May 2025/Issue 1

Newsletter

Welcome to the CESSDAs Newsletter 2025!

As of writing the editorial of the first 2025 CESSDA newsletter, three new ERICs in the field of physics, digital humanities and heritage science were established: CTAO, EHRI and E-RIHS.

On 7 January 2025, the **Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory** (CTAO) was established to become the world's largest and most powerful observatory for gamma-ray astronomy. On 19 February, the **European Holocaust Research Infrastructure** (EHRI) became an ERiC to advance trans-national Holocaust research addressing the field's challenge, which is the wide dispersal of sources and expertise across Europe and beyond. And on 28 March, E-RIHS, **the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science**, was created to support the research community on heritage interpretation, preservation, documentation, innovation and management.

The number of ERICs now amounts to 31, making the research infrastructure community more rich, but also more complex.

To contribute to navigate in such an increasingly diversified research landscape, CESSDA produced a set of new publications. A **Data Citation Guide** with practical recommendations tailored to key stakeholders, second a report on the current **open data landscape** contributing to the ongoing discussions on FAIR and European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). Finally, a brief entitled "**Top 5 Key Performance Indicators**". The brief showcases the progress made by CESSDA's 22 national social science data archives in the period of 2020-2022.

CESSDA aims to support social science data archives in improving practices, fostering collaboration, and enhancing contributions to the research community. In this context the

CESSDA consortium and partners were actively involved in the preparation the **BRIDGE conference** in Bucharest organised by the Director of Romanian Social Data Archive (RODA) and the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) with support of the EEA and Norway Grants research programme.

In terms of outreach to research communities, I was invited as solicited speakers at the **European Geosciences Union (EGU)** in Vienna to discuss the exchange of data from the social sciences and the environmental sciences. The session was well visited showcasing the interest in blending data from different disciplines.

In the spotlight: three new publications from CESSDA

CESSDA Highlights Key Achievements in a Brief

CESSDA published a brief entitled **"Top 5 Key Performance Indicators"**. The brief showcases the progress made by CESSDA's 22 national social science data archives in the period of 2020-2022. It also 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.
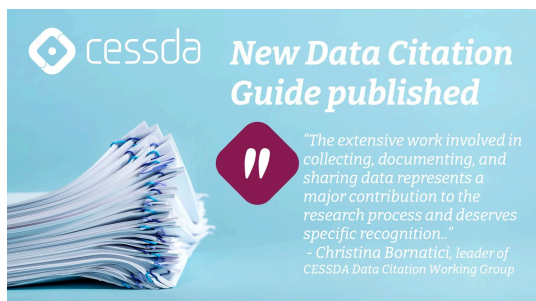
Learn More

CESSDA Releases Brief on Advancing Trust in the Social Science Data Ecosystem

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. The findings offer key takeaways for stakeholders such as funders, research infrastructures, data repositories, and researchers, aiming to promote open data practices and maximise the societal impact of long-term data preservation.
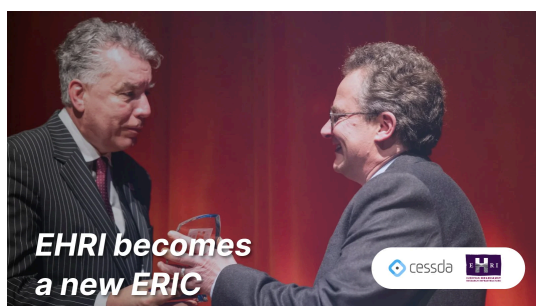
Learn more

New CESSDA Data Citation Guide

CESSDA published a new version of the Data Citation Guide. This 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.

Learn More

CESSDA in the European Landscape

EHRI and E-RIHS become new ERICS in the Humanities and Social Sciences

In early 2025, two research infrastructures in the Humanities and Social Sciences Cluster were granted the legal status of European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) by the European Commission — marking major milestones for both fields.

On 20 January, the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) became the 30th ERIC overall and the 6th in the social sciences and humanities. EHRI is the only permanent transnational organisation dedicated to Holocaust research, bridging fragmented archival sources, supporting preservation, and highlighting the societal relevance of Holocaust studies in today's world.

Just months later, on 28 March, the [European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science](#) (E-RIHS) also became an ERIC. E-RIHS connects diverse disciplines — arts, humanities, sciences, and engineering — to advance research and innovation in heritage science. Its mission is to enhance the understanding, conservation, and sustainable use of cultural heritage across Europe and beyond.

Together, EHRI and E-RIHS mark a strong start to 2025 for the HSS Cluster and reaffirm the importance of collaborative, cross-border research in understanding and preserving Europe's complex history and cultural legacy.

First OSCARS Annual General Meeting held in Rome

[OSCARS](#) is a four-year Horizon Europe project designed to accelerate the uptake of Open Science across Europe. On 3-4 March, the OSCARS consortium, its funded projects and Science Cluster representatives gathered in Rome for a two-day conference to network and for strategic discussions and planning. Sixty-eight participants were present, including CESSDA director Bonnie Wolff-Boenish, while nearly forty attended online.

During the seminar, 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.

Learn more

Crossing the disciplines - CESSDA at EGU

CESSDA's Director 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).

Dr. Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch highlighted the importance of co-design in research addressing climate and environmental change, and the critical role social sciences play in that process.

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.

News from the ERIC Forum 2 Project

On 28–29 January, representatives from the ERICs, policymakers, and invited stakeholders convened in Rome for the ERIC Forum Annual Meeting 2025. This two-day event reviewed the progress of the ERIC Forum 2 project, included the General Assembly, and featured key roundtable discussions with representatives from the European Commission, the EU Council Working party on Research, ESFRI and the EOSC Association.

Over 100 participants gathered at the Club University Foundation in Brussels to take part in the ERIC Forum Annual Meeting 2025.

The key themes of the conference were:

- Enhancing the engagement with stakeholders and strengthening the visibility and impact of ERICs within their broader stakeholder network.
- Improving the implementation of the ERIC Regulation and Internal Capabilities – Addressing regulatory challenges and supporting ERIC personnel upskilling.

Strengthening ERIC Regulation and Internal Capabilities

ERIC Practical Guidelines. Work Package 5 is preparing deliverable 5.1, an upcoming policy paper on the sustainability of ERICs' services and operations, including commercial activities, and has contributed to the EC revision of the European Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures.

During the first 18 months of the project, ERICs have also committed to promoting workshops and online seminars on central themes such as internationalization and gender equality.
Future efforts will focus on developing recommendations for the green and digital transition of ERICs (Work Package 8) and creating a strategy and repository for shared services and knowledge among ERICs (Work Packages 10 and 13).

Discussions on the Future of ERICs

In addition to the project updates, the meeting in Rome offered ERICs the opportunity to engage in discussions with representatives from the European Commission, specifically Directory General (DG) Research & Innovation and DG Connect, as well as the EU Council Working Party on Research, ESFRI and EOSC Association. Three dedicated panels focused on the role of ERICs within the European research infrastructure landscape and their contributions to the EOSC Federation.

With the growing number of RIs, including ERICS, EDICs, international organizations, and the emerging technology infrastructures, the panels explored how Europe can ensure better coordination while maintaining the unique strengths of each infrastructure type.

This also raised the issue of financial sustainability in the face of growing demands and limited public funding. Participants discussed potential innovative financing models, such as private-sector involvement, co-funding mechanisms, and strategic funding allocation to ensure long-term sustainability.

Finally, the panels also addressed how to create a more balanced and inclusive European Research Area The discussions emphasized building research capacity and making RIs more accessible across all Member States, with the aim of reducing existing disparities in research capabilities and access to resources.

Memoranda of Understanding, General Assembly and Satellite Event

The Annual Meeting for 2025 also featured the ERIC Forum General Assembly and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by CTAO Director General, Stuart McMuldroch, officially welcoming [CTAO as the Forum's 29th member](#).

The event was therefore an opportunity to strengthen relationships with both newly formed ERICs (for example EHRI, which is not yet officially a member of the forum) and ERICs-to-be that are still in the process of being officially recognized as part of the Forum family.

Lastly, [a satellite event, organised by Work Package 9 of the project, highlighted the need for ERICs to strengthen collaboration with Industry](#), exploring possible models of cooperation, from both policy and operational perspective.

CESSDA at the BRIDGE Conference

In March 2025, CESSDA Director Dr. Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch attended the [BRIDGE Conference](#) in Bucharest as a keynote speaker and panellist. The event focused on metadata, data stewardship and cross-domain collaboration. Several CESSDA service providers joined panel

discussions on FAIR data, interoperability and the role of research infrastructures in evidence-based policymaking.

Learn more

Highlights from European Commission projects

A look back at three concluded projects

As 2024 came to a close, the projects ByCOVID, HumMingBird, and eRImote all concluded. CESSDA, along with several of its Service Providers, was a beneficiary or partner in all three projects and supported them with everything from administrative duties to the production of deliverables.

By-Covid

Since 2021, the BY-COVID project has united 53 partners from 19 countries in a groundbreaking interdisciplinary effort to deliver open, accessible data on SARS-CoV-2 and other infectious diseases. This initiative developed key resources like the COVID-19 Data Platform and the Pathogens Portal, improving Europe's preparedness for future pandemics and enhancing rapid response capabilities.

The CESSDA Main Office participated alongside five of its Service Providers: DANS (Netherlands), FSD (Finland), So.Da.Net/EKKE (Greece), ČSDA - (Czech Republic) , and ADP (Slovenia).

Learn more

HumMingBird

The HumMingBird project, an ambitious European research initiative uniting 16 partners across 10 countries, concluded with significant contributions from CESSDA partners.
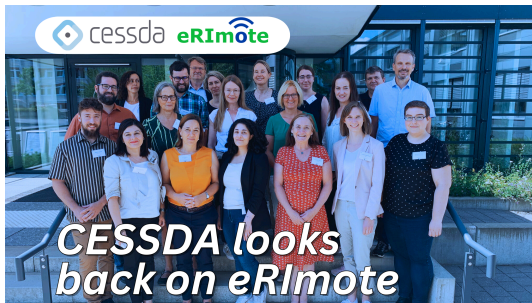
HumMingBird aimed to improve the mapping and understanding of changing migration flows while exploring innovative forecasting methods and addressing gaps in migration research. The project set out to create new approaches to migration studies, and

CESSDA partners played a critical role in data management and ensuring robust data sharing and protection, contributing to key advancements.

The CESSDA team consisted of CESSDA Main Office, So.Da.Net/EKKE (Greece) and IEN (Serbia) as Linked Third Parties.

CESSDA in HumMingBird
a throwback

Learn more

CESSDA looks back on eRImote

eRImote

From June 2022 to November 2024, CESSDA participated in the eRImote project and contributed to improve the accessibility and resilience of Research Infrastructures.

The eRImote project was the first to consider solutions for digital and remote service provision across Research Infrastructures (RI) domains. The project brought together partners from the environmental, life, physical and social sciences, coordinated by DESY (Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron). CESSDA participated alongside the Service Providers UKDS (UK) and the FORS (Switzerland).

Learn more

New EC project FIDELIS launches network of TDRs

The EU-funded FIDELIS project has officially kicked off, bringing together 24 organisations from across Europe to build a network of FAIR-enabling Trustworthy Digital Repositories (TDRs). Coordinated

by CSC (Finland), and with CESSDA Service Providers including FSD, GESIS, and UKDS playing key roles, the project will help harmonise standards and practices for long-term data preservation in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

As part of the launch, a joint website with sister project EOSC EDEN is now live at eden-fidelis.eu, and the new FIDELIS Network is now open for provisional membership. Digital

repositories across Europe are invited to join, contribute to its design, take part in the 2025 pilot support offer, and help shape the future of trusted data infrastructures in EOSC.

Learn more

I4NG workshop and events available

Infra4NextGen is a European Commission funded project which is bringing together outputs from key social science research infrastructures to help inform the NextGenerationEU programme and European Union youth policy.

CESSDA is contributing to the project by leading the creation of comprehensive training materials related to all project outputs and NextGenerationEU areas. This includes online training, 17 webinars, nine workshops, three hackathons, and a short video series with demonstrations, tutorials/guides and research discussion. Registration is currently open for a webinar on data-driven insights for a green, digital, healthy, strong and equal Europe, a webinar on reproducible workflows in R, and a Hackathon with a €4000 prize pool.

Learn more

CESSDA in the Community

New chair and Vice Chair of CESSDA GA

AUSSDA's Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy has been elected as the new chair of CESSDA's General Assembly. Sikt's Vigdis Kvalheim replaces him as the vice chair.

Reiter-Pázmándy serves as Deputy Head of the Department for Social Sciences and Humanities within the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science, and Research (BMBWF), and as a member of AUSSDA's steering board.

His successor as Vice Chair, Vigdi Kvalheim, is director of the Research and

Knowledge Resources Division at SIKT, CESSDA's Norwegian service provider. She has been a delegate to the General Assembly since 2018 and the Service provider Forum since its start.

Learn more

CESSDA Director Bonnie joins DDI Executive Board

Following a special election, CESSDA director Dr. Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch has joined the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Alliance's Executive Board. The DDI Alliance is an international collaboration dedicated to developing metadata standards and semantic products for describing social science data, data covering human activity, and other data based on observational methods.

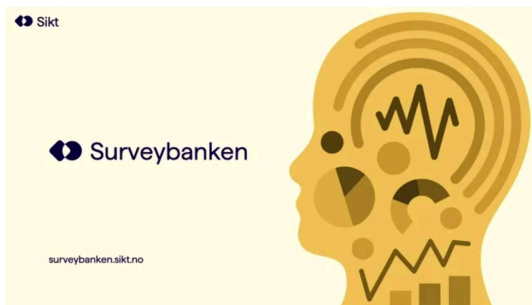As a member of the Executive Board, Bonnie will help set the overall policy and budget for the Alliance.

Learn more

New Scientific Director of the Department for Data Services for the Social Sciences at GESIS

In March last year, Professor Katrin Weller took over as the new Scientific Director of the Department for Data Services for the Social Sciences (DSS) at GESIS in Cologne (Köln). Weller and her team are currently working on ways to improve how to better collect, store, and ensure the quality of new types of data - particularly that which comes from social media.

Learn more

Sikt introduces Surveybanken

[Surveybanken](#) (The Survey Bank) introduces an innovative approach to disseminate survey data. By combining full-text indexing, instant visualisations, and a built-in data analysis tool, it makes survey data accessible to everyone, not just experts. Developed by [Sikt](#) (formerly NSD), the dissemination service is built on top of Sikt's Research Data Platform.

Learn more

FSD included in Finland's national roadmap for research infrastructures

At the end of 2024, CESSDA's Finnish Service provider, https://www.fsd.tuni.fi/fi/ (FSD) was included in Finland's national roadmap for research infrastructures for 2025-2028. By granting roadmap status, The Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee recognizes FSD as critical for the country's research ecosystem.

FSD included in National Roadmap for RIs

Learn more

Resources

[New panel survey data - I4NG data from the first two waves of CRONOS-3](#)

[SheFigures - Statistics on the gender equality in research and innovation](#)

[First Edition of the EOSC Handbook](#)

Publications

[Framework for the integration and evaluation of inclusive gender analysis in research and innovation content](#)

[CESSDA Data Catalogue - An opportunity to enhance data in social sciences](#)

[Challenges in tracking archives's data reuse in social sciences](#)

[IMPACT-REPO - Action plan for open repositories in Europe](#)

[How to draft DMP - from the perspective of social science, using the SNSF template](#)

[Pre-registration and registered reports](#)

[Republication in the social science](#)

Events and Trainings

03/06/2025 — 06/06/2025

50th iAssist Annual Conference

14/07/2025 — 18/07/2025

ESRA 2025 Conference

22/09/2025 — 25/09/2025

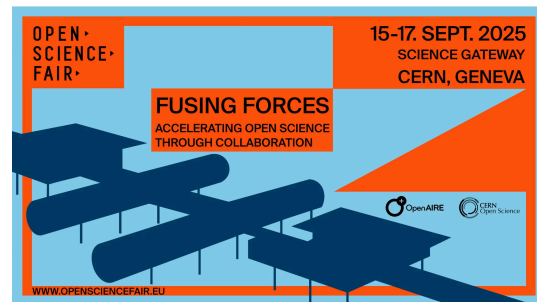**RC33 Eleventh Social Science Methodology Conference**

13/10/2025 — 16/10/2025

International Data Week 2025

03/11/2025 — 05/11/2025

EOSC Symposium 2025

15/09/2025 — 17/09/2025

Open Science Fair

Vacancies

CESSDA is looking for a new IT Officer

Read more and apply on the CESSDA Website!

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