![CESSDA logo]

December 2025/Issue 3

Newsletter

Welcome to the third CESSDA Newsletter of 2025!

The end of the year 2025 is approaching and many of us are looking forward to wrapping up the work before the holiday season.

For CESSDA, 2025 was a busy year between participating in EC projects and preparing new ones. In 2026 CESSDA will engage in more AI related activities. A new CESSDA Core Working Group on AI was created in October, dedicated to topics such as impact on AI for Data archives, ethical AI, and working on best practices and recommendations.

The Data Citation Working Group also prepared the Data Citation Guide with a set of recommendations for different stakeholder groups. As did the Core Working Group on Trust and Landscape, which oversees the research data management landscape and the FIDELIS project.

In autumn, I had the opportunity to take part at the International Science Data Week in Brisbane, Australia to liaise with partner organisations and international colleagues as well present the challenges and opportunities of sensitive data in the social sciences at ANDOR (assises national de la recherche ouverte), an initiative of the French government on open science in Paris.

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 a pilot for becoming a node in the context of the OSTrails 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 writing the EOSC interoperability handbook.

Finally, at the ERIC Forum meeting in late November I was elected as ERIC Forum Chair starting in January 2026. The elected 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 CESSDA, the Science Clusters, and the now 32 ERICs.

- Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch

In the spotlight

Collaboration, Community, and the Future of Open Science at the EOSC Symposium 2025

At this year's EOSC Symposium in Brussels, CESSDA and seven of our Service Providers joined nearly 500 participants to explore how Europe can build a trusted, secure, and truly federated environment for FAIR data and services. With a programme rich in keynotes, panels, and hands-on demonstrations, the event highlighted the rapid development of the EOSC Federation and the vital role research infrastructures play in shaping Europe's evolving data landscape.

From expert contributions on long-term data retention and trustworthy repositories to exchanges on skills, governance, and data sovereignty, CESSDA's network made a strong impact throughout the three days. Director Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch and colleagues from the Main Office connected with partners old and new, reinforcing CESSDA's commitment to widening participation and supporting a collaborative European Open Science ecosystem.

Learn More

CESSDA Director Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch elected Chair of the ERIC Forum

At the ERIC Forum Annual Meeting in Brussels today, CESSDA's Executive Director Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch was unanimously elected Chair of the ERIC Forum Executive Board. She replaces Antje Keppler, from the Euro-BioImaging ERIC. Eija Juurola, Director General of [ACTRIS ERIC](), becomes the new Vice Chair, replacing Allen Weeks of ELI ERIC.

"I am honoured to have been elected Chair of the ERIC Forum. The prospect of supporting the consolidation of the Forum's achievements and strengthening European research infrastructures as strategic assets of ERA is very attractive," said Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch of the appointment.
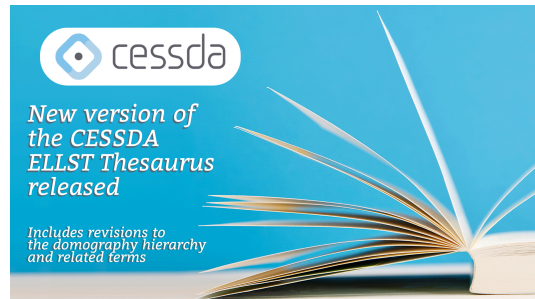
[Learn More]

News from CESSDA services

New version of the ELSST Thesaurus released

[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 (Version 6) includes 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.
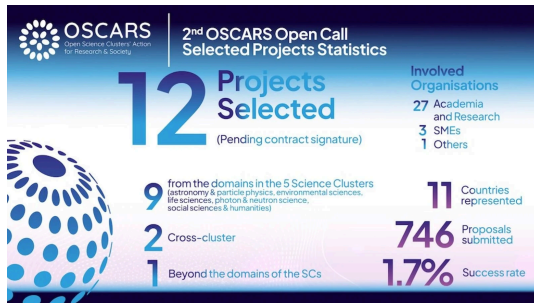
[Learn More]

New report highlights progress in Data Citation Practices across CESSDA

A new report from the [CESSDA Data Citation](#) Working Group reveals that CESSDA's Service Providers (SPs) across Europe are making significant progress in promoting and implementing consistent data citation practices.

The Monitoring Report 2024–2025: Data Citation Practices among CESSDA Service Providers reviews how repositories are putting CESSDA's Data Citation Recommendations into practice. It finds that data citation is becoming a well-established norm within the CESSDA community, and that Service Providers are taking concrete steps to make citation easier, clearer, and more consistent.

[Learn more]

CESSDA in the European Landscape

2nd OSCARS Open Call concludes with 12 projects selected

The second OSCARS Open Call for Open Science Projects and Services has concluded, with 12 projects selected for funding from 710 eligible applications, a strong response that underscores the research community's engagement with the OSCARS programme.

Despite a residual budget of €3 million, the call attracted 746 submissions (compared to 264 in the first call), requesting a total of €173 million.

Learn more

SSHOC announces new Chair - Sally C. from Dariah and Vania Virgilli from E-RHIS

SSHOC's activities in 2026 will be led by newly elected Sally Chambers (from DARIAH ERIC - Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) as Chair, and Vania Virgili (from E-RIHS - European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science) as Vice-Chair. This decision was taken by the SSHOC Governing Board during their meeting on 27 November 2025.

Learn more

PUBMET 2025: Advancing Scholarly Communication and Data Practices

The PUBMET conference continues to be a key international forum for discussing how scholarly communication can evolve in the era of open science. This year's edition brought together researchers, librarians,

publishers, data professionals, and policymakers to explore topics such as research assessment, AI in publishing, responsible metrics, and open data.

Read more

CESSDA's Service Providers lead the way at 11th International Conference on Social Science Methodology

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. From 22 to 25 September, the international conference took place at the Federico II University of Naples.

Learn more

CESSDA Contributes to European Dialogue on Data and Democracy at MEDem Conference 2025

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. 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.

Learn more

CESSDA at EDDI 2025: Strengthening Connections in Budapest

The [17th European DDI Users Conference](#), hosted by the Research Documentation Centre at the ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, Research Documentation Centre, brought together the global DDI community in Hungary's capital, with strong CESSDA representation and exciting developments on the horizon.

Learn more

CESSDA at the International Data Week in Brisbane, Australia

Data sharing, openness, and international collaboration took centre stage at https://idw2025.org/ (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. IDW 2025 brought together researchers, data professionals, policymakers, and innovators from around the world under the theme "Data for Positive Change."

Learn more

Highlights from European Commission projects

Datasets on all I4NG pillars released

During the last few months, the Infra4NextGen project has released datasets and accompanying summaries for all five of the projects pillars: Make it… Strong, Healthy, Green, Equal, and Digital.

Make it Healthy and Make it Digital:

The first report, [The Digital Divide across Europe](#) (published 4 September), provides a descriptive overview of young people's access to and use of digital technologies. The analysis

highlights differences in digital skills, opportunities, and risks by age, gender, education, and place of living.

The second report, [The Health and Wellbeing of People in Europe](#) (published 11 September), focuses on the social determinants of health. Researchers examined behavioural and psychosocial factors, material conditions, occupational situations, and access to healthcare.

Learn more

Make it Equal

The third report, [Inequalities in Europe: From Personal Experiences to Policy Preferences,](#) draws on data from the European Social Survey, European Quality of Life Survey, International Social Survey Programme, the Gender and Generations Survey, and the Infra4NextGen-funded CRONOS-3 panel, and examines how younger Europeans (under 35) perceive and experience inequality compared to older generations.

Learn more

Make it Green

The fourth report, [European Attitudes to Climate Change and the Environment](#), examines how Europeans, particularly those under 35, view climate change, the environment, and policies for a sustainable future. It explores awareness, concern, perceived responsibility, and willingness to act, drawing on extensive data from the European Social Survey (ESS), European Values Study (EVS), and International Social Survey Programme (ISSP).

Learn more

Make it Strong

Drawing on data from the European Social Survey, Generations and Gender Survey, and International Social Survey Programme, the fifth report, Make it Strong: Building a Resilient Europe, analyses how perceptions differ across age, gender, education, and where people live. It provides evidence for initiatives under NextGenerationEU, and demonstrates how combining multiple data sources can illuminate key social challenges.

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Learn more

Fidelis releases Landscape Report

One of the main outputs EOSC FIDELIS team had planned was to gather insight and understand better the needs of the digital repositories in the European landscape. With over 159 contributions to a survey sent out, they received answers related to digital object management, legal topics, organisational infrastructures, and technology and security. The full report is now available on Zenodo.

Learn more

News from the CESSDA community

Get to know FORS

FORS, the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences, is widely recognized as Switzerland's go-to institution for social science data and expertise. But FORS is more than a data archive: it is a hub that connects researchers, datasets, methodologies, and services, creating a vibrant platform for collaboration, exchange, and innovation. By

FORS: A Hub for Data and Social Science Expertise

combining research, training, and methodological support, FORS ensures that Swiss social science stays cutting-edge, well-connected, and responsive to evolving needs.

[**Learn more**]

Increased support for SASD opens new avenues

Recently, CESSDA's Slovakian Service Provider, the Slovak Archive of Social Data (SASD), has experienced a notable strengthening of its institutional foundations and collaborative reach. Since 2025, the Slovak Ministry of Education has increased its support for SASD, recognizing the archive's role in advancing open science and data accessibility. This enhanced support enabled the creation of a new position within the archive in 2025 and is expected to facilitate the establishment of additional roles in 2026, further reinforcing our operational capacity.

[**Learn more**]

Gesis strengthens its role in digital behavioural data

Digital behavioural data (DBD) is transforming the way researchers observe and understand social developments. Since 2013, CESSDA's German Service Provider GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences has been at the forefront of integrating this emerging data source into social science research. What began as an exploratory effort has, since 2022, become one of GESIS's major pillars, alongside its long-standing experience and services for survey data.

[**Read more**]

ESRC report sets out vision to fix the UK's research data pipeline

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has published Future Data Services Phase 1: Fixing the Data Pipeline, the first step in a major effort to improve how researchers across the UK access and use data.

CESSDA.EU

The report responds to long-standing challenges voiced by the research community — from confusing data catalogues to slow, complex access procedures — and lays out a roadmap for building a more connected, user-centred and "federated" landscape of data services.

Learn more

From principles to practice: ten years of FAIR at DANS

In the year DANS celebrates its twentieth anniversary, they also look back not only on the growth in the number of datasets, but also on the expansion of knowledge, collaboration, and vision. One of the themes that best reflects this development is FAIR – the principle that research data should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.

Read more

A retrospective of DANS highlights

2014
Founding of the FAIR-principles; improve how research data is shared and reused on the web.

DANS starts managing the technical infrastructure for DataverseNL.

Open Science Festival Insights, Ice Cream, Inspiration: Vienna celebrated its first Open Science Festival

At the festival premiere in Austria, Open Science fans got together and shared experiences, knowledge and their love of ice cream.

The Open Science Festival celebrated its premiere in Austria this year: On 8 and 9 September 2025, Open Science enthusiasts gathered on the campus of the University of Vienna for inspiring keynotes and expert panels, fun activities such as quizzes and a scavenger hunt, and practical workshops. Based on a successful concept from the Netherlands, the festival provided an ideal opportunity for researchers, lecturers and research support staff to exchange ideas and network with colleagues from Austria and several other European countries.

Sharing is caring – in every way

The interactive workshop "Doing Open Science: Turning Requirements into Opportunities" focused on bringing Open Science principles to life: AUSSDA communications expert Julia Geistberger, Claudia Hackl from the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Vienna

and Lisa Hönegger, head of the Research Data Management team at the Vienna University Library, introduced participants to the topics of open data, open source tools, open access, open education and citizen science using a fictional research project as an example. In groups, participants collected ideas on how these principles could be best put into practice. The end result was the realisation that Open Science is not an insurmountable challenge, but rather a series of individual, feasible steps that bring concrete benefits to researchers.

For instance, sharing research data in a repository enables others to reuse it, such as students who need data for their theses. In the workshop 'Finding Suitable Research Thesis Data', Otto Bodi-Fernandez and Dimitri Prandner, AUSSDA representatives from Graz and Linz, and Monika Bargmann, Data Steward at the Vienna University Library, explained how to find and reuse suitable datasets.

The festival visitors' enthusiasm for Open Science had to be rewarded with treats, so AUSSDA sponsored an ice cream van by Vanella Gelato in Vienna. The ice cream experts handed out delicious flavours to everyone who attended the festival, because sharing is caring – that goes for both research data and ice cream!

What's next?

To keep the festival momentum going, the organisers put together a follow-up event: There will be two online sessions on 13 October focusing on a more sustainable, healthier research culture and tips for overcoming challenges Open Science can bring. The best thing is: Everyone is more than welcome to participate in the sessions, regardless of whether they attended the festival or not. You can find all the registration information on the festival website.

Publications

[Ethics in the era of open research](#)

[The informed consent as legal and ethical basis of research production](#)

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

[Qualitative data anonymisation: theoretical and practical considerations for anonymising interview transcripts](#)

[Caring for Data's Soul: The development of a Curation Impact Factor to pinpoint the effects of data curation activities on data quality](#)

UK Data Service: "This is us" (video)

Resources

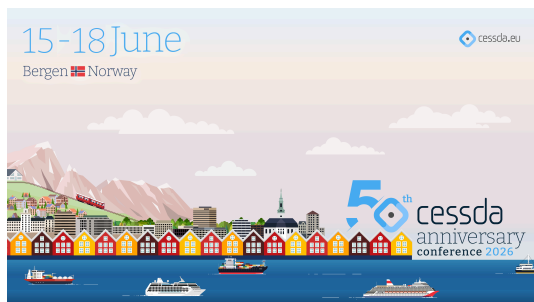Tracking Reuse Tool

Data Citation Guide

CESSDA Data Catalogue

CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide

Events and Trainings

16/06/2026

CESSDA 50 years anniversary

9 -27 March, Cologne, Germany

09/03/2026 — 27/03/2026

GESIS Spring Seminar 2026

14/01/2026 — 21/01/2026

16/02/2026 — 018/02/2026

S³ School — Sustainable Scientific Software School

International Digital Curation Conference 2026

18/03/2026 — 20/03/2026

PAERI'26: Navigating Science Communication in a Shifting Landscape

20/04/2026 — 23/04/2026

Infra4NextGen Datathon: Your ideas for a resilient Europe

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!

Wishing you a happy holiday season,
The CESSDA Team