September 2025/Issue 2

Newsletter

Welcome to the second CESSDA Newsletter of 2025!

The summer of 2025 was marked by the participation in conferences and meetings important for the CESSDA community and the preparation of new EC project proposals.

The season kicked off with the attendance of the **50th annual IASSIST Conference in Bristol**, UK, where many Service Providers came to celebrate this landmark and where CESSDA was one of the main sponsors of the event.

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.

Utrecht was also the place for an important meeting among the **SSHOC ERICs** involved in the **OSCARS** project in August. Discussions centred around the architecture and purpose of a future SSHOC competence center. **The SSHOC Competence Center** will be a virtual facility pooling important training materials for the SSHOC community.

Regarding **EC projects**, CESSDA is engaged in the shaping of Europe's Research Future: among the ten or more solicited proposals, CESSDA is actively engaged in the preparation of four new proposals for the benefit of its Service Providers.

The two proposals in which CESSDA has a more prominent role are to set the future for important activities in metadata, interdisciplinary research, EOSC, the development of Competence Centres, and AI tools and services for researchers and data archivists.

This autumn promises to be both exciting and eventful, with major conferences such as International Data Week in Brisbane and the EOSC Symposium on the horizon. At the same time,

preparations are well under way for **CESSDA's 50th anniversary conference** in Bergen next year, a milestone we very much look forward to celebrating together.

In the spotlight: new member, version of the CDC, and annual report

Lithuania joins CESSDA as a full 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 22 other countries committed to consolidating and strengthening high-quality research and open data practices in the social sciences.

Lithuania's national service provider 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.
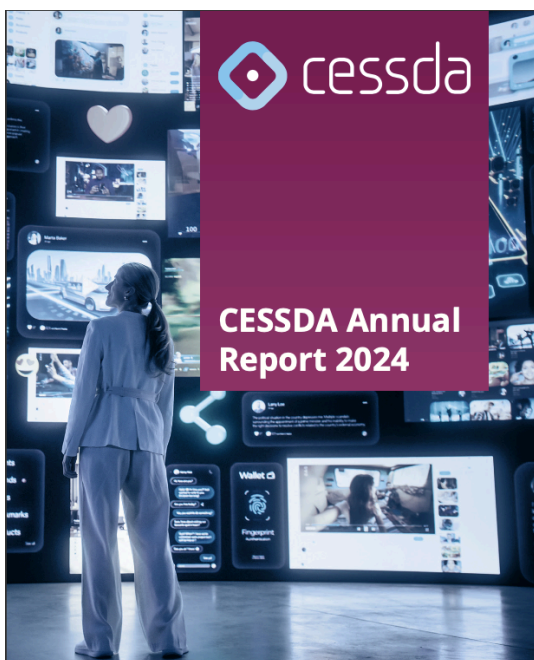
Representing Lithuania in CESSDA's General Assembly will be Artūras Malysis (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) and Prof. Audronė Telešienė (Kaunas University of Technology), with Prof. Vaidas Morkevičius (KTU) joining the CESSDA Service Provider Forum.

Learn More

CESSDA 2024 Annual report released

CESSDA released its [annual report for 2024,](#) offering a comprehensive overview of its activities and achievements throughout the past year. The report highlights how CESSDA continues to reinforce its role as a key player in the European and global research infrastructure landscape, supporting social science research through robust data archiving, technological development, and policy engagement.

Some highlights from the report include Lithuania's work towards becoming a full member of CESSDA ERIC, the first CESSDA conference to mark the consortium's 10-year anniversary, the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence task force, and a look back at CESSDA's role in the projects we were a part of.

CESSDA Annual Report 2024

Learn More

New version of the CDC released

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 of the CESSDA Data Catalogue released

Version 4.0.0 has now been released, introducing a major upgrade: collections. These are thematics 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

Learn more

CESSDA in the European Landscape

Innovation, Collaboration, and the Future of Data Services at IASSIST 50

At the [International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) conference](#), our team joined experts and partners from across the globe to explore how we can make data more accessible, trustworthy, and impactful for research and policy. With a packed programme and lively discussions, three key themes stood out this year: 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 share concerns around transparency and responsible innovation, legal and ethical considerations, and the need for tailored strategies and cross-border dialogue.

Along with members from CESSDA Main Office attending the conference, there were also representatives from several Service Providers, many of whom either presented, held workshops, or helped create the conference in other ways.

Conference presentations

CESSDA at ESRA

In July, our team joined the four-day [European Survey Research Association (ESRA) conference](#) in the Netherlands, where researchers, methodologists, and statisticians from across Europe and beyond explored new methods, challenges, and visions for the future of survey research. 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.

Finally, surveys are increasingly being used to capture the **social dimensions of climate change**. Innovations ranged from mixed-mode data collection in the ESS/CRONOS panel, the new green transition module in SHARE, to detailed household CO_2 measures in the German Longitudinal Environmental Survey. Linking survey data with geocodes and environmental indicators will open avenues for studying inequality, health, and sustainability.

All in all, ESRA 2025 highlighted that the future of surveys lies at the intersection of methodological rigour, inclusivity, and societal relevance. Advances in AI and new sampling designs will only matter if paired with ethical safeguards, strong data management, and respondent trust.

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Conference website

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ERA policy for 2025-2027 accepted

The Council of the EU and the European Commission endorsed the next ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027.
The second ERA Policy Agenda outlines voluntary activities for the European Research Area (ERA) from 2025 to 2027. Similar to the first ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24, these activities aim to transform the priority areas set by the Pact for Research and Innovation (R&I) in Europe into concrete activities, bringing EU Member States, countries associated with Horizon Europe, R&I stakeholders and the Commission together to make the ERA a reality.
The three main building blocks of the ERA policy are its policy narrative, the 11 structural policies, and the 8 ERA actions.

The European Union is stepping up to become the world's most attractive destination for researchers and innovators, offering them attractive careers as well as excellent working and living conditions. During the unveiling of the new ERA policy, Commissioner Zaharieva also presented the'Choose Europe for Science initiative', which highlights billions of Euros worth of opportunities in Europe, and is available for researchers at every stage of their careers.

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ERA Policy Platform

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CESSDA's EOSC-Beyond Pilot node presented at the EGI conference

Earlier this year, 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 latest *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. The feature also explores the progress made so far and what lies ahead as the project moves toward its September 2025 milestone.

Learn more

Highlights from European Commission projects

Two EC-projects come to a close

In the first half of 2025, the projects FAIR-IMPACT and COORDINATE both concluded. CESSDA, along with several of its Service Providers, was a beneficiary or partner in both and supported them with everything from administrative duties to the production of deliverables.

COORDINATE

After four years of dedicated work, COORDINATE officially reached its successful conclusion in March 2025. This EU-funded research project aimed to improve the availability of robust and suitable data for the monitoring and evaluation of child wellbeing in Europe. COORDINATE ensured that high-quality survey data can inform policies that directly affect children's lives, while a longitudinal, cross-national birth cohort survey addressing this topic is being set up to fill the current gap in the European research landscape (GUIDE).
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.

Learn more

From ambitious goals to impressive results: CESSDA in FAIR IMPACT

The FAIR IMPACT project came to an end in May this year, having run for nearly three years. The project, coordinated by DANS and supported by 27 additional partners from 11 countries, improved reproducibility and public trust in science, transforming the way researchers share and exploit research outputs.

From ambitious goals to impressive results: CESSDA in FAIR-IMPACT

The project was based on real-life use cases in four scientific domains - two of which were conducted by UKDS in the Social Sciences. Going further, the project provided support and cascading grants to enable testing of specific tools, approaches and methods.

CESSDA joined the project with partners from the UK (UKDS) and Norway (Sikt and the CESSDA Main Office). Service Providers from France (Progedo), Bosnia-Herzegovina (DASS-BIH), Germany (GESIS), and Lithuania (LiDA) also participated in the project.

Learn more

First steps towards a future Social Sciences and Humanities Competence Centre

CESSDA, CLARIN, and DARIAH meet to discuss Competence Centre

The three Social Sciences and Humanities research infrastructures - CLARIN, DARIAH, and CESSDA, along with CESSDA Service Providers ADP and DANS, met at Utrecht University to chart the next phase of a future Social Sciences and Humanities Competence Centre (SSH CC).

The gathering took place under the umbrella of the SSH Open Cluster's participation in the Horizon Europe OSCARS Project. The €25 million-funded initiative supports the establishment of community-based Competence Centres across five European Science Clusters, dedicated to promoting FAIR and open science practices.

Over the two days, participants discussed what to prioritise in order to create a CC that provides and shares knowledge and skills across all partners in the network.

Learn more

2nd OSCARS Open Call closes with 746 proposals submitted

The first Open Call was launched on 15 March 2024 and closed on 15 May 2024. The 2nd OSCARS Open Call opened on 14 March 2025, and closed on 14 May 2025, with 746 proposals submitted for 67 countries. While the majority came from within Europe, 25% of the coordinating organisations are based outside the European Union.

OSCARS project manager Friedricke Schmidt-Tremmel welcomed the high volume of responses to the second Open Call, expressing hope that the strong interest will help shape the future of scientific funding. The total funding available for the second call amounts to approximately €3 million. The total funding available for the second call amounts to approximately €3 million.

Learn more

CESSDA and I4NG release free online training course

CESSDA has delivered the first of four online training courses to the Infra4NextGen project. The hour-long training course is primarily aimed at social scientists, but scholars and researchers from other fields may also find it useful, as the principles and workflows presented can be applied across various disciplines.

The course is divided into five sections on Principles and drivers of open science, collaboration with other researchers, Git, Quarto, and how to use an Application Programming Interface (API). The training course is both free and open to everyone – no prior experience on the topic is required to participate.

Learn more

Second Infra4NextGen Hackathon Produces Green, Digital, and Equal Policy Briefs

Earlier this year, the first two waves of the CROss-National Online Survey 3 (CRONOS-3) panel data were made available via the European Social Survey (ESS) data portal. At the recent Infra4NextGen (I4NG) Hackathon, participants used that data to create policy briefs while competing for a share of €4,000.

Learn more

Cronos-3 data published

The third wave of data from the CROss-National Online Survey (CRONOS-3) is now available through the ESS Data Portal. Collected by Infra4NextGen, the data focuses on the five priority areas of the project: Make it… Digital, Equal, Green, Healthy, and Strong.

In each wave, participants answer around 90 questions (18 per theme). With three waves now completed, researchers can access nearly 270 questions covering a broad range of social, digital, and environmental issues.

Learn more

CESSDA in the Community

ISSDA Launches Dataverse and New Website

In July, the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA), based in the Library of University College Dublin (UCD), launched a revamped website and its new data repository "ISSDA Dataverse". It is a modern platform that

significantly enhances how users access, discover, and work with archived social science data. Supported by funding from Research Ireland, ISSDA Dataverse brings a number of key benefits for users and depositors. This launch has greatly improved data discoverability: Researchers can now look for relevant data using standardised metadata key terms.

Learn more

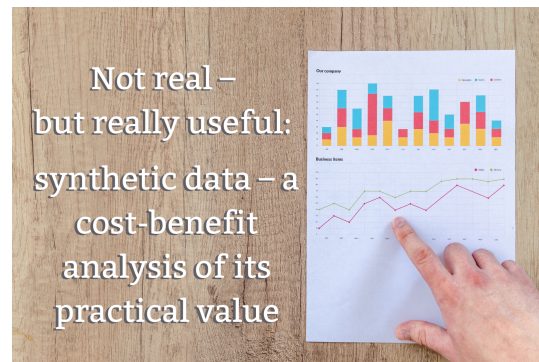## From Papers to Podcasts - EKKE's new way of disseminating Social Science

Since the spring of 2023, the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) has been producing a series of podcasts through its Communication and Publicity Committee. Aimed at presenting the institution's research and publications to a broader public, the podcast series has become a cornerstone of EKKE's communication strategy. The episodes are hosted on Spotify and YouTube, and actively promoted through EKKE's website, newsletter, and social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Learn more

Understanding Synthetic Data

A new UK Data Service project dives into the real-world costs, benefits, and barriers of using *low-fidelity synthetic data* in Trusted Research Environments. Backed by ADR UK, the research unpacks what synthetic data can realistically offer — and what it *can't*. With key takeaways for policymakers, funders, and data owners, this is a must-read for anyone exploring the future of data access.

Read More

Iris and Marion retire

This summer saw two of the longest-serving employees working for CESSDA's Service Providers retire. After forty-four years at the Swedish National Data Service (SND), Iris Alfredsson retired, leaving behind a legacy that stretches to the humble beginnings of social science data archiving in Sweden.

A few months later, Marion Wittenberg retired after 40 years with DANS, CESSDA's Dutch Service Provider. Both women played important roles in the consortium's early days – from the first Expert Seminar to the many projects they participated in.

CESSDA wishes to thank both for our many decades together, and wishes them all the best in their future.

Resources

CROss-National Online Survey 3 (CRONOS-3)

DDI-CDI Converter for STATA, SPSS, CSV and JSON (Prototype)

COORDINATE Virtual Access Platform

Family Resources Survey: New data and online learning module available (UKDS)

Publications

Data Citation: How and Why Citing (Your Own) Data

Improving the Transparency of Data Access Conditions in the SSH Domain
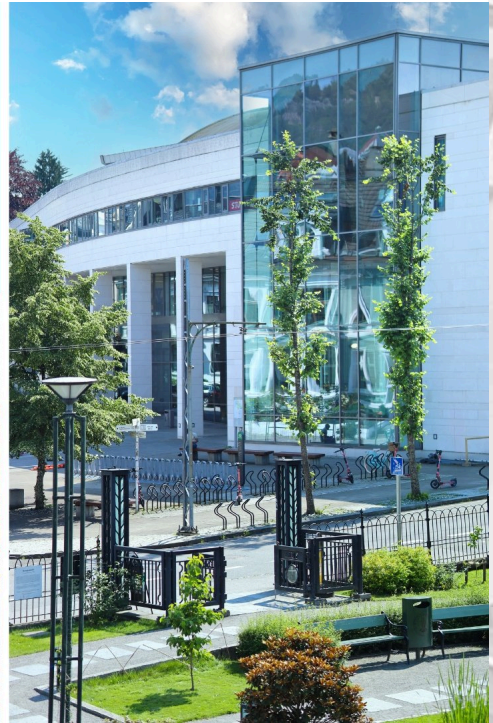
Data Sharing in the Social Sciences

Facilitating remote and virtual access provision by European research infrastructures – requirements, issues, and recommendations

Quantitative data anonymisation: practical guidance for anonymising social science data

[Data protection: legal considerations for research in Switzerland](#)

[Data anonymisation: legal, ethical, and strategic considerations](#)

Events and Trainings

CESSDA's 50th anniversary conference

In 2026, CESSDA, the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, celebrates its 50th anniversary. This conference marks its five decades of collaboration, innovation, and service to the European social science research community. It brings together its Service Providers and partners, as well as researchers, open science and data experts, policy actors, funding partners, and networks from across Europe and beyond to reflect on its legacy and chart a shared vision for the future.

The four-day conference programme is anchored in CESSDA's strategic pillars (2023–2027) of Data, People, and Landscape. The conference is an opportunity for scientific and policy voices to ask bold questions, strengthen synergies, and set the course for a future-ready European Research Area.
More information will be made available on the website.

30/09/2025 —02/10/2025

CLARIN Annual Conference 2025

19/09/2025

I4NG: Exploring secondary and archival data in social science research: An introduction

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

19/11/2025

EDEN-FIDELIS Boot Camp

Vacancies

CESSDA is looking for a new Project Manager

Read more and apply on the CESSDA Website!

CESSDA is looking for a new Technical 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