October 2026/Issue 2

# Newsletter

**Strategy addendum, Annual Report, and a look back at our anniversary conference: welcome to the second CESSDA Newsletter of 2026!**



In June 2026, we celebrated the **50th anniversary of the CESSDA** network in Bergen, Norway. It is fair to say that the conference, which brought together CESSDA's national and European stakeholders alongside colleagues from overseas, was a great success. Not only did the excellent contributions from workshop organisers, panellists and keynote speakers make the conference interesting and inspiring, but guests also praised the warmth and welcoming spirit of the CESSDA community. The gathering of researchers, data archives and policymakers provided a valuable opportunity to network, exchange knowledge and forge new alliances in challenging times. For those who would like to revisit the discussions and highlights, we have published the conference report.

We also recently published an **addendum to the current CESSDA Strategy**, extending its strategic goals to 2029. The addendum takes stock of recent developments in artificial intelligence and geopolitics.

CESSDA has also participated in several other strategic and high-level events. In July, representatives from **34 Horizon Europe-funded projects gathered in Brussels** to discuss the outcomes and planned activities of EOSC-related projects.

More recently, **ESFRI organised an event in Cork in September** in the context of the Irish EU Presidency. Two sessions addressed important contemporary challenges. The first explored how integrated user access programmes for research infrastructures can contribute to a more coherent research infrastructure landscape and simplify access pathways for research and innovation users. The second focused on databases at risk and

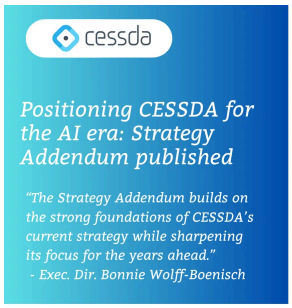
questions of research data sovereignty in a context of increasing geopolitical complexity and technological interdependence. These topics will certainly remain high on Europe's agenda.

I am looking forward to meeting members of the community at upcoming events, including the Research Data Alliance conference in London and the **EOSC Symposium in Florence**.

# In the spotlight: strategy addendum, annual report, and new brief on TRUST

### Positioning CESSDA for the AI era: Strategy Addendum published

CESSDA has published a new Strategy Addendum, extending its strategic priorities to 2029 and responding to major changes in the research landscape, including artificial intelligence, research security and responsible data sharing.







Building on the 2023–2027 Strategy, the Addendum sets out how CESSDA will strengthen data discovery and interoperability, support the transition towards machine-actionable and AI-ready data, develop new skills and competencies, and deepen collaboration with European and international partners.

Developed through consultation across the CESSDA community and approved by the General Assembly, the Addendum provides continuity while ensuring that CESSDA can respond to emerging technological and geopolitical developments and remain a trusted research infrastructure for the years ahead.

**Learn More**







### CESSDA 2025 Annual report released

CESSDA has published its 2025 Annual Report, providing an overview of the consortium's activities, achievements and continued development across the year.

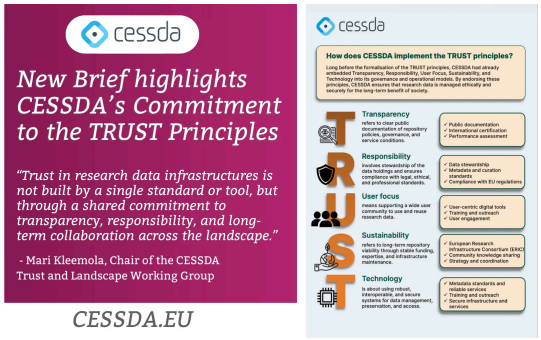
Highlights include Lithuania becoming a full member of CESSDA ERIC, continued growth in the use of CESSDA services and training,

new work on artificial intelligence and trustworthy digital repositories, and a strong contribution to the European Open Science Cloud. The report also looks back on CESSDA's involvement in major European projects, international events, metadata standards, and community-wide Working Groups.

The report reflects CESSDA's growing role in the European and international research infrastructure landscape, supporting FAIR data, open science, trustworthy repositories, and evidence-informed policymaking.

**Learn More**

### New Brief highlights CESSDA's Commitment to the TRUST Principles




CESSDA has published a new three-page brief outlining how the TRUST Principles, Transparency, Responsibility, User focus, Sustainability, and Technology, are embedded across its operational and governance frameworks.

The brief highlights how CESSDA puts these principles into practice through established policies, shared standards and coordinated infrastructure services, supporting ethical, secure, and sustainable research data management across Europe.

**Learn more**

## CESSDA in the community



### GUIDE: strengthening collaboration on research initiatives into the lives of children and young people

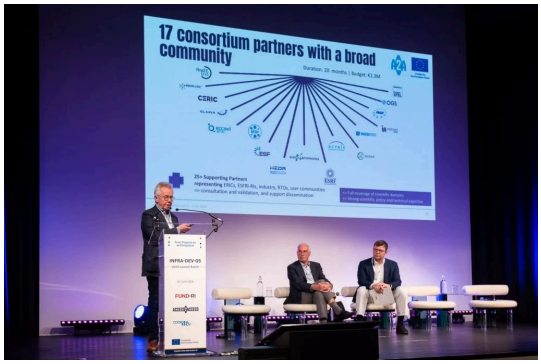
Hosted by UCD and Manchester Metropolitan University, GUIDE (Growing Up In Digital Europe) gathered in Brussels and welcomed representatives from governments, European institutions, research organisations, and civil society to explore how long-term evidence can better inform policies affecting children, young people, and families.

The event marked an important milestone for GUIDE, which brings together around 30 partner organisations across 25 countries and aims to become Europe's first comparative longitudinal cohort study, following children from infancy through to early adulthood across multiple European countries.

GUIDE is one of Ireland's most significant long-term European research infrastructures. GUIDE strives to become Europe's first comparative longitudinal cohort study, following children and young people over time to generate evidence that will help shape policies affecting future generations.

**Learn more**

## From projects to an ecosystem: shaping the future of Europe's research infrastructures




Three new Horizon Europe initiatives — FUND-RI, Access2Access, and COORDINA-INNOV — were launched in Brussels in June, bringing together policymakers, research infrastructure leaders, industry representatives, and researchers to discuss the future of Europe's Research and Technology Infrastructure ecosystem.

CESSDA Executive Director Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch took part in a high-level roundtable on expectations for Europe's research infrastructure system by 2030, while Michael Arentoft from the European Commission opened the event with reflections on the strategic challenges facing the sector.

The event introduced Access2Access, a project involving CESSDA that will explore how access to research infrastructures can become more integrated, discoverable, and user-centred, including through emerging digital and AI-enabled tools.

**Learn more**



## EOSC projects gather in Brussels for annual coordination meeting

Representatives from 34 Horizon Europe-funded projects gathered in Brussels on 8–9 July 2026 for the fifth annual coordination meeting of EOSC-related projects. The meeting introduced 13 newly funded

INFRAEOSC projects starting in 2026 and 2027.

This comes at a time when EOSC is expanding, with an additional 14 second-wave EOSC Nodes selected by the EOSC Tripartite Governance in April 2026, bringing the total number of candidate EOSC Nodes to 28.

Jean-David Malo, Acting Director for the European Research Area (ERA) and Innovation at the European Commission, highlighted EOSC as a cornerstone of the ERA. The Commission's commitment to EOSC remains strong. Under Horizon Europe, it is investing around €500 million in EOSC, including support for the EOSC EU Node and around 50 projects. Looking ahead, the Commission's proposal for Horizon Europe 2028–2034 foresees continued support for the FAIR agenda and for the further expansion and consolidation of EOSC.

EOSC Association President Klaus Tochtermann emphasised the vital role of the projects in contributing to the advancement of federation capabilities, interoperability, AI solutions and trusted research environments within the EOSC Federation. He encouraged the projects to align their outcomes with version 2.0 of the EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA 2.0), scheduled for release in October, to maximise their long-term impact.

CESSDA is actively participating in the build-up of the Federation through its involvement in seven projects: FIDELIS, OSCARS 1, OSTrails, EOSC Beyond, EOSC-ENTRUST, AI4SOCIALS+, and CDIF4EOSC.

**Learn more**

## 4th ESFRI Stakeholder Forum

### Strategic Consolidation of the European Research Infrastructure Landscape




The 4th ESFRI Stakeholder Forum Meetup took place on 22 September 2026 in Cork, Ireland, at the National Maritime College of Ireland, during the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and ahead of the 97th ESFRI Forum meeting. The event brought together representatives of ESFRI Research Infrastructures, ESFRI delegates, European institutions and flagship initiatives, industry partners and the wider research and innovation community.

The programme focused on two key sessions. The first session explored how integrated user access programmes can support a more coherent Research Infrastructure landscape by enabling coordinated access schemes, creating clearer entry points for users — including innovative companies and industry — and strengthening the continuum between Research and Technology Infrastructures.

The second session addressed databases at risk and research data sovereignty, examining how consolidated and federated approaches can help safeguard critical research databases, reduce dependencies, and reinforce Europe's strategic autonomy while maintaining openness and trusted international collaboration.

The **CESSDA 50th anniversary conference** took place from 15–18 June in Bergen, Norway. Over the course of four days, more than 200 invited attendees, guests and speakers came together for workshops and panel discussions, and to create new connections across borders. While the first two days were open to CESSDA members only, days three and four welcomed the wider international community.



### Day 1: Strengthening connections across the CESSDA community

The first day of CESSDA 50 brought the community together for five workshops focused on interoperability, trust, sensitive data, multilingual services, and data citation.

Across the sessions, participants explored practical ways to strengthen coordination across CESSDA, from supporting CoreTrustSeal certification and secure access to sensitive data to improving multilingual repository services and data citation practices.

**Learn more**

### Day 2: Exploring the role of AI in the future of CESSDA

Day 2 of CESSDA 50 focused on artificial intelligence, beginning with the Service Providers Forum and continuing with two workshops organised by the AI and Interoperability Working Groups.

Participants explored how AI could support metadata quality, interoperability, multilingual consistency, and more automated workflows, while also discussing the governance, skills, ethical, and regulatory considerations needed for responsible adoption.



The day concluded with the CESSDA 50 Welcome Reception at Håkonshallen, hosted by the City of Bergen, giving participants an opportunity to connect in an informal setting after a day focused on the future of research data services.

**Learn more**



## Day 3: Reflecting on the past, present and future of social science data

Day 3 marked the opening of the public programme, bringing together representatives from research infrastructures, policy, data services, and the wider research community.

Sessions explored the future of the European Research Area, the role of FAIR, TRUST, and CARE principles in an AI-driven data ecosystem, and the skills needed to support open science and international collaboration.

The day concluded with a keynote from Linda Nøstbakken of Statistics Norway, reflecting on how high-quality social science data, openness and long-term investment in data infrastructure can support research, policymaking, and societal change.

**Learn more**

## Day 4: Looking ahead to the future of research infrastructures

The final day of CESSDA 50 focused on how research infrastructures can remain relevant, trusted and responsive in a rapidly changing research landscape.



Sessions explored stronger links between research and policy, new developments in social science data, evolving user needs, and the growing impact of artificial intelligence on research practices and infrastructure services.

The conference concluded with a keynote from Barbara Wasson of the University of Bergen on AI and the future of research, followed by reflections on CESSDA's development and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

**Learn more**



### Resources, photos, and videos

Many of the speakers at the conference have made their presentations available. They can be accessed here.
All photos from the conference have also been made available. All photos were taken by members of the CESSDA Main Office or by Rodney Appleyard from UK Data Service.
Additionally, several videos were created with speakers participating in the conference. They can all be seen on the CESSDA YouTube channel.

**Conference resources**

### CESSDA communications group gathers in Bergen



Communications officers from across the CESSDA community met in Bergen during CESSDA 50 for a day of workshops, knowledge sharing, and team building.

Sessions covered website redesign, LinkedIn, artificial intelligence, public speaking, stakeholder engagement, and graphic design, giving participants an opportunity to exchange practical experience and learn from colleagues across the network.

**Learn more**

### CESSDA 50 Post-Conference Report published




CESSDA.EU/50




The CESSDA 50 Post-Conference Report brings together the main discussions, reflections and takeaways from four days of workshops, panel sessions and keynote presentations in Bergen. The report covers topics ranging from interoperability, trust and AI to open science skills, research policy, and the future of social science data.

Coordinated and edited by the CESSDA Main Office, the report was developed with contributions from speakers, chairs, rapporteurs and keynote participants across the full conference programme.

**Learn more**

# CESSDA news

### Maria Rujano joins CESSDA ERIC's Project Management team




*CESSDA.EU*

CESSDA ERIC has strengthened its Project Management team with the arrival of Maria Alexandra Rujano, who joins the Main Office in Bergen after previously working as a Project Manager at ECRIN ERIC in Paris.

Maria brings extensive experience coordinating multinational EU-funded projects, managing work packages and deliverables, contributing to Horizon Europe proposals, and working with research data governance and GDPR-compliant data policies.

With a background in medical sciences and experience across European research infrastructures, Maria will contribute to CESSDA's growing portfolio of projects and international collaborations.

**Learn more**

### Why Data Citation Matters: Practical recommendations from CESSDA's Irena Brvar

At the OPERAS 2026 & SCIROS Conference, Irena Vipavc Brvar from the Slovenian Social Science Data Archives (ADP) highlighted why proper data citation is essential for open




science, reproducibility and recognition of research data as a scholarly output.

Drawing on the CESSDA Data Citation Guide, she outlined practical recommendations for researchers, repositories, publishers, institutions, funders, and policymakers, including the use of persistent identifiers, rich metadata and clear citation requirements.

Her presentation also stressed that improving data citation is not only a technical issue, but a shared responsibility across the research ecosystem that depends on trusted repositories, supportive policies and a stronger culture of recognising data contributions.

**Learn more**

## Italian Service Provider DASSI granted CoreTrustSeal Certification




CESSDA.EU



CESSDA's Italian Service Provider DASSI has received CoreTrustSeal certification, recognising its commitment to trustworthy and sustainable research data management.

The certification followed DASSI's first application and covers its policies and practices across the research data lifecycle, including data deposit, metadata, rights management, quality assurance, preservation, and access. The repository also draws on international standards and CESSDA resources, including DDI, the CESSDA Metadata Model, controlled vocabularies, and ELSST.

DASSI was supported throughout the application process by CESSDA's Trust and Landscape Working Group, with the certification strengthening the wider network of trusted research data repositories across CESSDA.

**Read More**

## French Service Provider Progedo also achieves CoreTrustSeal certification

CESSDA's French Service Provider Progedo has achieved CoreTrustSeal certification for its Quetelet-Progedo data repository, marking another step in strengthening trustworthy research data services across the CESSDA network.




The certification process, which began with Progedo's decision to apply in 2018, involved extensive internal assessment, documentation and coordination across technical and operational teams. Progedo also shared its experiences with the wider CESSDA community, including the challenges encountered and lessons learned along the way.

Drawing on this experience, Progedo has developed a set of practical recommendations for other repositories preparing for CoreTrustSeal certification, with a focus on early planning, documentation, stakeholder engagement, and making use of support from the wider community.

**Learn more**

## Alastair Dunning appointed Director of Dutch Service Provider DANS




Alastair Dunning has been appointed the new Director of DANS, CESSDA's Dutch Service Provider, and will take up the role on 5 October 2026. He succeeds Anja Smit, who retired earlier this year.

Dunning is currently Head of Research Services at TU Delft Library and has held several senior roles in research data and digital infrastructure, including Director of 4TU.ResearchData.

**Learn more**



## GESIS proposes new infrastructure for data from large online platforms

CESSDA's German Service Provider, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, has proposed a new Research Infrastructure for Data from Large Online Platforms (RIDLOP), which has been shortlisted in Germany's national prioritisation process for large research infrastructures.

RIDLOP aims to improve access to research data from platforms such as social media services and search engines, while also addressing questions of data quality and

transparency. The proposed infrastructure would combine data from platform providers, user donations, and researchers, supported by a secure environment for remote analysis.

**Learn more**

### UK Data Service reflects on supporting CESSDA 50



Rodney Appleyard, Communications and Stakeholder Manager at the UK Data Service, reflects on his experience supporting the CESSDA communications team during the 50th anniversary conference in Bergen.

Rodney looks back at his work helping to photograph sessions, record interviews, and share conference highlights, as well as the experience of working closely with communications colleagues from across the CESSDA community.



### SND publishes open dataset on researchers' data management experiences

CESSDA Service Provider SND has published an open dataset containing 40 qualitative interviews with researchers and doctoral students about their experiences of working with research data.

Collected through the KAFFE project, the interviews explore researchers' practices, needs and challenges, including difficulties around data sharing, support, and secure research workflows.

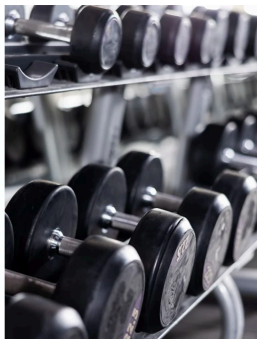
By making the dataset openly available, SND hopes to support further research while also giving institutions and research support staff direct insight into researchers' everyday experiences of data management.

**Learn more**

## Project news

## CRONOS-3 longitudinal weights now available



New longitudinal weights are now available for CRONOS-3, the Infra4NextGen panel survey covering five themes linked to the NextGenerationEU recovery plan: Digital, Equal, Green, Healthy and Strong.

The weights allow researchers to combine and analyse data across the first five survey waves while accounting for differences between participants who remained in the panel and those who dropped out over time.

**Learn more**



## Harmonised data for demographics published

A new demographics dataset has been added to the Infra4NextGen Harmonised Data Gateway, bringing together socio-demographic information from five major cross-national survey programmes as well as CRONOS-3.

The dataset covers core background variables including sex, age, education, employment status, place of living, partnership status and religious affiliation, using standardised coding across the different sources.

It complements the five topic-based harmonised datasets already available through the Gateway and makes it easier for researchers to combine demographic information with data on the Digital, Equal, Green, Healthy, and Strong themes.

**Learn more**

## CESSDA joins CDIF4EOSC to advance cross-domain interoperability

CESSDA has joined the Horizon Europe project CDIF4EOSC, which aims to make it easier for researchers to combine and reuse data across disciplines, infrastructures, and data spaces.






Simon Hodson (CODATA), Project coordinator

The project will turn the Cross-Domain Interoperability Framework into a practical Playbook supported by examples, code and AI-assisted tools and services. It will also address issues such as data quality, sensitive data, trust, governance, and machine-actionable access.

CESSDA is contributing alongside UKDS, Sikt, and Progedo.

**Learn more**




### UKDS joins CDIF4EOSC and AI4Social

The UK Data Service has joined two new Horizon Europe projects — CDIF4EOSC and AI4SOCIAL+ — as part of its collaboration with CESSDA.

Through CDIF4EOSC, UKDS will help develop AI-assisted tools and services to improve interoperability, FAIR data integration and machine-actionability across EOSC and other research domains. In AI4SOCIAL+, it will contribute to tools and infrastructure designed to strengthen AI readiness in the social sciences and humanities.

**Learn more**

## Resources

CESSDA Impact video series

CESSDA Data Catalogue

E-Next Gen Mapping tool from Infra4NextGen

European Language Social Science Thesaurus

## Publications

[Election research in the age of regulated data access under the EU Digital Services Act]

[Can 20 Years of Twitter Be Preserved? What Is Lost, What Remains, and What Is in Between]

[Little mentioning, moderate attention, great relevance: The quality of online platform data in the Digital Services Act]

[Hope for the best, plan for the worst: Reducing risks associated with repository cessation]

# Events and Trainings



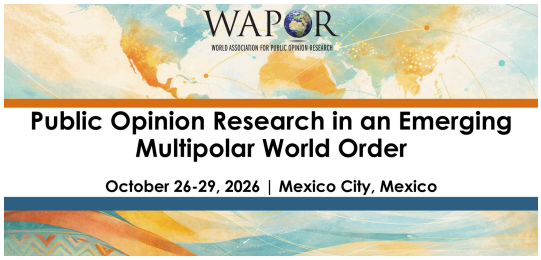

6-8/10/2026

**RDA 27th Plenary Meeting (P27)**




14-16/10/2026

**EOSC Symposium 2026**




26-29/10/2026

**WAPOR 2026**




30/11-4/12/2026

**EDDI 2026**




2-4/12/2026

**International Conference on Research Infrastructures 2026**



1-4/3/2027

**I4NG's Datathon #4: Intergenerational fairness in the EU**

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

Warm regards,
The CESSDA Team

**CESSDA ERIC**

CESSDA ERIC
Solheimsgaten 15
5058 Bergen
Norway

You received this email because you signed up on our website.

Unsubscribe