

National Development Plan

# UKRAINE

November 2017



## Introduction

This Plan for establishing a national data service in the social sciences for Ukraine was developed by the team of the Ukrainian National Data Bank of Sociological data “Kyiv archive”, represented by Yulia Sakhno (j.sakhno@kiis.com.ua), Manager of the Kyiv archive, and Volodymyr Paniotto (paniotto@kmis.kiev.ua), General Director of Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS), Professor at the National university of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and academic adviser of the Kyiv archive. It summarizes information on the Data Bank’s current situation (mission and working principles, structure and resources) and outlines future needs and necessary resources for improving and maintaining the data service. The principal aim of the Plan is to define strengths and limitations in the current situation, and seek opportunities for the further development and maintaining a viable data service over time. We expect that the Plan would help to improve the Data Bank services, develop a strategy to overcome existing barriers, and contribute to finding funding sources.

## Mission

The overall mission of the **Ukrainian National Data Bank of Sociological data “Kyiv archive”** is to promote evidence-based thinking about social processes in Ukraine, both in Ukrainian society and abroad.

We believe that understanding of the ongoing processes in society is impossible without reliable and valid data from sociological surveys. Data from social surveys and opinion polls is very important since it can provide a multifaceted and objective picture of the processes that took place and are taking place at the moment. Until now, different sociological organizations in Ukraine have accumulated a significant amount of sociological data on different issues (political, social, socioeconomic situation, values, attitudes, people’s beliefs, health, business activities, etc), but these data are mainly used only by the data creators, hardly available for anyone outside, and may be lost if incorrectly stored. The Kyiv archive was created to preserve the data from social surveys conducted in Ukraine and to make it easily and freely accessible to all interested persons or entities. Currently it is the only archive in Ukraine which collects, preserves and provides open access to sociological data for a wide range of users.

Our main strategic goals are designed to preserve the data from social surveys conducted in Ukraine and to maximize quality and availability of services for all interested persons or entities both in Ukraine and outside the country. These are to:



- » strengthen collaboration with Ukrainian sociological research centers (data creators);
- » increase the number of depositors and surveys stored in the Data Bank;
- » ensure long-term preservation and recovery of data;
- » improve and ensure open and easy access to data by providing direct online registration, creating an English-language version, improving online analysis tools;
- » improve use of data by providing academic and data processing advice for academic and non-academic data users;
- » promote academic research based on the Data Bank's survey collection; and
- » strengthen collaboration with international digital repositories and joining CESSDA.

## General features of the data service

### ***Definition of organisation***

The Ukraine National Data Bank of Sociological data “Kyiv archive” (Національний банк соціологічних даних “Київський архів” in Ukrainian, <http://ukraine.survey-archive.com>) was created in 2015 by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) and Center for “Social indicators”, together with the National university of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, due to the financing of the International Renaissance Foundation.

The main purpose of the Data Bank is to make the data from social surveys conducted in Ukraine easily and freely accessible to all interested persons or entities both in Ukraine and outside the country.

### ***Scope of collection***

The Data Bank is intended to store and share data from the social sciences. We do not set priorities to specific disciplines but the current collection contains mainly survey data for sociology and political sciences as a reflection of the data provided by depositors.

Both quantitative and qualitative traditional-scale data for the period from the earliest studies in modern Ukraine history (1989-1991) up until now can be stored in the archive (although now we have only quantitative data).



### ***Services and activities***

The main services are:

- » solicitation and acquisition of data from data producers;
- » data recovery and long-term preservation;
- » online cataloging and classification of archived data, creating thematic compilations and tags to ease data search;
- » registering users and providing access to data for secondary analysis;
- » online tools for data analysis and variable exploration; and
- » user support for data search and use.

The additional services and activities are:

- » support, assistance, and advice for data depositors;
- » translation of survey materials into English (on routine basis and upon user's request); and
- » promotional activities and outreach for users.

### ***Beneficiaries***

Data and other survey materials stored at the Data Bank are intended for all interested persons and can be available for use both for students and researchers and for individuals outside academic circles. Since the website offers some tools for online analysis and tabulations, statistical analysis skills are desirable but not essential for registration and getting access to data.

The recipients of the Data Bank services include:

- » university students (bachelor, master, doctoral);
- » university researchers and teachers;
- » researchers from other public or private institutions;
- » journalists; and
- » representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### ***Governance structure***

The executive board includes the data service director responsible for defining goals, allocating resources, defining responsibilities and time frames.



The oversight board consists of representatives of Ukrainian universities and sociological research centers approved by the Sociological Association of Ukraine.

The advisory board includes the academic adviser, the data processing specialist, and the IT-specialist.

### ***Financing schemes***

The first phase of the Data Bank was done under the grant from International Renaissance foundation in 2015. From 2016 to present its activities are supported and financed by Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, Center “Social indicators” and the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

The funding sources are based on the host institutions, i.e. KIIS, Center “Social indicators” and National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy<sup>1</sup>, and on the International Renaissance Foundation

We also intend to make efforts to create the consortium of universities and polling companies to ensure financing for the regular functioning of the Data Bank.

## Resources and challenges

Host institution of the future data service

For the future, we consider that the host institution would be one of the following four variants:

- » National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy jointly with Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, as it is now: The advantage is that those organizations support the Data Bank now and plan to support it in the future. The downside is that those organizations do not intend to expand support and finance transformations which are necessary for the Data Bank development.
- » The Institute of Sociology of the Ukraine National Academy of Science: This is the main scientific research institution in Ukraine, and if Ukraine National Academy of Science or Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine would intend to provide resources for the Data Bank support, they would do it only if the Data Bank would belong to the Institute of Sociology of the Ukraine National Academy of Science. The downside is that at this time the possibility that the National Academy of Science or the Ministry would increase financing for the Institute of Sociology is very low, since they do not provide enough funding even for the main Ukraine academic journal “Sociology: theory, methods, marketing” (KIIS is providing regular funding for the journal).

<sup>1</sup> Center “Social Indicators” and Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) are two organizations created by the same owners, but the Center “Social Indicators” is a NGO and KIIS is a commercial company. Both organizations rent office space at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.



- » Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, one of the country's leading universities: The dean of the Faculty of Sociology is Andriy Gorbachyk, who has a PhD in cybernetics and is an expert in data archives. The Faculty of Sociology could benefit from the use of the Data Bank, but we have serious doubts that the management of the University would agree to provide additional funding to the Faculty for support of the Data Bank operation.
- » Sociological Association of Ukraine (SAU): SAU is expressing interest in the development of the Data Bank. The Board of the SAU established the Oversight board to develop recommendations on the Data Bank development. SAU is located in one of Ukraine's largest universities – V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University. Vil Bakirov, the president of the SAU, is the Rector of the Kharkiv National University, which creates favorable conditions for locating the Data Bank. So far, however, Kharkiv National University did not provide any funding for the Data Bank support, although the issues were being discussed for several years.

One more possible scenario is transforming the Data Bank into the Redistributed Data Bank. The idea is to distribute efforts among the different stakeholders (Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, some key universities, Institute of Sociology of the Ukraine NAS) in order to provide support to the Data Bank. One organization could be responsible for server support and the website, another one could ensure data recovery and proper data processing, while the third could provide user support and respond to requests for data and information.

### ***Human resources and internal structure***

At the current time the active staff of the Data Bank consists of two persons: the Data Bank manager, who works part-time and serves as a manager and a data specialist; and the Academic adviser, who also serves as a manager on a voluntary basis. IT specialists and consultants in methodology are involved from time to time on an irregular basis as freelancers (subject to funding).

Existing human resources are sufficient for providing services for users (registering, providing access to data, user support for data search and use) and data depositors (long-term preservation), but insufficient to enable further development (expansion of the data collection, finalizing the web-site (currently we have a beta-version), translating survey materials into English). Current limitations on the functioning of the Data Bank arise from the lack of financial resources to employ additional staff: the data specialist for full-time in addition to the data bank director; translator(s) to translate survey materials into English; IT-specialist and consultant(s) to finalize the website.

### **Human resources which are necessary for the efficient work of the Data Bank:**



1. For permanent functioning of the Data Bank: data service director / manager (at least part-time), data specialist (full-time), and IT specialist (part-time).
2. Additional staff for work on the Data Bank development: IT-specialist and consultant(s) to improve the Data Bank software; translator(s) to translate survey materials into English.

Data service manager's main responsibilities:

- » management of the data service;
- » setting of policy and procedural rules;
- » relations with national and international stakeholders and partners;
- » data service promotion towards the research community (the beneficiaries).

Data specialist's main responsibilities:

- » □ solicitation of data;
- » □ data and documentation ingest;
- » □ data curation and preservation;
- » □ dissemination of the archived data;
- » □ contracts creation for data depositors and data users (maybe with the help of a legal advisor);
- » □ information and advice to researchers and students.

IT specialist main responsibilities:

- » install and maintain servers;
- » install and maintain hardware for staff;
- » install and maintain software for archiving and dissemination of data;
- » develop and maintain data service website.

Additional staff (if additional resources are available): translator from Ukrainian/Russian into English.



### ***Partner support and collaboration***

Possible national partners of the Data Bank are:

- » Sociological Association of Ukraine and Ukrainian Marketing Association: They could encourage their members to transmit sociological data to the Data Bank and could organize discussions on the Data Bank development strategy among experts.
- » Key universities (particularly, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University, Odessa National University): They are interested in getting access to relevant and up-to-date sociological data for their students and their academic staff.
- » The Institute of Sociology of the Ukraine National Academy of Science: It is interested in using the data Data Bank materials for academic research work.
- » Main polling companies (particularly, Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, SOCIS, TNS, Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Yaremenko Ukrainian Institute for Social Research): Those companies are the main potential data depositors, who can transfer the data from their surveys to the Data Bank.
- » The International Renaissance Foundation who sponsored the Data Bank creation.

## Planning for the data service

### ***Activities which are already undertaken***

#### **Organisation and internal structure**

- » The Data Bank already has a host institution and funding institution. The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy gives space for Data Bank, KIIS pay to staff;
- » The Data Bank has a web-site (<http://ukraine.survey-archive.com/>), institutional brand and logo;
- » At the current time the Data Bank keeps data from over 200 sociological surveys and public opinion polls conducted by Ukrainian polling companies (KIIS, SOCIS, Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and other) since 1991 till present;
- » The Data Bank main services are: data recovery and long-term preservation; online cataloging and classification of archived data; registering users and providing access to data for secondary analysis; user support for data search and use. In almost two years of operation we provided access to data and support for over 150 users from Ukraine and other countries (USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Spain, Poland, Russia, and others).



### **Human resources**

- » The current staffing includes a manager (who performs the tasks of manager and data specialist), academic adviser (who also serves as a data service director and manager on a voluntary basis) and freelance IT specialist.

### **Policies, quality control procedures and workflows**

- » Established data policies and written protocols for data management and access.

### **Technical infrastructure**

- » The Data Bank has hardware (notebook computers) and rents a server;
- » The Data Bank has software for storing and retrieving data developed specifically for this databank by local experts;
- » The Data Bank has some necessary software for statistical analysis (SPSS) and publishing data on the web.

### **Activity report, outreach and promotion**

- » The Data Bank maintains a database of users and monitors the Data Bank performance (basic indicators are: number of depositors, number of deposited surveys, number of requests and registered users, number of requests from abroad and from non-academic circles);
- » The Data Bank conducts promotional activities (presentations at press-conferences, publishing information on the web, holding negotiations with the research community and possible partners).

### **Networking and internal and external communications**

- » The Data Bank is trying to carry out internal and external communications on an ongoing basis;
- » We are interested in participation in relevant international conferences and workshops.

### ***Further steps and resources required***

For the further development of the Data Bank services we plan to:

- » improve the Data Bank software: if it is possible, then purchase the software that CESSDA uses;
- » create fully-fledged English-language version, which involves English interface for the site and translating all survey materials (field questionnaires, labels in data sets, technical reports and other documentation) into English;



- » increase the number of deposited surveys and number of depositors;
- » join CESSDA and participate in CESSDA projects and activities.

In order to reach the goals the Data Bank needs both financial and human resources. To obtain financing the Data Bank applied grant proposals to the International Renaissance Foundation in 2016 and 2017. We applied to receive financing (10,000 dollars) for translation of Data Bank survey materials (field questionnaires, labels in data sets, technical reports and other documentation) into English, but those applications were not funded. Currently the Data Bank seeks support of national or international partners in the form of financing, consulting, or division of efforts and responsibilities.



**The Ukraine National Data Bank of Sociological Data  
"Kyiv archive" (Data Bank)**

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CESSDA SAW



*Disclaimer: This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 674939.*

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