| Trust & Landscape Working Group .....  | 17        |
| Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force .....  | 17        |
| Data Citation Working Group .....  | 18        |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Sensitive Data Working Group .....   | 18        |
| Dataverse Working Group .....  | 19        |
| Interoperability Working Group .....   | 19        |
| CESSDA Data Catalogue .....  | 20        |
| CESSDA ELSST Thesaurus.....  | 20        |
| CESSDA Vocabulary Service .....  | 21        |
| CESSDA European Question Bank (EQB) .....                                    | 21        |
| Data Archiving Guide .....   | 22        |
| Data Management Expert Guide .....   | 22        |
| Training.....  | 22        |
| A Mentoring Meeting with SSH OSCARS Proponents .....                         | 23        |
| <b>Developing strengths through selected European projects .....</b>         | <b>25</b> |
| CESSDA in FAIR and TRUST .....   | 26        |
| OSTrails.....  | 26        |
| EOSC-ENTRUST .....   | 27        |
| EOSC Beyond .....  | 27        |
| OSCARS.....  | 28        |
| CESSDA supporting Science and Policy Advice .....                            | 29        |
| Infra4NextGen .....  | 29        |
| GGP-5D .....   | 31        |
| CESSDA’s Support to the Research Infrastructure Landscape .....              | 31        |
| ERIC Forum 2 .....   | 31        |
| FIDELIS .....  | 32        |
| Projects concluded in 2025.....  | 32        |
| COORDINATE .....   | 32        |
| FAIR IMPACT.....   | 33        |
| RITrainPlus .....  | 34        |
| <b>Communications Activities.....</b>  | <b>35</b> |
| Selected Publications .....  | 35        |
| New leadership for CESSDA .....  | 35        |
| Katrin Weller leads new developments in social science data management ..... | 35        |
| CESSDA in the Community.....   | 36        |
| Social Media .....   | 36        |
| CESSDA Website .....   | 37        |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| CESSDA Newsletter .....  | 37        |
| <b>CESSDA Members 2025 .....</b>   | <b>38</b> |
| Annex 1: CESSDA ERIC Members, Observers and Service Providers in 2025..... | 38        |
| <b>Financial Statements 2025.....</b>                                      | <b>42</b> |
| Income Statement (EUR) .....   | 42        |
| Balance Statement (EUR) .....  | 42        |
| Accounting Principles .....  | 43        |
| Foreign Currency.....  | 43        |
| Operating Revenues and Expenses.....                                       | 43        |
| Tax.....   | 43        |
| Classification and Valuation of Fixed Assets .....                         | 43        |
| EC Projects .....  | 43        |
| Receivables .....  | 44        |
| Pension.....   | 44        |

# Foreword by the Chair

Addressing the CESSDA-Community for the first time as Chair of the General Assembly is both a pleasure and an honour. 2025 was my first year in this role, and I want to take the opportunity to thank the delegates for their trust in me and in Vice-Chair Vigdis Kvalheim. A special thanks goes to Helena Laaksonen, the previous Chair, for her excellent leadership over many years. I also want to express my appreciation for the committed and highly professional work of Director Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch and her team at CESSDA Main Office in Bergen.



CESSDA's position as a key European research infrastructure in the social sciences and humanities, recognised as an ESFRI-Landmark and as a major stakeholder in the development of the European Open Science Cloud was my motivation for becoming Chair. Improving access to data for researchers has been a priority in my work for many years, and I see CESSDA as an essential research infrastructure in this field. FAIR data is the basis for better research and evidence-informed policy making.

A vivid illustration of CESSDA's contribution to the European Research Area is the report "Measuring What Matters", published last year. In my view, it is a very good, easy-to-read and visually engaging report. If you are interested in CESSDA and its community, I warmly recommend it.

When I first arrived at the General Assembly in Bergen twelve years ago, CESSDA was in the process of establishing itself as a legal entity on the European level. Today, with its 50th anniversary approaching and marked by a major conference this summer, CESSDA has become a trusted, reputable and sought-out partner in the research and data infrastructure landscape.

I look forward to working with all of you to strengthen this position further and to ensure that researchers across Europe can continue to find, access and use the data they need to better understand our societies.

**Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy, Chair of the General Assembly**

# Foreword by the CESSDA Director

2025 was a busy year. CESSDA participated in and prepared new EC projects to keep being relevant in a rapidly changing landscape: a new CESSDA Task Force on AI met for the first time in March, dedicated to topics such as impact on AI for Data archives, ethical AI, and working on best practices and recommendations. CESSDA is also engaged in the FIDELIS project to help to develop trustworthy digital repositories for the European Open Science Cloud.



On that note, in November 2025 The EOSC federation, with its 14 pilot EOSC nodes, was officially launched in November at the EOSC Symposium in Brussels. CESSDA is not part of the first waves for becoming a node, but serves as an EOSC Thematic Node Pilot in the context of the EOSC Beyond project. Overall, CESSDA is well represented in EOSC through its many Service Providers and the Main Office in different EOSC working groups and other activities, such as in contributing in writing the EOSC Federation Handbook.

In 2025 I had the opportunity to take part at cross-disciplinary, national and international events as solicited speakers such as at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) in Vienna to discuss the exchange of data from the social sciences and the environmental sciences. At ANDOR (assises national de la recherche ouverte), an initiative of the French government on open science in Paris, I presented the challenges and opportunities of sensitive data in the social sciences. Both events were well visited showcasing the interest in blending data from different disciplines and sensitive data.

The biennial International Science Data Week in Brisbane, Australia organised by the Research Data Alliance (RDA), CODATA (the committee of data of the International Science Council) and the World Data System (WDS) was a great opportunity to liaise with partner organisations and international colleagues.

Finally, at the ERIC Forum meeting in late November I was elected as ERIC Forum Chair starting in January 2026 together with the Vice-Chair is Eija Juurola from ACTRIS, a distributed ERIC in the Environmental Sciences. It is an honour to chair the ERIC Forum, and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues from the CESSDA Consortium, the Science Clusters, and the 32 ERICs.

**Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch, Executive Director**

# CESSDA 2025 Highlights

## CESSDA Publications

CESSDA published a set of important documents in 2025:

First, a brief entitled “[Top 5 Key Performance Indicators](#)” showcases the progress made by CESSDA’s 22 national social science data archives in the period 2020-2022. It illustrates **CESSDA’s key achievements in supporting open science, advancing research transparency, and enabling impactful data reuse across Europe**. The brief concludes with CESSDA’s plan to complement quantitative metrics with qualitative impact stories, to demonstrate the importance of data reuse in addressing global challenges and fostering scientific excellence.

To complement the “Top 5 Key Performance Indicators”, a report entitled “[Measuring What Matters](#)” presents CESSDA’s continued progress between 2020 and 2024. Following the framework of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), the report combines quantitative indicators with qualitative narratives to highlight key achievements in **enhancing access to high-quality data, metadata interoperability, and user engagement**. The report concludes with an outlook on CESSDA’s continued efforts to ensure social science data remain FAIR, trustworthy, and impactful for society.

Third, CESSDA published a brief entitled “[The battle for trust: Advancing the social science data ecosystem](#)”. The brief presents a comprehensive **overview of the open data landscape from the perspective of European social science data archives**. It highlights the importance of trustworthy repositories, the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Federation, other EU initiatives, as well as CESSDA’s contribution to advancing open science.

Finally, a new [Data Citation Guide](#) was published. The guide outlines the core components of a data citation and provides practical recommendations tailored to key stakeholders, including data repositories, authors, academic journals and publishers, Research Performing Organisations (RPOs), policy, strategy, and funding entities, and ethics committees.

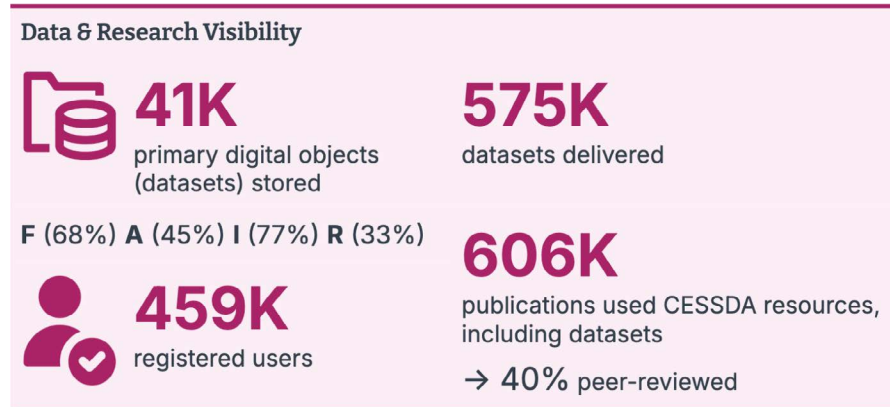


<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author. Email: [mat.meesters@tue.nl](mailto:mat.meesters@tue.nl) ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8855-8605>  
<sup>2</sup> Email: [lanette.wong@CESSDA.eu](mailto:lanette.wong@CESSDA.eu) ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7229-8122>

## CESSDA KPIs

Between 2020 and 2024, CESSDA strengthened its role in the European Research Area by advancing scientific excellence, open data, and evidence-based policies. The volume of primary digital objects (including datasets) increased by 26%, while data delivery more than tripled. By 2024, CESSDA archived more than 41,000 primary digital objects.

During this 5-year period, CESSDA doubled its outreach and education activities. In 2024, CESSDA delivered nearly 600 training sessions to 14,000 users to promote good research data management practices across disciplines. Moreover, CESSDA supported the integration of social science expertise into science advice. In 2024, one in five Service Providers actively contributed to national, European, and international policies. As new policy frameworks and artificial intelligence reshape the open data landscape, CESSDA will continue to adapt its services to emerging user needs, advance metadata interoperability, scale up training and outreach, and strengthen cross-domain collaboration in Europe and beyond.



## Change in CESSDA Memberships - Lithuania new member

On 17 June 2025, the Republic of Lithuania officially became a full member of the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA ERIC), joining this community committed to consolidating and strengthening high-quality research and open data practices in the social sciences. Lithuania's national Service Providers will be the [Lithuanian Data Archive for Social Sciences and Humanities \(LiDA\)](#), based at [Kaunas University of Technology \(KTU\)](#). LiDA is hosted by the Centre for Data Analysis and Archiving within KTU's Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. Representing Lithuania in CESSDA's General Assembly

will be **Artūras** Malysis (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) and Prof. Audronė Telešienė (Kaunas University of Technology), with Prof. Vaidas Morkevičius (KTU) joining the CESSDA Service Provider Forum.



On 27th November 2025, the 18th General Assembly decided to end the membership of Serbia in CESSDA ERIC. The reasons for this decision were not meeting obligations for membership according to Article 6/3 and as set out in Annex 2 of the CESSDA ERIC Statutes as well as a lack of regular exchange between the CESSDA Consortium (with 22 Member States) and Serbia.

The General Assembly deeply regrets this step and considers this as a loss for the CESSDA Consortium and for the Serbian research community. To maintain contact with the Serbian research community, CESSDA offered to continue the dialogue and bilateral relationship with Serbia to ensure that once conditions have improved, Serbia can again regain membership status.

## The French National Research Data Conference (ANDOR)

CESSDA's Director was invited to speak on sensitive data in the social sciences at the Assises Nationales des Données de la Recherche (national research data conference) 2025. ANDOR is an initiative of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research which was hosted at the Paris-Saclay University December 1st and 2nd 2025. During these two days, academic and economic stakeholders met and discussed the production, management, processing, dissemination and reuse of research data and AI.



## WIDENING EVENTS

### BRIDGE CONFERENCE

In March 2025, CESSDA Director attended the BRIDGE Conference in Bucharest as a keynote speaker and panellist. Hosted by the Romanian Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding, and funded by the EEA and Norway Grants, the international conference brought together thought leaders from various domains to discuss the critical role of metadata, data stewardship, and cross-domain integration in improving data management, sharing, and reuse. The conference was designed with researchers, data managers, policymakers, and experts from diverse disciplines in mind, aiming to foster collaboration and explore innovative solutions for connecting and utilising data across domains. Several CESSDA Service Providers joined panel discussions on FAIR data, interoperability and the role of research infrastructures in evidence-based policymaking.



## CESSDA Supporting the Development of the EOSC

CESSDA's Service Providers (SPs) such as ADA (Slovenia), AUSSDA (AU), DANS (NL), FSD (FI), SiKT (NO), SND (S) and UKDS (UK) and the Main Office were strongly represented at the EOSC Symposium 2025 in Brussels. The SPs take part in EOSC Working and Focus Groups, helping establish a Community of Practice in Research Data Management. SPs and the Main Office are also involved in the writing of the EOSC Federation Handbook. See the EOSC projects that CESSDA is involved in under the "European Projects" section below.



# CESSDA Governance

The General Assembly (GA) of CESSDA met twice in 2025: in June in Bergen, Norway and in November in Vienna, Austria. The major items discussed and approved were:

- The approval of CESSDA's work plan and the ones of the six Working Groups (2026-2027) (see further below);
- The instalment of a biannual budget;
- The approval of Lithuania as the newest CESSDA member and other General CESSDA Membership matters.
- The presentation of four new EC projects starting in January 2026 (see below) and the discussions of potential new strategic projects.



The CESSDA Service Providers' Forum (SPF), the advisory body to the Director on data archive matters, met in June in Den Hague at the Dutch Data Archive, DANS and in November in Athens at the Greek Data Archive, EKKE.

Points discussed were:

- The calls for Service Owners and Technical Maintainers for CESSDA Services;
- The calls for Chairs of the CESSDA working groups;
- The projected work of the six working groups for the period 2026-2027;
- The set-up of a new Core Work Group on AI (see below).
- The CESSDA Knowledge Hub and the future SSHOC Competence Center as part of the OSCARS project (see below).
- The presentation, discussion and selection of EC Projects.



# CESSDA in the European Landscape

## The ERIC Forum

At the ERIC Forum meeting in late November, CESSDA's Director was elected as ERIC Forum Chair starting in January 2026, together with the Vice-Chair Eija Juurola from ACTRIS, a distributed ERIC in the Environmental Sciences.



## CESSDA in SSHOC

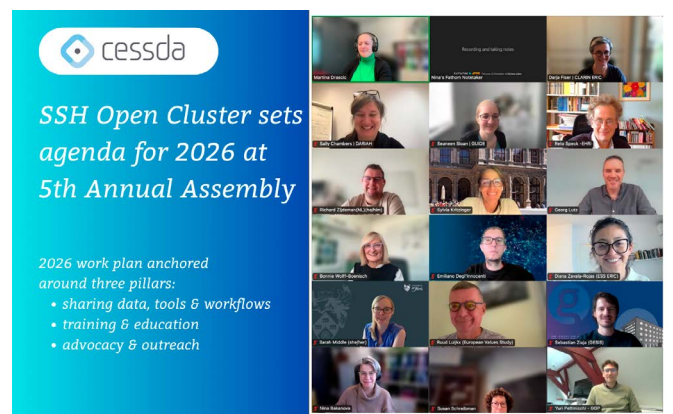
### Reflections on How a CESSDA Knowledge Hub Can Contribute to the SSHOC Marketplace and OSCARS as Destination EOSC

The CESSDA consortium is a network of RDM experts in the social sciences that could also be considered as an excellence center for RDM. In the context of the OSCARS Project with destination to EOSC (see below) a SSHOC Competence Center (CC) is to be set up. For CESSDA, this was the opportunity in 2025 to revisit CESSDA's current service portfolio, its training resources and the resources directory. The main idea is to transfer in the future part of its service to the SSHOC Marketplace as the centerpiece of a future SSHOC CC.



## The SSH Open Science Cluster (SSHOC) and the SSHOC Competence Center

In 2025 CESSDA together with the Social Sciences and Humanities research infrastructures CLARIN and DARIAH along with CESSDA Service Providers ADP and DANS, met at Utrecht University to chart the next phase of a future Social Sciences and Humanities (SSHOC) Competence Centre (CC). The gathering took place under the umbrella of the SSH Open Cluster's participation in the Horizon Europe OSCARS Project (see below). Over the two days, participants focused on priorities to create a CC that provides and shares knowledge and skills across all partners in the network. A prerequisite is the technical and political alignment between Social Sciences and Humanities



ERICs, along with the strategic allocation and planning of resources to set up a future SSHOC CC. The SSHOC Competence Center will be a virtual facility pooling important training materials for the SSHOC community.

Other topics discussed were the needs of different audiences, the strengthening of the SSH Open Marketplace, the potential of AI for a better take up of information and sustainability, and long-term commitment by the ERICs.

## OSCARS

The four-year Horizon Europe project is designed to accelerate the uptake of Open Science across Europe. The €25 million funded OSCARS initiative also supports the establishment of community-based Competence Centres across five European Science Clusters, dedicated to promoting FAIR and open science practices.

The first OSCARS Annual General Meeting was held in Rome On 3-4 March, 2025. During the event, the key milestones of the work packages were presented, and the plan for the coming year was laid out. Funded projects gave short “flash talks” on their progress, and participants could browse an interactive world café, providing an opportunity for structured discussions in an informal setting.



[The 2nd OSCARS Open Call opened on 14 March 2025, and closed on 14 May 2025, with a staggering number of 746 proposals submitted from 67 countries.](#) While the majority came from within Europe, 25% of the coordinating organisations are based outside the European Union.

[The total funding available for the second call amounted to approximately €3 million. In total only 12 projects,](#) two projects relate to the ENVRI Science Cluster (Earth and Environmental Sciences), two to ESCAPE (Astronomy and Particle Physics), two to LS-RI (Life Sciences), two to PaNOSC (Photon and Neutron Science), two to SSHOC (Social Sciences and Humanities) and two projects either addressing challenges that are relevant across various Science Clusters or domains, and/or outside the domains covered by the clusters could be funded.

Also in late spring 2025 CESSDA organised a mentoring meeting with representatives of the successful SSH OSCARS projects (see below Training chapter).

# Researchers and Data Communities

## EGU 2025 - Crossing the disciplines

CESSDA was invited as solicited speakers for a session on **how to merge social science and environmental studies** at the annual General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU). The importance of co-design in research addressing climate and environmental change, and the critical role social sciences play in that process was highlighted by Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch. In her presentation, she explored how digitisation opens new avenues for collaboration through data sharing and interoperability and how CESSDA ERIC, with over 50 years of experience in social science data curation, is advancing FAIR data practices and promoting standards like DDI-CDI to support cross-disciplinary integration.



The presentation also featured examples of collaborative work across Science Clusters, including SSHOC (the Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud), ENVRI (European Environmental Research Infrastructures), OSCARS project, and WorldFAIR Project, demonstrating how social and environmental sciences can come together through shared infrastructure and coordinated standards<sup>1</sup>.

## 50 Years of IASSIST

A majority of Service Providers attended the **50th annual Conference** of the **International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology** (IASSIST) in Bristol, UK. IASSIST is an international organization of professionals working with information technology and data services to support research and teaching. Many Service Providers came to celebrate this landmark and where CESSDA was one of the main sponsors of the event.



The conference had a packed programme and lively discussions. Three key themes stood out: the growing culture of **data citation**, the **transformative potential of synthetic data**, and the **rapid evolution of generative AI**. The conference's international scope revealed that there were clear regional differences in how AI governance and policy are being approached. Nevertheless, North America and Europe shared concerns around transparency and responsible innovation, legal and ethical considerations, and the need for tailored strategies and cross-border dialogue.

<sup>1</sup> EGU 2025 recorded sessions: [https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU25/sessionprogramme/US\\_GDB\\_MAL\\_PC](https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU25/sessionprogramme/US_GDB_MAL_PC)

## ESRA - New Developments in Survey Research

On July 16, CESSDA participated in the 11th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), which brought together **applied survey researchers, methodologists, and statisticians** from Europe and beyond. The conference focused on promises and problems of new and alternative data sources and data formats for survey research at the University of Utrecht. Key themes included the promise and drawbacks of AI, innovative sampling for hard-to-survey populations, and the **role of surveys in understanding climate change**.

Sessions on large language models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT and LLaMA, highlighted their potential for coding open-ended responses, **analysing social media posts**, and generating synthetic survey data. Nevertheless, presenters cautioned that these models demand rigorous validation, transparent prompting, and constant attention to algorithmic bias. **Social inclusion** was another focus. Researchers shared approaches to reaching displaced populations, LGBTQIA+ communities, and ethnic minorities. While advances in respondent driven sampling and integrated approaches that combine open data with satellite imagery show promise, their success hinges on trust-building and culturally sensitive design<sup>2</sup>.



## ISA

DASSI and ADP, CESSDA's Italian and Slovenian Service Providers, participated in the 11th International Conference on Social Science Methodology, organised by the International Sociological Association's (ISA) research committee RC33 on Logic and Methodology. The international conference took place at the Federico II University of Naples and brought together scholars from across the social sciences to discuss epistemological, theoretical, and methodological challenges in contemporary research. Sessions covered topics such as **open science and research infrastructures, digital and "sociodigital" methods**,

creative methodological approaches (e.g. arts-based methods, queer methods), integration of survey and trace data, **ethics** in qualitative research, and the measurement and comparison of **social and political values in turbulent times**.



2 CESSDA at ESRA (from our Newsletter): <https://www.cessda.eu/CESSDA-Documents/Newsletters/2025/CESSDA%20Newsletter%20-2%202025.pdf>

## MEDem

The MEDem Conference 2025, held on 29–30 September at GESIS, Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Cologne, brought together researchers, policymakers, and data journalists to explore the future of **evidence-based democracy research**. The conference is a yearly event organised as part of the Monitoring Electoral Democracy (MEDem) infrastructure initiative.

This year's conference served as a hub for exchanging ideas on how data can be used to better understand and support democratic processes, with a strong emphasis on collaboration, data interoperability, and infrastructure development. CESSDA Director underscored CESSDA's engagement in European efforts to promote accessible, high-quality research data for democracy studies. MEDem has submitted an application for the upcoming ESFRI Roadmap and started to seek connections with CESSDA and other SSH ERICs for a more connected and resilient European research ecosystem.



# CESSDA at the International Level

## International Data Science Week Brisbane Australia

**Data sharing, openness, and international collaboration** took centre stage at International Data Week 2025 (IDW 2025), where CESSDA ERIC Director Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch joined global leaders in the research data community for four days of discussions, networking, and inspiration. The IDW 2025 brought together researchers, data professionals, policymakers, and innovators from around the world under the theme “Data for Positive Change.” It explored how data can be harnessed to empower communities, advance research, and drive meaningful societal impact. The event was hosted by the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC).



# CESSDA Promoting Metadata Standards

[The 17th European DDI Users Conference \(EDDI\)](#) brought together the global DDI community in Hungary's capital in December 2025 with a strong CESSDA representation of Service Providers and the Main Office. Hosted by the Research Documentation Centre at the ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, Research Documentation Centre, the annual event brings together experts in the field of the **international metadata standards for social, behavioral, economic, and health sciences**.



CESSDA also **sponsored the “Introduction to DDI for Small Archives” workshop**, supporting organisations with limited resources in taking their first steps toward DDI implementation. **Capacity building** remains a cornerstone of our mission, and helping smaller archives adopt standards is crucial for expanding the reach and impact of FAIR data practices.

One notable theme at this year's conference was the continued **development of DDI Cross-Domain Integration (DDI-CDI)**. Published in spring 2025, this specification extends classic DDI with the ability to link heterogeneous data across scientific domains – from social sciences to biomedicine and sensor data. DDI-CDI allows researchers to describe relationships between diverse sources, both structured and unstructured, and create complex data models.

The interdisciplinary direction is beginning to gain attention, with several presentations exploring how DDI-CDI might be applied in practice.

# CESSDA's Internal Work - Reports from the CESSDA Working Groups

## Trust & Landscape Working Group

The CESSDA Trust & Landscape Working Group's mission derives from the Service Providers' obligations to adhere to the principles of the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) reference model<sup>3</sup>. CESSDA has selected CoreTrustSeal<sup>4</sup> as the Trustworthy Digital Repository standard the Service Providers need to achieve. In 2025, the Working Group peer reviewed SPs' documents, provided general guidance, and created common evidence. More than half of the SPs have been certified, and many are working on their application.

In spring 2025, the Working Group produced a brief entitled "The battle for trust: Advancing the social science data ecosystem" that highlights the importance of trustworthy repositories in the EOSC data ecosystem and provided recommendations for different stakeholders.

Throughout the year, the Working Group fostered collaboration and followed the trust landscape, facilitating conversations with the SPs on topical issues like ongoing EOSC projects, revision of the CoreTrustSeal requirements, FAIR assessments, as well as data citations and tracking impact. Trust, data sovereignty, and AI were all highlighted as major themes, with ongoing discussions about their definitions and implications for CESSDA and our future work.

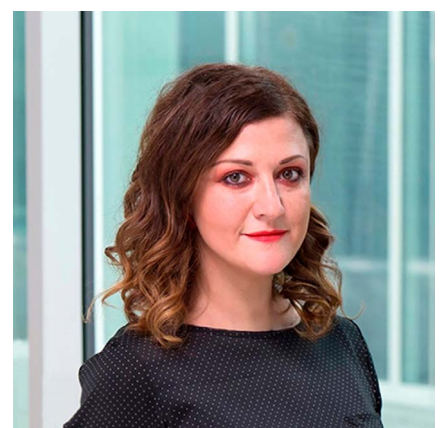


*Mari Kleemola (FSD), leader of the Trust and Landscape Working Group*

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force

The CESSDA AI Task Force was launched in December 2024, bringing together 40 members from 13 organisations across CESSDA's Service Provider network.

During 2025, operating as the Task Force, the group built an active community, mapped AI-related expertise across the network, and identified three priority themes that now form the structural pillars of the future AI Working Group's mandate: **technical developments** (including AI-assisted metadata enrichment, automated ingest, and integration of AI tools into repository workflows); **AI policies, ethics, and legal frameworks** (supporting Service Providers in developing and sharing approaches to responsible AI use); and **training and knowledge sharing** (through webinars, open community sessions, and collaborative guidance materials).



*Bojana Tasic (FORS), Chair of the AI Working group*

<sup>3</sup> Open Archival Information System reference model (OAIS): <https://ccsds.org/Pubs/650x0m3.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> CoreTrustSeal: <https://www.coretrustseal.org/>

Based on the work and inputs from the AI Task Force, in autumn 2025 the CESSDA Service Provider Forum agreed to set up a new Core Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI). This marked a significant step in CESSDA's strategic engagement with AI — formalising what had previously been an exploratory AI Task Force into a permanent body with a clear mandate, Terms of Reference, and long-term governance. The Working Group's mission is to support CESSDA Service Providers in navigating the opportunities and challenges posed by AI across the research data lifecycle, from technical integration and responsible use to policy alignment and community capacity building.

Alongside this community-building work, the group drafted the 2026–2027 Work Plan and organised a public webinar to raise awareness of AI's implications for the social science data infrastructure community. The AI Working Group is chaired by Bojana Tasic (FORS), with Benjamin Beuster (Sikt) serving as Co-Chair.

## Data Citation Working Group

In 2025, the CESSDA Data Citation Working Group's core objective continued: to improve data citation practices across the academic community by enabling and facilitating data citation and by promoting the importance and interoperability of data citations.

Throughout the year, the working group undertook several key activities in support of this objective. The Data Citation Guide was officially published in March and is available via a dedicated subdomain of the CESSDA website ([datacitation.cessda.eu](https://datacitation.cessda.eu)). The broader recommendations document has been published on Zenodo (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15043854>). The Guide provides structured guidance on the importance and anatomy of data citation, tailored to a range of stakeholders, including repositories, authors, journals, research-performing organisations, policy bodies, and ethics committees. The guidelines have been presented on several occasions, including at major conferences such as IASSIST 2025 (Bristol) and PUBMET 2025 (Zagreb).



*Christina Bornatici (FORS), leader of the Data Citation Working Group in 2025*

The Data Citation Practices among CESSDA Service Providers report, based on a questionnaire completed in 2024, was finalised and published in October 2025 on Zenodo (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17464099>). The report assesses data citation practices and levels of compliance across Service Providers and puts forward several recommendations for improvement, identifying areas where further harmonisation would be beneficial. Key findings were presented at the CESSDA Service Provider Forum and during Open Hour sessions.

## Sensitive Data Working Group

In 2025, the CESSDA Sensitive Data Working Group focused on developing some 'mini-projects' aimed at tackling some of the themes raised in the 2024 Service Provider Survey concerning sensitive data access. This led to a project looking at developing guidance for Service Providers looking to develop a Trusted Research Environment, and to a funding proposal being submitted for a text anonymisation project. Time has been dedicated in each meeting to allow members to discuss and promote their current projects and events to the wider working group, and to invite collaborators.

The last couple of meetings of 2025 saw the focus switch to setting goals for the next two years, which look at strengthening coordination around sensitive data access can enable CESSDA to build Trusted Research

Environments that support secure data sharing and federated analysis. Planned work includes an in-person workshop titled 'Advancing Access to Sensitive Data within CESSDA' at CESSDA's 50th anniversary conference in June 2026, a webinar with European data services who make sensitive data available, a new Service Providers survey to get a deeper understanding of the current challenges and services relating to sensitive data, and planning for a larger funding proposal aimed at helping Service Providers expand their current offering.

## Dataverse Working Group

The Dataverse Key Topic Working Group remains an important hub for knowledge exchange and joint development, as many Service Providers continue to use the software for storing, managing, and publishing research data.

In 2025, the group focused on coordination among Service Providers, platform optimization, sharing experiences, and aligning common development goals.

Topics included the ongoing implementation of FAIR principles, multilingual metadata, standardised terminology (e.g., ELSST), integration with external services (e.g., ROR), and incorporation of funding information.

Looking ahead to 2026, the group plans to develop a joint roadmap to further support collaboration within the consortium.

This will include an assessment of the Dataverse platform, aimed at identifying CESSDA's needs and priorities for multilingual functionality and feeding these insights into the technical roadmap.

## Interoperability Working Group

The Interoperability Working Group (Tools Working Group) focused on the user's perspective of researchers and Service Providers. The group monitored the status of CESSDA's services, coordinated and evaluated tasks. In addition, maintenance of the group enhanced the available CESSDA services and provided direction to new and future services. The group provided a discussion forum for the Service Providers and organised online 'Tools Open Hours' to exchange best practices on CESSDA's tools and services, Dataverse, and metadata validation. The working group supported CESSDA's goal to provide appropriate tools and services for Service Providers and researchers to curate, preserve, publish, find, access and re-use research data in a multilingual environment.



*Deborah Wiltshire (GESIS), leader of the Sensitive Data Working Group*



*Lars Kaczmarek (AUSSDA), leader of the Dataverse Working Group*



*Darren Bell (UKDS), leader of the Interoperability Working Group*

## CESSDA Data Catalogue

The CESSDA Data Catalogue (CDC) has served as a central metadata hub for social science research data for over seven years. Built and maintained in collaboration with CESSDA's Service Providers (SPs) and the CDC User Group, the platform has continuously evolved to meet the growing demands of users and metadata standards. Version 4.0.0<sup>5</sup> has now been released, introducing a major upgrade: collections. These are thematic views which allow users to browse and search focused subsets of data by specific topics and issues. This enhancement significantly improves the user experience, offering more intuitive and relevant ways to explore Europe's social science data landscape. Users can browse thematic views on:

- [COORDINATE: Data on child wellbeing and youth](#)
- [BeYond-COVID: Data on Covid-19 and other infectious diseases](#)
- [HumMingBird: Data on migration](#)



## CESSDA ELSST Thesaurus

The European Language Social Science Thesaurus (ELSST) is a broad-based, multilingual thesaurus for the social sciences. It is available in fifteen languages: Czech, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Romanian, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish. The November 2025 release of ELSST<sup>6</sup> (Version 6) included revisions to the demography hierarchy and related terms. The revision was needed to ensure that the thesaurus reflects modern society and meets ELSST's stated aims of [diversity and inclusivity](#). The changes, which were made in consultation with international demography experts, include additional terms to improve coverage of vital statistics (such as births, marriages, cohabitation, civil partnerships and deaths) and updated definitions for existing terms.



ELSST also continues to promote [FAIR](#) principles. Two presentations on [this topic were given at the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology \(IASSIST\) 2025 conference in June 2025: The European Language Social Science Thesaurus \(ELSST\): Keeping it FAIR and Translating ELSST into Slovenian: Challenges in supporting Open Science and FAIR Principles.](#)

All language versions have been updated in Version 6 except for Icelandic, Romanian and Swedish where no new translations have been added to this release.

For more information see the [ELSST documentation](#), including the [Version 6 Release notes](#).

5 <https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid4830>

6 <https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid4957>

## CESSDA Vocabulary Service

The CESSDA Vocabulary Service (CVS) is a central platform for managing and providing controlled vocabularies that form an integral part of the CESSDA metadata scheme. These standardized collections of terms ensure consistent description



and categorization of research data across countries and institutions. In doing so, they significantly enhance the discoverability, comparability, and reusability of research data.

In 2025, the CVS was continuously developed and maintained through regular coordination meetings involving technical developers, administrators, and the service owner. The vocabularies were systematically reviewed and updated, including close collaboration with the DDI CV Working Group.

A key focus was the expansion and enhancement of existing vocabularies. This included the integration of the new CESSDA vocabulary "CESSDA Data Catalogue Collections." In addition, language versions of the CESSDA Topic Classification were updated, particularly the French version. The DDI vocabulary "Software Package" was also extended to include a Latvian language version.<sup>7</sup>

The onboarding of the new agency Progedo further strengthened international collaboration within the CVS framework. Progedo also intends to create and manage its own vocabularies using the CVS to address specific concepts relevant to the French research context. To support this, the service owner provided editor training for Progedo. Additional editor training was delivered to the Finnish Service Provider to enable independent vocabulary management and maintenance.

The current version 3.6.1 of the CVS was released on 16 December 2025. It includes technical improvements to further enhance system stability and performance, optimized security measures, and a modernized, more user-friendly interface.

## CESSDA European Question Bank (EQB)

In 2025, Meret Hildebrandt (FORS) together with Brian Kleiner (FORS) were responsible for the service ownership of the mandated CESSDA European Question Bank (EQB).



The EQB is a multilingual tool<sup>8</sup> for discovering survey questions and data from important surveys in Europe. The service owners oversaw the development of the first public version, together with Valentin Carpov, a senior FORS IT staff member, the CESSDA Main Office and Colectica, on which the EQB software is based.

The CESSDA EQB is a consortium that is currently joined by Slovenia (ADP), Sweden (ADP) and Croatia (CROSSDA) and is open to new members.

A presentation was given on the EQB at the European Data Documentation Initiative (EDDI) conference in Budapest in December. FORS was awarded the service owner role again for the 2026-27 period.

The EQB went live on March 6th of 2026 and currently holds more than 5000 questions.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid4722>

<sup>8</sup> <https://eqb.cessda.eu/>

## Data Archiving Guide

The CESSDA Data Archiving Guide (DAG)<sup>9</sup> has been a valuable resource for archives and repositories in the realm of staff training and policy development. The DAG received improvements and minor maintenance throughout 2025 which included the addition of a new chapter on Replication studies. Further updates to content throughout the DAG came from SP feedback and input, where examples of policy and tools that archives and repositories can provide were refreshed.



Future developments for the DAG will include reworking of the introductory Chapter to improve readability as well as (future) publication of the DAG in Zenodo to aid in more permanent versioning of the resource.

## Data Management Expert Guide

The CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide (DMEG)<sup>10</sup> remained an important resource in 2025 for researchers, data stewards, and curators, providing practical guidance for effective research data management across the entire data lifecycle.



During the reporting period, the guide was reviewed and updated to ensure its relevance and alignment with current scientific standards. Outdated content was revised to incorporate new research findings and established best practices. Particular attention was given to improving usability, including the replacement of outdated links, updating references to relevant resources, and structural adjustments to enhance navigation.

The ongoing development of the DMEG was carried out in coordination with the contributor group, supporting continuous maintenance and quality assurance of the guide as a reliable resource for the research community.

## Training

Ongoing learning and training is instrumental in improving access to data and providing users with essential methodological and analytical skills. CESSDA's experience in developing relevant training activities has been a highlight of EC projects in 2025.



Most notably, CESSDA is responsible for all training activities in the Infra4NextGen project<sup>11</sup>. The Service Provider in Austria (AUSSDA) is leading the effort, with a team involving CESSDA Main Office and Service Providers in Germany (GESIS) and Slovenia (UL-ADP). The four-year project is bringing together outputs from key social science research infrastructures to help inform the NextGenerationEU programme and European Union youth policy. To reach this ambitious and innovative goal, the CESSDA team addressed the needs of a wide range of audiences, from academics and RI staff to policy-makers, other non-academics and, specific to

9 <https://dag.cessda.eu/>

10 <https://dmeq.cessda.eu/Data-Management-Expert-Guide>

11 <https://infra4nextgen.com/>

this project, young Europeans. Examples of training activities include short YouTube videos<sup>12</sup>, Hackathons<sup>13</sup>, self-paced online courses<sup>14</sup>, on top of targeted webinars and workshops. Accessibility of training was ensured by producing written, self-paced training courses, transcripts of recordings of webinars and contrast checks for all materials produced. The training courses employ various media formats to support various ways of learning.

The project drives digital service improvements through enhancements to training and resource discovery. Infra4NextGen will support upgrades to the CESSDA Training Resources and will be available beyond the project finalisation via the CESSDA webpage and its Knowledge Hub, making the resources more findable and sustainable with improved user-focused design. This includes alignment with wider discovery initiatives such as the SSH Open Marketplace, where curated tools and services, training resources, publications, datasets and workflows from across social sciences and humanities are aggregated and made discoverable in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) ecosystem, enhancing interoperability and reuse of digital services across infrastructures.

Through EC-funded projects that directly impact the research community, such as COORDINATE, CESSDA is dedicated to delivering high-quality training for researchers and data specialists. It ensures that the full benefits of the data offered by the RIs can be better harvested, for both decision-making processes and further research. In 2025, the CESSDA team also contributed to the training and support programme in FIDELIS, with the focus of strengthening the upskilling of repositories. In the RITrainPlus and ERIC Forum 2 projects, CESSDA worked on dedicated training activities, with an interest in building communities of practices that support the upskilling of ERIC staff.

## A Mentoring Meeting with SSH OSCARS Proponents

As part of the support actions for projects funded under the OSCARS initiative, a virtual kick-off meeting entitled “Learn more about how CESSDA and SSHOC could help your OSCARS project” was held in Summer 2025. The aim of the meeting was to familiarise participating projects with the infrastructure, services, and support mechanisms offered by CESSDA and SSHOC, and to identify potential mentoring needs or collaboration opportunities.

The meeting opened with an introduction to CESSDA's role within the European research infrastructure landscape. CESSDA provides a broad range of services supporting social science research data management (RDM), with a strong emphasis on FAIR principles and open science. The session also outlined CESSDA's participation in the SSHOC cluster (Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud), which includes other key infrastructures such as CLARIN and DARIAH. Participants were then presented with a range of tools and services available through CESSDA.

In addition, the SSH Open Marketplace was introduced as a curated discovery platform that aggregates tools, datasets, publications, training materials, and workflows relevant to the social sciences and humanities (SSH) domain. While it does not host data itself, the Marketplace connects users to existing services and resources



12 [https://www.youtube.com/@CESSDA\\_Training](https://www.youtube.com/@CESSDA_Training)

13 <https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid4839>

14 <https://infra4nextgen.com/training/>

via curated entries and harvesting mechanisms (e.g., APIs).

A central component of the session was the presentation of the planned CESSDA mentoring programme for OSCARS projects. This programme is designed to be modular and flexible, combining indirect support (e.g., self-guided materials) with direct, tailored expert assistance. The focus is on practical, project-specific support rather than generalised training, and the programme will evolve in response to the expressed needs of participating projects.

During the open discussion, several key challenges emerged across the participating initiatives:

- The technical and strategic complexity of integrating with European infrastructures such as the EOSC;
- Concerns around metadata harvesting and interoperability between systems;
- Questions regarding data and publication reuse rights, particularly for outputs funded under EU programmes;
- A general need to increase the visibility and uptake of existing tools and services among the relevant research communities.

As a follow-up to the meeting, projects were encouraged to submit individual requests for support via the CESSDA helpdesk. CESSDA also committed to reviewing potential policy adjustments concerning the harvesting of external content.

Overall, the kick-off meeting served both as an information session and an opportunity for early-stage needs assessment and community building, helping to shape future engagement formats and tailor support activities for the OSCARS-funded projects.

# Developing strengths through selected European projects

In 2025, CESSDA was involved in 12 EU-funded projects. The FIDELIS project started in 2025, and three projects concluded successfully: COORDINATE, FAIR-IMPACT and RltrainPlus.



The projects can be grouped in the three goals of the CESSDA strategy, DATA, PEOPLE and LANDSCAPE:

a) projects that are connected to the building of the EOSC and the advancement of the FAIR and TRUST

principles (OSTrails, EOSC Beyond, EOSC-ENTRUST and OSCARS, b) projects that involve researchers and produce advice for decision-makers, such as Infra4NextGen, QUANTUM and GGP-5D, c) projects that cater to the needs of data archives (e.g. FIDELIS) and projects that address cross-disciplinary challenges and needs in the European research ecosystems.

## ONGOING

- **OSTrails** (Open Science Plan-Track-Assess Pathways)
- **EOSC-ENTRUST** (A European Network of TRUSTed research environments)
- **EOSC Beyond** (EOSC Beyond: advancing innovation and collaboration for research)
- **OSCARS** (Open Science Clusters' Action for Research and Society)
- **Infra4NextGen** (providing research infrastructure services to support Next Generation EU)
- **GGP-5D** (The Generations and Gender Programme Preparatory Phase Project)
- **QUANTUM** (Quality, Utility and Maturity Measured; Developing a Data Quality and Utility Label for HealthData@EU)
- **ERIC Forum 2** (ERIC Forum 2)

## NEW

- **FIDELIS**

## CONCLUDED in 2025

- **COORDINATE** (COhort cOMmunity Research and Development Infrastructure Network for Access Throughout Europe)
- **RltrainPlus** (RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING PLUS)
- **FAIR-IMPACT** (Expanding FAIR Solutions across EOSC)

## CESSDA in FAIR and TRUST

### OSTrails

OSTrails<sup>15</sup> is a 3-year Horizon Europe project, coordinated by OpenAIRE, that aims to set the necessary foundations to streamline FAIR assessment and machine actionability in the European Open Science Cloud by enhancing and connecting the planning, tracking, assessing phases of research.



CESSDA is participating with two of its Service Providers from Finland (FSD) and the UK (UKDS), which allows for testing and validation across different national contexts within the social science domain.

In 2025, the CESSDA team started working on a thematic pilot. The main priority for the pilot is to improve the interoperability and FAIRness of social science datasets in CESSDA's infrastructure. To do this, the team is working to integrate and adapt CESSDA services to the OSTrails framework:

- By making sure the CESSDA Vocabulary Service (CVS) and European Language Social Science Thesaurus (ELSST) are compatible with OSTrails' SKG Interoperability Framework<sup>16</sup>. This promotes standardised metadata.
- By prioritising metadata enrichment and validation and implementing validation tests to ensure metadata is complete and good quality in CESSDA's SKG.
- By exploring the possibility of integrating OSTrails' FAIR Assessment Tests in CESSDA Metadata Validator or as a standalone service. By exposing metadata from the CESSDA Data Catalogue (CDC) in SKG format, following the OSTrails' SKG-IF (Scientific Knowledge Graph Interoperability Framework) standard, CESSDA is testing ways to enrich the catalogue metadata, learning from other projects.

The pilot results will directly influence the development of CESSDA's services, enhancing their interoperability, FAIR-enabling, and better contribution to EOSC.

Something on the SKG-IF work done? see [EDDI25\\_20251202\\_CESSDA\\_OSTrails.pptx](#)

Something on the March event in Athens (hackathon?)

On 28 November 2025, CESSDA co-hosted a hands-on workshop<sup>17</sup> on FAIR benchmarks, where representatives from diverse European organisations began to define what compliance to the FAIR principles means to them. This session brought together representatives from participating organisations across multiple disciplines to tackle an important challenge in research data management—how to assess whether digital objects (e.g. datasets, software) truly meet the FAIR principles in ways that are meaningful for specific research communities.

Something more on the work on benchmarking and community-specific metrics and FAIR tests?

The project aims to support research communities in defining what FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) means for their specific digital objects through the Assess-IF framework. This framework empowers communities to create tailored benchmarks by combining generic, domain-agnostic metrics with specialised metrics that reflect their unique standards, vocabularies, and repository requirements. Communities build

<sup>15</sup> <https://ostrails.eu/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://ostrails.eu/skg-if>

<sup>17</sup> <https://zenodo.org/records/17804548>

their assessment narratives iteratively, specifying how each FAIR principle applies to the digital objects they care about — whether datasets, software, workflows, or publications. The resulting benchmarks and metrics are registered in the FAIRassist registry with rich metadata, promoting transparency, reusability, and interoperability across assessment tools and platforms. Through shared APIs, these assessments can be embedded directly into existing research infrastructure such as DMP authoring tools, enabling real-time FAIR evaluation as part of everyday research workflows.

## EOSC-ENTRUST

The EOSC-ENTRUST project<sup>18</sup> has the aim of enhancing European interoperability for sensitive data access and analysis. The project is building a European network of Trusted Research Environments (TREs) for sensitive data.

The CESSDA Main Office, together with its Service Providers from Hungary (TÁRKI), Germany (GESIS), and the UK (UKDS), represent the Social Sciences sector and provide their expertise and TRE capabilities to inform legal, operational, and technical specifications.

In 2025, UKDS and GESIS conducted a pilot on “Common standards to enable trans-national sharing of administrative and social science data”<sup>19</sup>. They piloted the move of data into a third-party secure environment and thus tested the potential for federation. For the pilot prototype, they used an existing system, so far available only in the Netherlands: the SANE Secure Analysis Environment developed by SURF<sup>20</sup>. The SANE system provides a virtual, fully-shielded computing environment for access to sensitive data, and runs on the ISO-27001 certified SURF Research Cloud. TÁRKI collaborated to this effort from the point of view of a repository without a TRE and plans to assess a non-TRE service and action plan for compliance with the TRE requirements developed within the frame of the project. The GESIS pilot ran successfully in September-November 2025 and the UKDS pilot is ongoing.

text: EOSC-ENTRUST visited Bergen, Norway in September 2025 with the Evaluation and Adoption Workshop, which provided a forum for alignment between participating partners and tasks.



*EOSC-ENTRUST visited Bergen, Norway in September 2025 with the Evaluation and Adoption Workshop, which provided a forum for alignment between participating partners and tasks.*

## EOSC Beyond

The ambition of EOSC Beyond<sup>21</sup> is to support the growth of the EOSC by integrating more providers and increasing the number of active users. The project provides new technical solutions that allow developers of scientific application environments to easily compose a diverse portfolio of EOSC Resources as integrated capabilities to researchers.

CESSDA Main Office along with Service Providers in Greece (EKKE) and Hungary (TÁRKI) contributes to

<sup>18</sup> <https://eosc-entrust.eu/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://zenodo.org/records/17376746>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.surf.nl/en/themes/research-infrastructure/sane-secure-environment-for-analysing-sensitive-data>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.eosc-beyond.eu/>

key objectives of accelerating the development of scientific applications, enabling Open Science through dynamic resource deployment, fostering innovation with testing environments, and aligning EOSC architecture with European data spaces.

The CESSDA Pilot Node focuses on improving access to Social Science data and related services. In 2025, the CESSDA team successfully integrated several transformative Core Services<sup>22</sup> that are reshaping how researchers access and utilise social science data:

- Community AAI – Enabling federated login for seamless access across networked services
- Discovery Hub – Making it easier to find, browse, and use relevant services and resources
- Helpdesk – Providing dedicated support for service access and usage
- Service Catalogue – Connecting CESSDA's services with other Nodes across the network
- Service Monitoring – Ensuring availability and reliability of our services

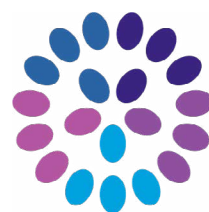
In March 2025, the CESSDA team participated in a workshop in Krakow, Poland on the topic of Building the Network of EOSC Pilot Nodes, focusing on a detailed analysis of EOSC Beyond pilots' use cases and user stories to address challenges in resource interoperability and composability.

In July 2025, Project Consultant John Shepherdson presented the CESSDA EOSC Beyond Pilot Node at the EGI Conference in Spain. The work has since been featured in the [EGI Magazine](#), highlighting how the Pilot Node integrates CESSDA services with EOSC Beyond capabilities to advance the discoverability and interoperability of Social Science data across Europe. This virtual implementation serves as a testbed for new approaches within EOSC Beyond, demonstrating how distributed services can be combined into a seamless research infrastructure.



## OSCARS

OSCARS<sup>23</sup> brings together world-class European Research Infrastructures (RIs) in the ESFRI roadmap<sup>24</sup> and beyond to foster the uptake of Open Science in Europe. OSCARS aims to further consolidate past achievements of the Science Clusters into lasting interdisciplinary FAIR data services and working practices.



**OSCARS**  
Open Science Clusters' Action  
for Research & Society

CESSDA Main Office is part of the Social Sciences and Humanities Science Cluster, and participates in OSCARS with Service Providers from Austria (AUSSDA), Slovenia (ADP) and the Netherlands (DANS).

Through a cascading grant mechanism, OSCARS involves a broad range of research communities for the development of Open Science projects and services, thus giving an opportunity for inter-cluster cross-adoption

<sup>22</sup> <https://zenodo.org/records/17228136>

<sup>23</sup> <https://oscars-project.eu/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://roadmap2021.esfri.eu/>

and co-development of services that will be part of the EOSC Exchange portfolio<sup>25</sup>. The 2nd OSCARS Open Call concluded in July 2025, resulting in a total of 58 projects being selected for funding - including 15 cross-cluster projects, and three projects from areas not included in the domains represented in the OSCARS consortium. (anything else relevant that was not already developed elsewhere in this report?)

## CESSDA supporting Science and Policy Advice

### Infra4NextGen

Infra4NextGen brings together outputs from key social science research infrastructures to help inform the NextGenerationEU programme and European Union youth policy. Infra4NextGen focuses on five key areas: Make it Green; Make it Digital; Make it Healthy; Make it Strong; and Make it Equal.<sup>26</sup> The project is coordinated by the European Social Survey (ESS ERIC). The project includes CESSDA, the European Values Study (EVS), and the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), the European Values Study (EVS) and the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) at its core.

CESSDA's Service Provider from Germany (GESIS) leads the work on facilitating access to existing distributed European survey data through harmonisation. The Service Provider from Austria (AUSSDA) leads the effort on developing training for the next generation, with support from GESIS and the Service Provider from Slovenia (ADP).

In 2025, GESIS reached a milestone by opening access to the [Harmonised Data Gateway](#), a web portal offering precious resources when conducting research on the five pillars of EU youth policy. It includes notably the Variable Database, a compilation of measurement instruments which serves as an entry point to gain an overview of the key variables commonly used in cross-national social surveys. Data harmonisation is a powerful instrument to improve the potential for comparability by increasing the database.

This was also a productive year for the Training team, who delivered 13 training activities:

- a free, self-paced online course on "[Open Science and Reproducible Research](#)", which introduces the topic of reproducibility within an Open Science framework, and gives an overview over different tools to use.
- a Hackathon on "Analysing CRONOS data and communicating key insights to policy makers", a three-day online event where different teams worked on one or more of the project's five key areas with the goal to produce analyses and results to aid evidence-based policy making
- a short video on the Inventory of Survey Questions, a tool developed in the project to search through thousands of survey questions from ESS, GGP and European Values Study [I4NG Inventory of Survey](#)

<sup>25</sup> <https://eoscfuture.eu/ker/eosc-exchange/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://infra4nextgen.com/about-infra4nextgen/>



*Lars Kaczmirek (AUSSDA), Irena Vipavc Brvar (ADP), Cécile Guezennec (CESSDA MO), and Insa Bechert and Rabia Karatoprak Ersen (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences) at the Infra4NextGen Consortium Meeting in Tilburg.*

## Questions

- eight webinars on topics ranging from Data protection in research, Exploring secondary and archival data in social science research, Connecting social research with the public and policymakers or How longitudinal data empower NGOs, journalists, and policymakers
- two workshops on the topics of “[Unlock hidden patterns in your data: Cluster & factor analysis with R](#)” and “[Exploring social trust: Analysing cross-country and generational trends](#)”



**17**

Training activities delivered

10 Webinars

3 Workshops

2 Hackathons

1 Training Course

1 Video



**600**

Participants

→ 1013 registrations



**2400**

Views & downloads

→ 1098 Views on YouTube

→ 1302 Downloads on

Zenodo

## QUANTUM

With a consortium of 37 partners, QUANTUM<sup>27</sup> is an EU-funded project that aims to create a common label system for Europe that assesses and communicates the quality and utility of datasets in all countries for scientific and health innovation purposes. These labels will enable researchers, policymakers, and healthcare professionals to identify high-quality data for research and decision-making.



CESSDA brings to QUANTUM the perspective of data holders in social sciences, providing the possibility of fitting the quality and utility label to different types of science. CESSDA's expertise in Open Science is also a valued contribution to the aims of the project. CESSDA participates with Service Providers from the Netherlands (DANS), Greece (EKKE) and the UK (UKDS).

The CESSDA team is involved in the design and piloting of the label system. In 2025, the team tested the label from the perspective of a repository, using health-related datasets from DANS and datasets combining social research with health indicators from EKKE. The report suggested improving and enabling two components for better technical integration with other systems, which would facilitate the adoption of the label by research and health data data repositories and catalogs.

<sup>27</sup> <https://quantumproject.eu/>

## GGP-5D

The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) is an interdisciplinary research infrastructure on population and family dynamics. It collects, processes and disseminates cross-nationally comparable longitudinal data on young adults, families, generational exchanges, and the life courses of women and men. It is the only RI focused on answering the key scientific and societal challenges related to the causes and consequences of demographic changes. The main objective of the GGP-5D project is to enhance the long-term sustainability of the RI with a view towards establishing it as a permanent one with its own legal entity.



The CESSDA MO participates in the project to give feedback from the perspective of an established ERIC in SSH. In 2025, the team reviewed the GGP business plan, the GGP impact assessment and the GGP Data Management Plan. CESSDA Main Office also offered support to the GGP team for preparing their ESFRI questionnaire and review.

## CESSDA's Support to the Research Infrastructure Landscape

### ERIC Forum 2

The ERIC Forum Implementation Project<sup>28</sup>, now in its second edition, brings together the ERIC community to strengthen its coordination and enhance its collaborations. In 2025, CESSDA actively contributed to several key areas within the ERIC Forum, supporting the development of strategic frameworks, regulatory analysis, and capacity-building initiatives. The CESSDA Main Office was particularly involved in discussions and analyses of regulatory and European employment contract matters, and ensured compliance with ERIC regulations such as VAT exemptions. These efforts aimed to create a more harmonised legal framework for ERICs.



CESSDA Main Office participated in a networking and workshop event in late 2025, in which communications officers from different ERICs got a chance to work together and meet for the first time. The project also created an active list of media contacts for ERICs to use, to help with dissemination of news stories to a wider audience.

CESSDA also participates as a part of the team dedicated to building a Community of Practice on data protection and privacy. In 2025, the group organised several CoP meetings covering topics from AI and FAIR to GDPR.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.eric-forum.eu/>

## FIDELIS

The EU-funded FIDELIS<sup>29</sup> project kicked off in 2025 bringing together 24 organisations from across Europe to build a network of FAIR-enabling Trustworthy Digital Repositories (TDRs). CESSDA is actively involved in the establishment and growth of the TDR Network. Out of [58 members](#) (16 in Social Sciences and Humanities) in 2025, 11 are CESSDA Service Providers.

Coordinated by CSC (Finland), and with CESSDA Service Providers from Norway (Sikt), the Netherlands (DANS), Finland (FSD), Germany (GESIS), and the UK (UKDS) playing key roles, the FIDELIS project helps harmonise repository standards and practices in the context of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

Suggested picture: [Alen Vanja Fidelis Finland 2025.jpg](#) Suggested caption “CESSDA Service Providers celebrated the launch of FIDELIS in January 2025, attending the joint Kick-Off meeting with sister project EDEN, held in Helsinki, Finland”.

FSD co-leads the work on Harmonisation and Interoperability with Sikt. In 2025, FIDELIS conducted a [landscape analysis](#) and developed the [TTRAM](#), a matrix to better understand repositories, and how transparency around the broad range of activities and functions they undertake can contribute to trustworthiness.

CESSDA also participated in the key objectives of establishing a governance structure and a business plan for the Network. A lightweight representative model was put forward but still requires many considerations to be finalised, regarding i.a. the role of umbrella organisations, the financial structure, or inclusion of repositories from outside Europe.

One of the main objectives of the FIDELIS project is to strengthen the upskilling of repositories and expansion of the Network through an active training and support programme. 2025 was a planning phase, during which GESIS and FSD developed the training offer together with DANS and ran pilot training in autumn 2025.



## Projects concluded in 2025

### COORDINATE

[After four years of dedicated work, COORDINATE officially reached its successful conclusion in March 2025.](#) It aimed to improve the availability of robust and suitable data for the monitoring and evaluation of child wellbeing in Europe.

In CESSDA’s team, the project involved a collaborative effort from our Service Providers in Croatia (CROSSDA), Finland (FSD) and Slovenia (ADP). GESIS (Germany) also participated as a beneficiary. CESSDA brought in expertise and experience on data documentation, data



<sup>29</sup> <https://eden-fidelis.eu/>

catalogues and the standards for data archiving and curation; and offered the possibility for synergy and a smooth integration in the existing EOSC and ESFRI landscape for GUIDE.

FSD and the CESSDA Main Office developed a [virtual access platform](#) to make existing data on child and youth well-being findable. In addition, to improve discoverability and re-use value of relevant data and surveys, CROSSDA and FSD provided guidance on [data sharing](#) and [metadata creation](#), providing best practice guidance on documenting data relevant to child and youth well-being.

## FAIR IMPACT

CESSDA contributed to expand FAIR solutions across the EOSC (European Open Science Cloud) by joining the [FAIR IMPACT project, running from June 2022 to May 2025](#). The project, coordinated by DANS, improved reproducibility and public trust in science, transforming the way researchers share and exploit research outputs. CESSDA joined the project with partners from the UK (UKDS) and Norway (Sikt and the CESSDA Main Office).

The project was based on [real-life use cases in four scientific domains](#) - two of which were conducted by UKDS in Social Sciences. Going further, the project provided support and cascading grants to enable testing of specific tools, approaches and methods. CESSDA Service Providers and Partners made good use of this opportunity, and shared their story:



- [French Service Provider Progedo](#) enabled applicants to test the FAIR-IMPACT guidelines and gathered valuable feedback on their usefulness, relevance, and practicality
- [Bosnian-Herzegovinian Partner DASS-BiH](#) tested the FAIR-IMPACT guidelines for trustworthy, FAIR-enabling repositories, providing feedback to improve metadata exposure and transparency
- [German Service Provider GESIS](#) assessed their readiness for an EOSC-compliant Persistent Identifier policy using the Compliance Assessment Toolkit, contributing to best practice development
- [Lithuanian Partner LIDA](#) evaluated its infrastructure and PID policy maturity with the Compliance Assessment Toolkit, identifying strengths, gaps, and areas for improvement
- [Swedish Service Provider SND](#): developed recommendation for Sweden and used FAIRCORE4EOSC's Compliance Assessment Toolkit to further develop the PID policy of the Swedish National Data Service.

Sikt contributed experiences related to legal and organisational interoperability from their cross-domain data integration project, [EOSC Future's Science Project 9](#), 'Climate Neutral and Smart Cities'. They also developed the [DDI-CDI Converter \(Prototype\)](#), a tool designed to convert data in the proprietary data formats STATA and SPSS, and CSV, to the standard cross-domain data and metadata standard [DDI-CDI](#).

The work conducted in FAIR IMPACT marks a stepping stone in the evolving FAIR landscape. The FAIR IMPACT website now hosts a wide range of resources and information to guide researchers, repository managers, research performing organisations, policy makers and citizen scientists towards a FAIR data management cycle.

## RITrainPlus

The project brought together for the first time research infrastructures (RIs), core facilities (CFs), business management Schools and European universities, in a new innovative concept to transform the access and empowerment of human resources for national and international scientific facilities in Europe. It concluded in September 2025. The overarching goal of RITrainPlus was to design and deliver a training programme to fulfill the competency requirements for the current and future managers of European RIs and CFs.

CESSDA participated with Service Providers from Slovenia (ADP), Switzerland (FORS) and Austria (AUSSDA). The team participated across different activities, with ADP notably leading the development of a Community of Practice (CoP) intended for managers and operators of RIs or CFs in different countries. Parallel to formal training, it significantly expanded opportunities for peer learning and professional networking. The CoP grew to over 180 members and offered a series of online and in-person events, generating a sustained, cross-institutional forum for the discussion of operational and strategic challenges in RI governance.



# Communications Activities

At the beginning of 2025, the CESSDA Main Office hired a new Communications Officer to handle internal and external communications. As a result, 2025 became a highly prolific year both in terms of output and increased reach.

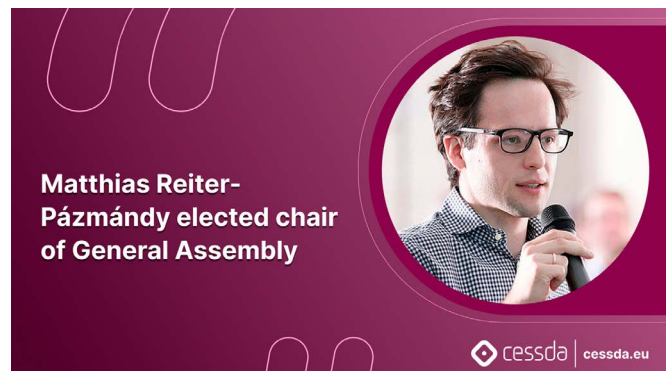
The year started with a decision to halt all activities on the platform Twitter/X, due to the recent climate on the platform, as well as the actions taken by its new owner. Instead, LinkedIn was chosen to be the main Social media platform for CESSDA, while a new account was created on Bluesky, functioning as a secondary channel.



## Selected Publications

### [New leadership for CESSDA](#)

Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy has been elected as the new Chair of CESSDA's General Assembly, while Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim takes over as Vice Chair. Reiter-Pázmándy serves as Deputy Head of the Department for Social Sciences and Humanities at Austria's Federal Ministry for Education, Science, and Research and is also a member of AUSSDA's steering board. With a background in sociology and social research, he has extensive experience in European research infrastructure projects and currently represents Austria in both Horizon Europe's Cluster 2 Programme Committee and SHARE ERIC.



Kvalheim, Director of the Research and Knowledge Resources Division at Sikt, has been active within CESSDA since 2018 and has contributed to several EC-funded projects and infrastructure initiatives. With more than 40 years of experience in the field, she has played a significant role in national and international research infrastructure collaboration, including work connected to the ESFRI roadmap and EOSC-Nordic.

### [Katrin Weller leads new developments in social science data management](#)

In March 2024, Professor Katrin Weller became Scientific Director of the Department for Data Services for the Social Sciences at GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Cologne. With a background in history, information science, and digital society research, Weller has worked extensively on research data management, open science, and digital research methods. Alongside her role at GESIS, she is also Professor for Research Data Management for the Social Sciences at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf.

At GESIS, Weller oversees both data service activities and research, including data archiving, secure data

access, and support for researchers. One of her key focus areas is the collection, preservation, and reuse of new forms of digital and social media data from platforms such as Twitter, YouTube, and Meta. She highlighted that these data sources offer major opportunities for studying issues such as well-being, political discourse, and online polarization, while also raising important technical, legal, ethical, and quality-related challenges. Weller emphasised the importance of combining expertise across disciplines to develop innovative approaches for future social science research and data management.



## CESSDA in the Community

During 2025, CESSDA's news output focused on highlighting achievements of the entire CESSDA network, especially the Service Providers. As such, several news articles were produced in cooperation with the SPs' communication officers to highlight news from them.

The articles covered topics such as new ways to communicate scientific research, new website launches and rebands, and new fields of expertise.

- [EKKE/SoDaNet: From Papers to Podcasts – EKKE's New Way to Disseminate Social Science](#)
- [ISSDA: ISSDA Launches Dataverse and New Website](#)
- [FORS: Get to know FORS: A Hub for Data and Social Science Expertise](#)
- [GESIS: GESIS Strengthens Its Role in Digital Behavioural Data Research](#)
- [SASD: Increased support for SASD opens new avenues](#)
- [UKDS: The UK Data Service's reaches 10,000 datasets in its collection](#)



## Social Media

The change in focus from Twitter/X to LinkedIn marked a shift in how a lot of information was distributed and published on social media, but also led to a substantial growth in reach and engagement with our audience. During the year, CESSDA gained 532 new followers on LinkedIn, and saw an increase in follower activity. In total, CESSDA made 178 posts on LinkedIn during 2025, for a total of 91,117 impressions and a total of 3237 likes and comments.

CESSDA's BlueSky account was created early in the year, and functions as a secondary channel to reach audiences outside of LinkedIn. There is currently no plan or date set for a return to Twitter/X.

## CESSDA Website

In 2025, CESSDA published 65 news articles to its website. The articles covered news from various projects, recent CESSDA outputs, updates and recaps from various events and conferences, as well as some articles honoring long-standing members of CESSDA who had recently retired.

The number of events listed on the CESSDA website also saw an increase, totalling 71. These were then further promoted via newsletters and social media channels.

## CESSDA Newsletter

The CESSDA Newsletter is published three times a year.

Its main goal is to keep the broader network of Service Providers, members, partners, and collaborators informed about both the internal and external activities CESSDA is engaged in. The Editorial Board reviews the wide range of ongoing initiatives and carefully selects those that best highlight CESSDA's work.

Each issue opens with strategic spotlight items, followed by updates on the EU policy landscape and relevant European Commission projects. It concludes with curated news from CESSDA's Service Providers, ensuring comprehensive coverage of CESSDA's activities.

As of December 2025, the newsletter maintains a stable subscriber base of nearly 900 readers.<sup>30</sup>

---

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.cessda.eu/Newsletters>

# CESSDA Members 2025

## Annex 1: CESSDA ERIC Members, Observers and Service Providers in 2025

| Country        | Representing entity   | Service Provider  | GA Delegates   | SPF Delegates   |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|
| Austria        | Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research, BMFWF                          | AUSSDA - The Austrian Social Science Data Archive   | Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy, BMFWF (Chair)<br>Bettina Glaser, BMFWF<br>Lars Kaczmirek, AUSSDA<br>Iris Butzlaff, AUSSDA (deputy)     | Lars Kaczmirek<br>Franziska Krauss (until 5.09.25)<br>Veronika Preuer (from 05.09.25) |
| Belgium        | BELSPO - Belgian Scientific Policy Office, EWI, D.G.E.N.O.R.S                   | SOHDA - Social Sciences and Humanities Data Archive   | Aziz Naji, BELSPO  | Johan Van Der Eycken<br>István Gyimes   |
| Croatia        | Ministry of Science, Education and Youth  | CROSSDA - Croatian Social Science Data Archive, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb | Jelena Ilić Dreven, Ministry<br>Stasa Skencic, Ministry (until 23.07.25)<br>Željka Boduljak Stipanović, Ministry (from 23.07.25) | Marijana Glavica<br>Irena Kranjec   |
| Czech Republic | Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports   | ČSDA - Czech Social Science Data Archive  | Nad'a Dřizga, Ministry<br>Jindřich Krejčí, ČSDA  | Yana Leontiyeva   |
| Finland        | Ministry of Education, Science and Culture<br>Research Council of Finland (RCF) | FSD - Finnish Social Science Data Archive   | Helena Vänskä, RCF<br>Helena Laaksonen, FSD  | Helena Laaksonen<br>Mari Kleemola   |

| Country | Representing entity   | Service Provider                                       | GA Delegates   | SPF Delegates                          |
|---------|---|--|--|--|
| France  | Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research  | PROGEDO/CNRS - National Centre for Scientific Research | Myriam Baron, Ministry<br>Fabrice Boudjaaba, CNRS  | Nicolas Sauger<br>Ami Katherine Saji   |
| Germany | Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)  | GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences      | Katharina Pijnenburg, BMFTR<br>Miriam Schriefers, DLR Project Management Agency;<br>Katrin Weller, GESIS | Katrin Weller<br>Olivier Rouquette     |
| Greece  | General Secretariat for Research & Innovation (GSRI)<br>Greek Research Infrastructure for the Social Sciences - So.Da.Net | SoDaNet/EKKE   | John Kallas, Department of Sociology, University of Aegean<br>Dimitra Kondyli, So.Da.Net/EKKE            | Dimitra Kondyli                        |
| Hungary | The National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI Office)  | TÁRKI Foundation                                       | Regina HERCZEG, NRDI<br>Péter Hegedűs, TÁRKI   | Péter Hegedűs                          |
| Iceland | Ministry of Culture, Innovation and Higher Education  | DATICE - The Icelandic Research Data Service           | Guðbjörg Andrea Jónsdóttir, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Iceland                     | Eiríkur Stephensen<br>Kjartan Ólafsson |
| Ireland | Research Ireland  | ISSDA - Irish Social Science Data Archive              | Rosemary Sweeney, Research Ireland<br>Marina Milic (deputy), Research Ireland                            | Vanessa Buckley                        |
| Italy   | Italian National Research Council (CNR)   | DASSI - Data Archive Social Sciences Italy             | Mario Paolucci, CNR<br>Saverio Foti, MIUR  | Sonia Stefanizzi<br>Domingo Scisci     |

| Country                 | Representing entity   | Service Provider  | GA Delegates   | SPF Delegates  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Lithuania               | Ministry of Education, Science and Sport  | LiDA - Lithuanian Data Archive for Social Sciences and Humanities     | Artūras Malysis, Ministry<br>Audronė Telešienė, KTU<br>Vaidas Morkevicius, LiDA (deputy)         | Vaidas Morkevičius<br><br>Audronė Telešienė  |
| Netherlands             | The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)  | DANS - Data Archiving and Networked Services                          | Merve Tosun, NWO<br>Nora Bünemann, NWO (deputy)<br><br>Anja Smit, DANS                           | Ricarda Braukmann<br>Maaïke Verburg  |
| North Macedonia         | Ministry of Education and Science   | MK DASS - Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje                | Borco Aleksov, Ministry of Education and Science   | Aneta Cekikj   |
| Norway                  | Research Council of Norway (RCN)  | Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research | Olja Toljagic, RCN<br>Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, Sikt (Vice-Chair)                                | Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim<br>Bodil Agasøster (until September 2025)<br>Dag Kiberg (from September 2025) |
| Portugal                | Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education<br><br>Institute of Social Science, University of Lisbon (ICS - UL) | APIS - Portuguese Archive of Social Information                       | Pedro Moura Ferreira, APIS (until October 2025)<br>José Manuel Mendes, Centre for Social Studies | José Manuel Mendes<br>Pedro Moura Ferreira (until October 2025)  |
| Serbia (until 27.11.25) | Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia                                   | DCS - Data Centre Serbia for Social Sciences                          | Aleksandra Bradić -Martinović, DCS   | Aleksandra Bradić -Martinović  |

| Country        | Representing entity   | Service Provider  | GA Delegates  | SPF Delegates  |
|----------------|---|---|---|--|
| Slovakia       | Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic   | SASD - Slovak Archive of Social Data                        | Miloslav Bahna, Institute for Sociology of Slovak Academy of Sciences<br><br>Simona Foltinová, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport | Miloslav Bahna<br><br>Katarina Strapcova<br><br>Michal Malatinec (from October 2025)   |
| Slovenia       | Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MVZI)   | ADP - Social Science Data Archives                          | Albin Kralj, MVZI<br><br>Janez Štebe, ADP<br><br>Maja Dolinar (from 01.10.25)   | Janez Štebe<br><br>Irena Vipavc Brvar<br><br>Maja Dolinar (from 01.06.25)  |
| Sweden         | Swedish Research Council (SRC)  | SND - Swedish National Data Service                         | Alexander Darin Mattsson, SRC<br><br>Susanna Bylin, SRC (deputy)<br><br>Christopher Natzén, The National Library of Sweden                        | Iris Alfredsson (until March 2025)<br><br>Sara Svensson (from March until October 2025)<br><br>Ulf Jakobsson (from October 2025) |
| Switzerland    | SERI<br><br>State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation  | FORS - the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences | Lea Bühlmann, SERI<br><br><br><br>Brian Kleiner, FORS   | Marieke Heers<br><br>Brian Kleiner   |
| United Kingdom | Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DIST)<br><br>Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UKRI) | UKDS - UK Data Service                                      | Richard Welpton, ESRC UKRI<br><br>Mollie Rawlins, ESRC UKRI (deputy)<br><br>Steven McEachern, UKDS  | Herve L'Hours<br><br>John Sanderson<br><br>Darren Bell   |

# Financial Statements 2025

## Income Statement (EUR)

| Operating income and expenses | 2025             | 2024             |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Operating income              | 2 120 508        | 1 990 959        |
| <b>Total income</b>           | <b>2 120 508</b> | <b>1 990 159</b> |
| Payroll expenses              | 763 218          | 619 401          |
| Other expenses                | 576 813          | 672 964          |
| <b>Total expenses</b>         | <b>1 340 031</b> | <b>1 292 365</b> |
| <b>Operating profit/loss</b>  | <b>780 476</b>   | <b>698 594</b>   |
| Other interest income         | 1 247            | 40 351           |
| Other financial income        | 195 664          | 262 557          |
| Other interest expenses       | 0                | 11               |
| Other financial expenses      | 178 110          | 216 049          |
| <b>Net financial items</b>    | <b>18 801</b>    | <b>86 848</b>    |
| <b>Result of the year</b>     | <b>799 277</b>   | <b>785 442</b>   |

## Balance Statement (EUR)

| Assets   | 2025             | 2024             |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Total receivables                              | 289 429          | 420 010          |
| Total bank deposits, cash and cash equivalents | 3 054 952        | 2 240 347        |
| <b>Total assets</b>                            | <b>3 344 381</b> | <b>2 660 357</b> |

| Equity and liabilities              | 2025             | 2024             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total retained earnings             | 2 364 135        | 1 579 800        |
| Total current liabilities           | 980 245          | 1 080 557        |
| <b>Total equity and liabilities</b> | <b>3 344 381</b> | <b>2 660 357</b> |

# Accounting Principles

The annual accounts have been prepared in conformity with the Accounting Act and NRS 8 - Good accounting practice for small companies.

The reporting currency of the financial statement is Euro. By the end of the reporting period, balance sheet items are converted from Norwegian Kroner to Euro using the rate on the balance sheet date, and profit and loss items are converted using the average rate of the reporting period.

## Foreign Currency

Monetary foreign currency items are valued at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date.

## Operating Revenues and Expenses

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

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

Revenues from EC projects are recognised according to submitted financial reports approved by EC or other direct cost which will be covered by pre-financing from EC.

## Tax

CESSDA ERIC is a non-profit organisation and is not liable for corporation tax in accordance with the Tax Law § 2-32.

## Classification and Valuation of Fixed Assets

Fixed assets include assets included for long-term ownership and use. Fixed assets are valued at acquisition cost. Property, plant and equipment are entered in the balance sheet and depreciated over the asset's economic lifetime. The depreciation period for real property acquired after 2009 is divided into the part that represents the building and the part that represents fixed technical installations. Property, plant and equipment are written down to a recoverable amount in the case of fall in value which is expected not to be temporary. The recoverable amount is the higher of the net sale value and value in use. Value in use is the present value of future cash flows related to the asset. Write-downs are reversed when the basis for the write-down is no longer present.

## EC Projects

Prefinancing of EC projects is classified as other current liabilities.

Accrued cost is classified as other short-term receivables.

## Receivables

Receivables from customers and other receivables are entered at par value after deducting a provision for expected losses. The provision for losses is made on the basis of an individual assessment of the respective receivables.

## Pension

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





0010

0 1 1 0010



AI

0 1 1 0 1

1 10 1001 01010110

1 0

0 1 1 0010

10

