The year started with a change in SSHOC’s leadership. CESSDA became the Chair of the Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cluster with CLARIN as its vice-Chair.

An overall priority for SSHOC is the representation of the Social Sciences and Humanities Community at the European level and the promotion of its communities. In this context CESSDA became part of the executive Board of the ERIC Forum (exBo), the representative body of all ERICs in Europe.

CESSDA also represented SSHOC during the creation of the Swiss SSHOC-node, demonstrating that the SSHOC model has gained traction at the national level.

Another priority of SSHOC is the implementation of the Open Science Cluster Action for Research and Society (OSCARS) project. OSCARS aims to further consolidate past achievements of the Science Clusters into lasting interdisciplinary FAIR data services and working practices. The first call issued on 15th March provided a good opportunity for the SSH community to get involved with EOSC (the European Open Science Cloud) and connect with colleagues from all research domains in the field of open science and research infrastructures.

OSCARS received a whooping 264 proposals. Among the five Science Clusters SSHOC performed very well with about 26% of the proposals in the Cluster specific domain and about 20% of the proposals in the cross-cluster initiatives coming from SSHOC.

In March, CESSDA Service Providers were very active participating in the kickoff meetings of the EC projects such as EOSC-ENTRUST, OSTrails and QUANTUM.

For CESSDA and the Service Providers, these activities are great opportunities to be visible at the European level and provide an opportunity to exchange best practices.

Before the start of the summer holidays, CESSDA ERIC and the Service Providers are looking forward to meeting the CESSDA community at the upcoming CESSDA Conference from 11th-13th of June. More on the celebration of the setting up of a Main Office in Bergen, Norway will come after the summer break!

**In the Spotlight**

17 January

**CESSDA becoming a Chair of SSHOC in 2024**

The SSH Open Cluster elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair to guide its endeavours in 2024!
Taking the helm as the new Chair is Dr Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch, the Director of CESSDA ERIC. Joining her is the newly appointed Vice-Chair, Dr Darja Fišer, the Director of CLARIN ERIC.

29 April

ESFRI Monitoring System

On the 29th April 2024, CESSDA successfully submitted its documentation to ESFRI in the context of the Landmark Monitoring process. Included was a questionnaire with questions on governance, management and the impact of CESSDA at the national and European level. CESSDA's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were also part of the documentation. The production of materials for ESFRI was also used to present interviews of CESSDA members on CESSDA's importance and case studies of how researchers use CESSDA tools and services. The documentation package also included a publications list and recent policy documents.

- A list of recent policy documents is available here
- A list of recent publications is available here
- A complete list of records deposited in Zenodo is available here

11-13 June

CESSDA ERIC Conference

In June 2024 CESSDA will organise its first CESSDA conference marking its 10th anniversary when the CESSDA Main Office was set up in Bergen. The Conference is dedicated to the different main stakeholders of CESSDA: the Service Providers, the researchers, policy makers and the Member Countries. The focus of the conference will be on data, metadata and cross-disciplinarity.
CESSDA in the European Landscape

28 February

**OECD Workshop on Research Ecosystem**

The OECD Global Science Forum (GSF) held a workshop investigating added values, challenges, and new models for the development of national research infrastructure ecosystems on 28th February 2024. Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch presented the work of CESSDA with a focus on the rationales for developing CESSDA, as well as options and solutions developed in the context of CESSDAs governance, sustainability, user access and data policy.

27-28 February

**The ERIC Forum**

On the 27th and 28th of February 2024, representatives of 28 ERICs and projects on the ESFRI preparatory list met for the annual General Assembly in Brussels. The event was in the presence of guests from the European Commission, the EOSC Association, ESFRI, and EU Member States and focused on the progress of the [ERIC Forum Project 2.0](https://www.esfri.europa.eu/project/eric-forum-project-2-0), which was launched on 1st September 2023.

28 February

**The Science Clusters and the OSCARS position statement**

The ESFRI Science Clusters, operating as a cluster of clusters, have released a [Position Statement (PS)](https://www.sciencenews.org/science-department) on their operational commitment to EOSC and Open Research.

The PS articulates the vision of the five Science Clusters towards the goal of a successful implementation of the EOSC in the future.
The Science Clusters emphasise the importance of access of researchers to data, tools, and resources for data-driven science. They also emphasise their contribution to the development of a cross-border open innovation environment for FAIR data management and analytical services.

The PS also expressed the Science Clusters’ determination to establish thematic communities such as virtual competence centres, and the potential implications on the interconnection with the EOSC EU Node and national nodes.

The Science Clusters offer an ideal platform to formulate a unified vision for the research infrastructure landscape while maintaining the diversity of research disciplines. To fulfil this role, support from Horizon Europe and future framework programmes is required to enable the operational role of the Science Clusters.

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**Call for Open Science Projects & Services**

15 March

**First Calls in OSCARS**

On the 15th of March, OSCARS, the Open Science Cluster Action for Research & Society, launched its first round of calls for all science domains. Through a cascading grant mechanism, a broad range of research communities will be involved for the development of new, innovative Open Science projects. Together, these projects will drive the uptake of FAIR-data-intensive research throughout the European Research Area (ERA).

The second call will be launched in autumn 2024.

Feedback from the OSCARS coordination team reports that there is a high interest of research communities, including the SSHOC community, in participating in the calls. The result is a testament of the willingness of the SSH community to contribute to open science topics.

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**20 May**

**Scientific Diplomacy through scientific, cultural and religious exchange in Research Infrastructures**

CESSDA participated in a Forum on Scientific Diplomacy on May 20th in the framework of the Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion in Palermo. The invitation came by RESILIENCE, the European Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies, a project on the ESFRI preparatory list and SSHOC member since 2021. RESILIENCE aims at supporting excellence in science, by improving access to digital as well as physical data on religion and to advanced tools, training, existing research infrastructures and expertise for new, digitised and data-oriented research in the field of research on religion on a global level.
The event with participation of researchers, ambassadors discussed how diplomacy is enhanced by research infrastructures, scientific programmes and cultural exchange. It also explored how the study of religious aspects, notions, elements can properly address EU priorities.
Driving Open Science forward: Switzerland founds the SSHOC-CH open cluster

On April 24, 2024, in Bern, Switzerland, over 60 representatives from various national research infrastructures, the Swiss nodes of European ERICs and long-term projects within the social sciences and humanities met to establish the “Social Science and Humanities Open Cluster Switzerland (SSHOC-CH)”. This initiative aims to enhance collaboration, find synergies among social sciences and humanities infrastructures, and coordinate national resources to better support SSH scholars in their research and in managing their data in the spirit of Open Science and FAIR principles.

Learn more

CESSDA in European Projects

11 March

Launch of EOSC-ENTRUST

The EU-funded EOSC-ENTRUST project was launched on 1 March 2024, with the aim of enhancing European interoperability for sensitive data access and analysis. Led by ELIXIR and the EUDAT Collaborative Data Infrastructure (CDI), the project brings together partners from 15 European countries and will run for three years, with an EU contribution of €4.2M. CESSDA is proud to be a part of this endeavour!

Learn more

13 March

OSTrails Kicks Off

On 5-6 February 2024 in Athens, Greece, and online we embarked on our Open Science Trails journey. OSTrails 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 will be a part of this journey!

Learn more
18 March

QUANTUM Kicks Off

Quantum is one of the seven new EU funded projects CESSDA is joining in 2024. This time the step into cross disciplinary research brought us closer to health domain. We will be helping health data community in their work on metadata and data quality!

Events and Training

EDDI 2024 - Call for Proposals
15 May - 2 September 2024

From open data to knowledge: enhancing European resilience to health crises
11 September 2024

CESSDA ERIC Conference
11 - 13 June 2024

EOSC Symposium 2024
21 - 23 October 2024

Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. If you have any news or stories that you would like us to consider for our next addition, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us here. We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,
The CESSDA Team