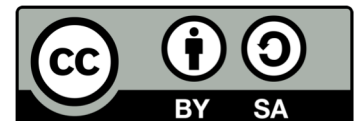# Towards an Italian Service Provider: UniData & CNR

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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)

UNIDATA

The Italian context - 2

WEAKNESSES

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

Fragmentation, **heterogeneity** and **non comparable** data

UI3
UNIDATA

Less attention to research data than publications
in national open access policies

The Italian context - 3

- 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