Towards an Italian Service Provider: UniData & CNR

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The Italian context: importance of RI in SSH

STRENGTHS

- Increasing use of secondary analysis (cost reduction)
- Expansion of data production (small, open, and big)
- European and national obligations to share research data (H2020, SIR 2014)
- Spreading of data culture (strong Open Access movement)
The Italian context - 2

WEAKNESSES

No research community support
(lack of common practices, ineffectiveness of legislation)

Fragmentation, heterogeneity and non comparable data

Less attention to research data than publications in national open access policies
It is assumed that social sciences and humanities do not need research infrastructures.

The traditional institutional structure of universities and research centres is unsuitable to carry out these tasks and it is therefore necessary to think for social sciences new and more appropriate research infrastructures.

However, something is changing…
UniData – Bicocca Data Archive: the Italian SSDA

- interdepartmental centre born in 2015 as a joint project coming from **seven departments** of the University of Milano-Bicocca that cover the main scientific disciplines of the SSH domain

- inherits the long work carried out since 1999 by ADPSS-Sociodata

- pursues the creation of an excellence in the **sharing data practices**, promoting the **secondary analysis** and an informed **use of research data**
UniData – Bicocca Data Archive: data archiving

Acquisition
protect data producer (ownership, license)
Encourage the users to reuse the data (easy search and access)

Preservation
safe-keeping of data in a secure environment
preservation in standardized accessible data formats

Documentation
metadata standard (DDI)
variable description

OAIS Model
UniData – Bicocca Data Archive: services

Data curation
- reduction of the long-term threats about the research value
- mitigation of the digital obsolescence risk
- data quality controls
- creation of a valid data documentation (metadata)

Data dissemination
- making data FAIR
- managing data access procedures according to the licenses
- assign a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

Consultancy
- data sources discovery
- planning of sharing survey data
- Data Management Plan
Challenges

- Strengthen the bases of comparative research, data sharing and data dissemination

- Encourage research and promote a collaborative culture in creating research infrastructures and supporting data archives

- Encourage interdisciplinary research within social sciences

- Strengthen the link between research and training in an international comparative context