From a research policy perspective, national data services provide a number of benefits to scientific communities that justify the needed investment.

Long-term access
To ensure wider and more effective use of existing data, respecting FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles

More efficient use of public finances
Publicly funded data are further exploited by secondary users for new insights and scientific contributions

Stronger research practice and quality
By rendering research more transparent and open for replicability

Funding and publication in journals
Increasingly a requirement that data be deposited in archives/repositories

Added value of secondary research
Secondary data brings value to university lecturers and students, as well as to society and business
Who are we?

The Serbian Data Center in Social Sciences (SER-DAC) is an organisational unit of the Institute of Economic Sciences (IES) in Belgrade, which is a scientific and research institution. SER-DAC was formally established in March 2014, however it is still in an infant phase, supported from 2012 by international funds through projects such as SEEDS and CESSDA SaW. Currently SER-DAC can preserve and disseminate all types of data, both quantitative and qualitative, through:

- FORS data portal SEEDSbase (https://seedsdata.unil.ch/)
- Dataverse platform (http://dataverse-serbia.ien.bg.ac.rs/dataverse.xhtml).

Our mission

Our mission is to support high-quality research, teaching and learning in the social sciences by managing data, developing digital resources and by promoting these resources for wider and effective reuse.

What do we do?

The main activities of SER-DAC are:

- To collect, validate and convert data, create metadata, store and distribute data;
- Improve the quality and safety of using of data management and preservation;
- Design and implement new database software;
- Permanently monitor compliance with international standards in the field of data management and preservation;
- Customer support for both data users and data providers;
- Provide services to third parties and user trainings;
- Develop and maintain the web portal.

What kind of data do we have?

SER-DAC collects data and information across a range of social science disciplines: economics, education, employment and labour, environment, conservation and land use, health, history, industry and management, law, crime and legal systems, media, communication and language, political science, psychology, sociology, society and culture, social welfare policy and systems.

This includes quantitative and qualitative data that fulfill certain conditions, such as providing evidence and a greater understanding of Serbian society, involving Serbian researchers, comparative or continuous research (panel data, longitudinal surveys, and time series that allow examination of trends), etc. Time series and panel data are of particular interest.

Who is it for?

Initially, SER-DAC intends to provide services to the academic community, university researchers and teachers, university students (doctoral, master and bachelor), and to researchers from other public institutions (e.g. scientific institutes, government agencies). At a later stage, we intend to expand our services to researchers from other institutions such as NGOs, private research companies, newspapers, business, associations, as well as the general public, policy makers, and journalists.

At this stage of development SER-DAC has a close relationship and support of FFZG from Croatia, FORS from Switzerland, ADP from Slovenia, and CESSDA ERIC.

More information

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