



May 2026 / Issue 1

Newsletter

Welcome to the first CESSDA Newsletter of 2026!



In June 2026 the highly anticipated [50th anniversary of the CESSDA network](#) will take place. This milestone will be celebrated at the seat of the Main Office in Bergen, Norway, through a four-day programme featuring two days of workshops followed by a two-day science and policy programme involving CESSDA's national and European stakeholders, along with colleagues from overseas.

Created in 1976 as an informal network of data archives, the basic idea of CESSDA was to

bring together national data archives to improve cooperation, share expertise, and facilitate access to social science research data. What made it possible was the long tradition in the Social sciences of handling and managing survey data and with national research infrastructures in place, that were responsible for the acquisition, curation, preservation and dissemination of social science data. The creation of the CESSDA network was linked to a prolific time of Social Sciences, globally; several other international organisations working on research data management were created during this period, such as the Roper Center and ICPSR in the U.S., and IASSIST.

1976 was also the year of the founding of Apple and Microsoft. It was a period where the Iron Curtain appeared stable. But, retrospectively, it was eroding internally due to economic failure, worker dissatisfaction, and the beginnings of organized human rights movements. All evidence-based facts confirmed through social sciences and other research.

Today, 50 years later, Apple and Microsoft are trillion-dollar enterprises, the EC has 27 Member countries and the world has become more complex and multipolar with political polarisation.

But the core work and mandate of data archives, as data protectors and rescuers, has not changed as new technology has been assimilated. With the advent of AI, the work of data

archives and scientists is expected to change fundamentally. While it is difficult to assess where we as a society are heading, it is clear that data archives and publicly funded research will have to adapt to stay relevant in an aggressive data economy.

However, independently from the evolution of performing and supporting excellent research, there is one constant observation to be made: without excellent research infrastructures, it is difficult to excel scientifically, innovate, and compete globally. The CESSDA conference explores the tension between a rapidly changing world and the need to preserve the past and the knowledge about it, while making ourselves future-ready to support researchers in their endeavours.

The event is also a great occasion to network, meet old friends, and allow new staff members to catch up with the CESSDA community.

I would like to express my gratitude to the CESSDA staff and all our guests and speakers for joining us in Bergen soon.

Warm regards,

Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch

Executive Director of CESSDA

In the spotlight

Measuring what matters: Progress across CESSDA 2020 - 2024

A new CESSDA report, [Measuring what matters](#), highlights the organisation's continued growth and impact between 2020 and 2024. Following the ESFRI framework, the report brings together quantitative indicators and qualitative insights from the CESSDA

network to demonstrate progress in open science, FAIR data, training, and policy engagement.

Over the past four years, the number of archived digital objects increased by 36%, while dataset delivery more than tripled. Training and outreach activities also expanded significantly, with nearly 600 training events delivered to around 14,000 participants in 2024 alone. During the same period, CESSDA's registered user base grew to 459,000 users.

The report highlights CESSDA's growing role in science policy and international collaboration, underlining the value of coordinated investment in trustworthy research data infrastructures.



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CESSDA joins three new Horizon Europe projects

CESSDA ERIC has joined three new Horizon Europe projects — **ACCESS2ACCESS**, **AI4SOCIAL+**, and **CDIF4EOSC** — reinforcing its commitment to open science, FAIR data, and cross-domain collaboration within the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

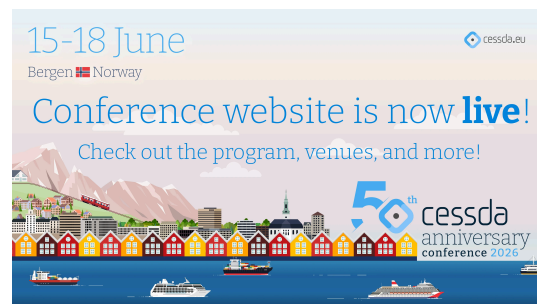
Together, the projects will strengthen access to research infrastructures, support AI readiness in the social sciences and humanities, and advance interoperability and FAIR integration across EOSC. Through these initiatives, CESSDA and several of its Service Providers will contribute expertise in areas including data access, machine-actionable repositories, AI-ready infrastructures, metadata standards, and FAIR-by-design approaches.

The projects also highlight CESSDA's growing role in shaping the future European research landscape by helping build sustainable, trusted, and interoperable infrastructures that support both researchers and policymakers across disciplines.

[Learn More](#)

CESSDA celebrates 50th anniversary with conference

This year, CESSDA ERIC marks its 50th anniversary with a [four-day international conference in Bergen, Norway](#), bringing together colleagues, partners, and researchers from across Europe and beyond.



Founded five decades ago by a small group of European data repositories, CESSDA has grown into a global network supporting open science, trusted data sharing, and cross-border collaboration in the social sciences. The anniversary conference will celebrate this shared history while fostering new dialogue on the future of research data and interoperability across disciplines and institutions.

[While the first two days are reserved for CESSDA members, the final two days are open to the wider community.](#) The conference website is now live, featuring the programme, speaker information, and practical details for attendees

[Learn More](#)



Three new faces at the Main Office

2026 has already marked an exciting new chapter for the CESSDA Main Office in Bergen, Norway. At the beginning of the year, the office moved next door from Solheimsgaten 16 to newly renovated facilities at Solheimsgaten 15, providing more space for collaboration, meetings, and future growth.

Alongside the move, the Main Office team has expanded with three new colleagues joining CESSDA in recent months.

[Taras Turkevych Tangenes joins as Legal Officer](#), bringing experience from both established enterprises and fast-growing startups, with expertise in international compliance, employment matters, and legal advisory work.

[Vishal Bohra joins as Technical Officer](#) after working with large-scale data platforms and infrastructure systems in Norway, contributing expertise in distributed systems, Kubernetes, and data operations.

[Maria Bashir has joined the team as Project Manager](#), bringing extensive experience in EU-funded project coordination, metadata governance, FAIR-aligned practices, and digital infrastructure development.

Together, the new colleagues strengthen CESSDA's legal, technical, and project coordination capacities as the organisation continues to grow its activities across Europe and within EOSC.

CESSDA in the European Landscape

Infra4NextGen Consortium Meets in Milan to Review Findings and Plan Next Steps

Representatives from across the [Infra4NextGen \(I4NG\)](#) consortium gathered in Milan in January for the project's latest in-person meeting, hosted by the University of Milan. Over two days, partners reviewed recent findings, coordinated future activities, and discussed how to strengthen dissemination of the project's growing range of data, tools, and reports.

The meeting featured presentations from all [five thematic pillars](#) — Make it Green, Digital, Healthy, Equal, and Strong — highlighting new insights into topics such as climate attitudes, AI adoption, mental health, inequality, and young people's educational and career expectations across Europe.

Discussions also focused on the next phase of the project, including data harmonisation, training activities, workshops, datathons, and strategies for increasing the visibility and impact of I4NG outputs at both European and national levels.



[Learn More](#)



OSCARS General Assembly brings Open Science communities together

Members of the [OSCARS consortium](#), funded projects, and representatives from the European Science Clusters gathered in Seville, Spain, in March for the OSCARS 2nd Annual General Assembly. The event focused on strengthening collaboration, sharing project

progress, and aligning future activities across the European Open Science ecosystem.

Now halfway through the project, OSCARS continues to support interoperable and FAIR-aligned Open Science services across Europe, with 70 funded projects contributing tools, methodologies, and infrastructure developments across disciplines. Discussions in Seville explored shared challenges related to interoperability, AI tools, training, repository harmonisation, and sustainable support structures for research communities.

CESSDA representatives contributed throughout the programme, bringing a Social Sciences and Humanities perspective to discussions on data services, FAIR implementation, and cross-cluster collaboration within EOSC.

[Learn more](#)

FIDELIS TDR Network introduces Special Interest Groups

[The FIDELIS TDR Network](#) has launched a series of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help Europe's trustworthy digital repositories (TDRs) address shared challenges and strengthen collaboration across the EOSC ecosystem.

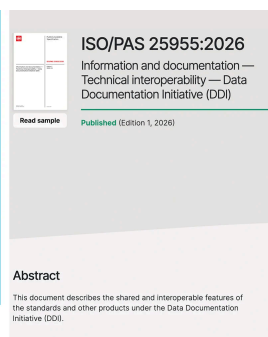
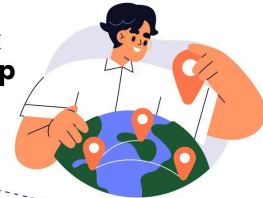
The new SIGs will focus on topics including legal challenges, data sovereignty and rescue, and the future governance of the FIDELIS network. Designed as practical working spaces rather than discussion forums alone, the groups aim to support peer exchange, develop shared guidance and tools, and improve interoperability between repositories across Europe.

By bringing repositories together around common issues such as GDPR, licensing, sensitive data handling, and long-term digital preservation, the initiative seeks to foster more coordinated and community-driven approaches to trusted data stewardship.

[Learn More](#)

eosc | FIDELIS

FIDELIS TDR Network Introduces the set up of Special Interest Groups!



DDI Alliance suite of products now codified by an ISO standard

[The Data Documentation Initiative \(DDI\)](#) has reached an important milestone with the publication of ISO/PAS 25955 by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The new standard formally recognises the DDI suite of products

within the international ISO framework, strengthening its role in supporting research data documentation and interoperability worldwide.

The recognition highlights decades of collaborative work by the DDI Alliance and the wider DDI community to improve the discoverability, reuse, and long-term sustainability of research and statistical data. ISO recognition is expected to support broader adoption of DDI products among governments, research infrastructures, national statistical agencies, and data repositories.

The milestone also reinforces DDI's importance for FAIR and interoperable data practices across the global research ecosystem.

[Learn more](#)

Highlights from European Commission projects

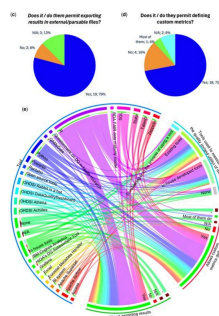
I4NG Datathon explores opportunities for young Europeans

Infra4NextGen's latest Datathon brought together emerging researchers from across Europe to turn complex datasets into policy-relevant insights on education, employment, and opportunities for young people.

Using [data from the CRONOS-3](#) survey and other I4NG resources, participants explored topics including fairness in education, labour market opportunities, migration, and trust in institutions. Over three days, teams produced policy briefs, presentations, videos, and data visualisations aimed at supporting evidence-based policymaking.



[Learn more](#)



New report from QUANTUM reveals fragmented data quality landscape

A new report from the [EU-funded QUANTUM project](#) provides the first large-scale overview of data quality assessment practices among European health data holders. Based on a review of 66 open-source tools and survey responses from institutions across 13

countries, the study reveals a highly fragmented landscape with no single standard approach to data quality assessment.

The report highlights the need for flexible, interoperable solutions that can support the future European Health Data Space (EHDS), recommending the development of a common self-assessment framework that works alongside existing practices and infrastructures.

The presentation outlined how SSHOC research infrastructures — including CESSDA, CLARIN, DARIAH, OPERAS, and ESS — are working together to support sustainable integration of SSH services into EOSC through initiatives such as the SSHOC Marketplace, competence centre activities, and thematic EOSC node development.

Rather than building a single unified SSH node, the current strategy focuses on distributed and interoperable pathways that reflect the diversity of the SSH landscape and its research communities.

[Learn more](#)

LiDA and CROSSDA shape repository training and support with FIDELIS

CESSDA Service Providers LiDA and CROSSDA participated in the pilot phase of the FIDELIS training and support programme, helping shape new approaches for strengthening trustworthy digital repositories across Europe.



LiDA took part in CoreTrustSeal support activities focused on repository certification readiness, while CROSSDA contributed to testing the new Transparent Trustworthy Repository Attributes Matrix (TTRAM), a tool designed to improve transparency and trustworthiness in repository operations.

Their experiences and feedback will help inform the future FIDELIS support programme as the project continues building a European network of trustworthy digital repositories within EOSC.

[Learn more](#)



CESSDA Members join new Nordic-Baltic Dataverse Hub (NaisH)

A new Nordic-Baltic Dataverse Hub (NaisH) project aims to strengthen collaboration between research data repositories across the Nordic and Baltic region by building a shared framework for trustworthy and FAIR-enabling

data infrastructures.

Bringing together institutions from Norway, Denmark, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Latvia, and Lithuania, the initiative will use Dataverse as a common technological backbone to support repository sustainability, interoperability, and Open Science practices. The project will also

focus on areas such as CoreTrustSeal certification, AI integration, training, and shared technical operations.

[Learn more](#)

SODHA launches DAMAR to strengthen archiving of sensitive data

CESSDA Service Provider SODHA has launched the DAMAR project, an initiative focused on developing secure and sustainable solutions for archiving sensitive research data.

The project aims to establish both legal and practical frameworks for preserving and accessing restricted datasets, including the development of digital reading rooms that allow controlled access to sensitive materials. DAMAR also contributes to broader discussions on trusted research environments, responsible data stewardship, and FAIR-aligned preservation practices.

Alongside the project, SODHA continues to expand its international engagement through conferences, training activities, and new collaborations focused on digital preservation and data documentation.



[Learn More](#)



Increasing trustworthiness of European digital repositories: FSD's contribution to FIDELIS

Throughout 2025, CESSDA's Finnish Service Provider FSD played a key role in the FIDELIS project, contributing to efforts to strengthen trustworthy digital repositories across Europe and support the long-term goals of EOSC.

Drawing on its experience as a certified repository, FSD contributed to repository landscape analysis, development of the Transparent Trustworthy Repository Attributes Matrix (TTRAM), training activities, and the establishment of a European network of FAIR-enabling trustworthy digital repositories. The work focused on creating practical, sustainable, and community-driven approaches to improving repository practices and supporting peer learning across Europe.

The project highlights the growing importance of coordinated infrastructure, shared standards, and trustworthy repositories for the future of Open Science and long-term data stewardship.

[Learn more](#)

DANS celebrates anniversary with European recognition

CESSDA Service Provider DANS marked its 20th anniversary in 2025, celebrating two decades of growth as a trusted research data repository and centre for Open Science.

The anniversary coincided with major European recognition for Data Station Archaeology, which was classified at the “Essential” readiness level in an independent European assessment of trusted repositories. With nearly 160,000 datasets, it is now recognised as one of the world’s largest archaeological data archives.

Alongside this milestone, DANS continues to expand its repository services, guidance materials, and collaborations in areas including FAIR data, trustworthy repositories, and national and European research infrastructures.



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[Learn more](#)



UK Data Service shortlisted in two categories at the British Data Awards

The UK Data Service has been shortlisted in two categories at the British Data Awards 2026: “Data Partnership of the Year” and “Not-For-Profit of the Year”.

The nominations recognise both the long-standing collaboration between the institutions behind the UK Data Service and its contribution to supporting research and evidence-based policymaking through access to high-quality data. In 2025 alone, the service supported more than 54,000 registered users and provided access to over 10,000 nationally and internationally significant datasets.

Winners will be announced at the British Data Awards ceremony in London on 20 May 2026

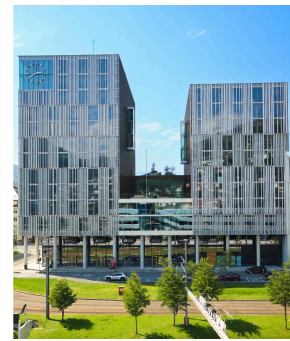
[Learn more](#)

SoGreen: How Sikt connects European survey data with climate and environmental data

CESSDA Service Provider Sikt is playing a central role in the EU-funded SoGreen project, which aims to strengthen understanding of how the green transition affects different generations, countries, and social groups across Europe.

The project brings together major European social science surveys, including ESS, SHARE, GGP, and GUIDE, and combines survey data with environmental and climate indicators to support new interdisciplinary research. In April, the first CRONOS-3 panel data connected to the project's Green Transition Questionnaire Module was published through the ESS Data Portal and the CESSDA Data Catalogue.

By linking social, environmental, and geospatial data at scale, SoGreen demonstrates the potential of collaboration in supporting evidence-based policymaking on climate and society.



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[Learn more](#)



A new SKG-IF-compatible interface for research data metadata from FSD

The Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD) has launched a new public API designed to improve interoperability and access to research data metadata.

Built on the Scientific Knowledge Graph Interoperability Framework (SKG-IF), the

interface provides standardised access to core dataset metadata, including titles, abstracts, authors, topics, and access rights. The API supports machine-to-machine exchange and advanced search functionality, helping make research information easier to discover, integrate, and reuse across systems.

[Learn more](#)

Strengthening archive services through Czech–Swiss collaboration: The CORISS Project

The new CZ–CH CORISS project brings together the Czech Social Science Data Archive (CSDA) and the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences (FORS) to strengthen trusted data services and FAIR data management across Europe.

Running until 2028, the project focuses on improving data management services, enhancing data discoverability, developing secure access solutions for sensitive data, and strengthening data citation practices. Several activities build directly on expertise and recommendations developed within the wider CESSDA community, including work on sensitive data and data citation.



[Learn more](#)

Publications

[Harmonised datasets from Infra4NextGen](#)

[Every Story Matters – new data from the UK Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

[Certification Frameworks for Scientific Data Repositories: Strengthening Repository Trustworthiness](#)

[Sharing digital trace data: Researchers' challenges and needs](#)

[From \(almost\) open to heavily restricted data access – The development of the Twitter/X developer policies](#)

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

[The Research on the Green and Digital Transition in Greece](#)

Resources

[Cronos-3 datasets](#)

[KODAQs Data Quality Academy Individual Training](#)

[New online training on survey data harmonisation](#)

[How can you best communicate your scientific findings to a broader audience?](#)

[Data Citation Guide](#)

[CESSDA Data Catalogue](#)

[CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide](#)

Events and Trainings



15/06/2026

CESSDA 50 years anniversary



02/06/2026 — 05/06/2026

51st annual iassist



21/09/2026 — 25/09/2026

EGI 26



14/10/2026 — 16/10/2026

EOSC Symposium



22 July - 14 Aug, Cologne, Germany

22/07/2026 — 14/08/2026

GESIS Summer School in Survey Methodology



31 Aug - 29 Sept, Cologne, Germany

31/08/2026 — 29/09/2026

GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science

Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. If you have any news, stories, or relevant scientific publications 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 pleasant spring and summer,
The CESSDA Team

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