Monitoring the state-of-play of non-member countries

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***Strengthening and Widening of the European Infrastructure of Social Science Data Archives** |*

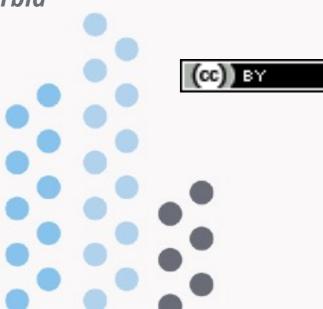***Wednesday 14 November and Thursday 15 November 2018, Belgrade, Serbia***

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Purpuse of monitoring:

to allow for update information on situation in countries, support advocacy in national setting, identifying:

- Success stories

- Persistent obstacles for further development

- Which stakeholder and on which area can facilitate progress

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System of monitoring of the state-of-play

Consists of:

- Regular (yearly) short interviews of CESSDA Partners and other contacts in non-member countries

- Each most recent report sums up past and existing information gathered at different occasions,

- And add up what's new from the fresh interviews

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Monitoring tool

In advance, it was prepared:

- Interview **content and questions** (to be tailored to specifics of country and stakeholder type)

- Instructions for communication, collection of information and reporting

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Utilising existing resources

⬦ Reports from CESSDA SaW WP3

  ⬦ Monitoring task: Country report on development potentials (refer already heavily to the past reports from various regional projects)

  ⬦ National development plans (NDP)

⬦ Short summary of the barriers and opportunities for establishment of sustainable DAS identified in previous rounds of monitoring activities makes an introduction of current report

⬦ Reference to NDP to see where change occurred and where no change happened!

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Internal country working directory created

Placeholder for:

◈ Working documents, past reports

◈ Interviews and other communications about the country

◈ Notes from the meetings and contacts of CESSDA MO
with country representatives

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Partners responsible for countries

Task partner	N of countries
ADP	5
CSDA	3
FORS	4
SND	5
TARKI	5
Σ	22

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Interview guidelines and communication protocol

- **Step 1: Desk research to consult the existing sources of information**

- **Step 2: Selection of contact(s)**

- **Step 3: Tailoring semi-structured interview (country and stakeholder specific)**

- **Step 4: Contact and carry on interview**

- Selection of interviewees (step 2) and adaptation of interview schedule (step 3) are both based on conclusions from past reports

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CESSDA partners contact list

Main contact persons:	
Ministry	Minister
Ministry	Main contact regarding international research infrastructures
Research agency (funding)	Main contact person
Repository / archive (potential SP)	Head / Director
Repository / archive (potential SP)	Main contact person
Research institution	Key researcher / representative
Other (OpenAire, etc. Contacts)	

⬦ Contact info table has a subsection on reporting the contacts made that needs to be filled in by all partners!

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Country reports template

◇ Follows the SaW reports structure

◇ **Introduction**

◇ **Development of social sciences sector**

◇ **RDM policy and support (**Roadmaps, financial schemes)

◇ **Data sharing culture**

◇ **Data infrastructure (proto)activities: Main chapter, current or planed infrastructure activities described** (to enable assessment of realisation of goals)

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Contacts and draft reports so far

Country	Invite sent	Acceptance	Draft Report
Albania	reminder sent		
Croatia	X	X	X
Ireland	X	X	X
Kosovo	reminder sent	X	X
Serbia	X	X	X
Montenegro			
Slovakia			
Ukraine			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X	X
Cyprus	reminder sent		
Luxembourg	X	reminder sent	
Macedonia	X	X	X
Estonia			
Iceland			
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Russia			
Belgium	X	X	
Bulgaria	X		
Italy	X		
Poland	X		
Romania	X	X	

Where the reports will be accessible?

- A local document folder for each country is established for current drafts of reports, and past reports placeholder

- Options for official version of report, and a timeline of past reports:

  - CESSDA Widening project subpage

  - Tools-Services/For-Service-Providers/ where National-development-plans-for-data-services-in-the-ERA-media-packs stay

  - Consortium/CESSDA-Countries/Partners/ with the document pack and profile for each country

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Some findings (by areas): **Development of social sciences sector**

- Supply and demand for data (incentive to increase the data sharing culture)

- A goal is an even development of social science research and infrastructure

- Where low level of development: established infrastructure can improve the quality and relevance of social science research.

  - Better quality of data produced (transparency)

  - Low cost empirical research facilitated (if built around existing data resources)

  - Arguments can be articulated about cost –efficiency of data service for the government spending

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Example quotes

◇ *The establishment plan argued about the benefits of establishing a national data service, specifically: costly and unique data can be lost, national data service can provide more efficient long-term access to data by the scientific community, transparency and replicability of results can strengthen, fulfilment of funders and journals open data policies can be facilitated, and secondary data can bring value for teaching and training.*

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Do the public policy makers in your country make decisions based on evidence? (Impact of data access)

- *According to current practice, public policy makers extremely rarely make decisions based on evidence.*

(some projects…)

- *(…) produced evidence from ex-ante evaluations, based on administrative data, to inform possible policy changes. However, this is not an institutionalised practice, but rather individual preferences of current minister.*

- *In general and on declaratory basis, decision makers support these ideas and encourage the efforts made related to establishing a data centre.*

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Based on the past and current research data preservation, could you estimate the 'cost of inaction' (e.g. loss of valuable research data)?

◈ *it is very important for as much as possible data with sufficient quality to be preserved in order for some kind of basis for longitudinal studies or study of trends to be possible in future…* (following with example studies mentioned)

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RDM policy and support

Focus: Policies for data documentation and management facilitating data sharing, and ethical and legal framework

- *There is a growing awareness about the legal and ethical framework important for data sharing and about the need to provide clarification on those aspects. Integrity of research is at question, which could be prevented by requirement to access the data related to publications. On the other hand, legal and ethical concerns are often quoted as reasons for not sharing data.*

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What incentives for sharing research data with associated metadata do the public research funding organizations operating in your country provide?

Do they cover costs for managing and preparing data, facilitate citation of data and rewards based on the impact, etc.?

◈ *No, this kind of practices are non existent.*

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Data sharing culture

◇ *One research project was mentioned as an example of good practice in thinking about data sharing from beginning, and with explicit collaboration with DAS. (…) The collaboration will consist of preparation of the DMP, version of data for submission to the DAS service, with the purpose to further distribute data and promote its usage.*

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Data infrastructure (proto)activities

Status quo:

⬦ *We do not have any further comment to the state of art you sent. Looking forward that at some point we will find the support to booster the archive (…).*

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Skills/expertise and knowledge required to establish the service?

- *(…) the expertise and the organisational structure is already build, while the main problem is how to get financial support from the Ministry of Science and Education.*

- *(…) our researchers will soon visit the data archive at TARKI, Budapest, for a week. We would also be interested in contacting CESSDA Training Group to receive their support.*

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Which of the planned features of the data services have been realized (cf. the National Development Plan developed for the CESSDA SaW project)?

◈ Have you fulfilled required financial, human, expert resources/needs? Would you emphasize any good and/or bad experiences? Which challenges did you encounter and how did you resolve them? Have you been engaged in advocacy activities?

◈ *We have provided IT help and personal (from the Faculty of computer science and engineering within our university) to be involved in our future data archiving activities. Also hardware equipment was secured. We had delivered full national plan for establishment with the needed budget to the Ministry of education and science this summer. This was done on the call of previous minister of science, after we informed her about past activities in this regard. We are still waiting for a reply.* **In a meantime a new minister was appointed. According to our information, the complicated political situation is the reason why this and other research development activities at national level are put again on hold.**

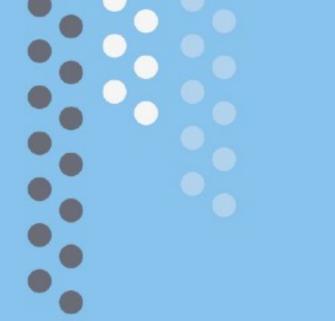# Short / medium term plan to develop the data infrastructure in your country?

- *(…) we have submitted request for a small grant (…) to fund initial infrastructure and work on already available datasets that only need some further formatting and preparation of metadata in order to enable their reuse.*

- *We also had several meeting with other potential donors.*

- *Finally, we intend to work on advocacy for passing regulation that will require depositing data from publicly funded projects.*

- *We will increase our efforts to get in closer touch with our ministry. We can be involved in training activities that will be organized within CESSDA.*

- *We are going to be involved in application of Horizon 2020 project on infrastructure development led by CESSDA.*

- *Depending on the available time, we will decide on archiving several data sets/projects from our own institution.*

Towards synthesising conclusions

- Identification of groups that have a potential for collaboration in the infrastructure service delivery

- Division of responsibilities among national actors: who is going to cover which area

- Assessment of what was achieved already, of potentials and perspectives for the future

- Different needs at different stages of development

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Thank you for your attention!

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