Development in Social Science Research Infrastructures

Bjørn Henrichsen, director NSD

Strengthening and Widening of the European infrastructure of social science data archives

*Milano, 5th June 2018*
The Data Archive Movement
In this context, I would ask you seriously to consider the possibility of establishing a regional archive of poll and survey material for Western Europe if not for the western world. I think that such archive would provide the best basis for secondary analysis on comparative lines and I think that the research made possible through such archive might eventually serve to influence the ongoing data gathering operation in the direction of increased cross-national comparability. I have not considered in any detailed the practical potentialities and the organizational problem of getting such an archive in operation but I would very much like to submit the idea for discussion in this section.

*IPSA - International Political Science Association
Prof. Stein Rokkan’s Initiative

June 1957: A library center of survey research data

Lucci, York; Rokkan, Stein; and Meyerhoff, Eric.

- Data is available
- The institutes are willing to share
- Can be supplemented with other types of data
- Program for accessing data for the research sector

It has been twenty years since the Lucci and Rokkan report first appeared. In many ways the data archive movement may be said to have begun with its publication. Many ideas presented therein have been built upon by later archivists and scholars.

The problems of preserving, storing and choosing relevant data from this quantity is seen by Rokkan as directly linked to problems of social science utilization.

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Tradition to Cooperate

- The Social Science Data Archives have a long and strong tradition to cooperate
- The Social Sciences have a tradition in building up cross-national data
- The Social Sciences have a culture for sharing data
- The Social Sciences are in this way a forerunner compared to other scientific fields
International Cooperation


7 European Social Science Data Archives + ICPSR, Ann Arbor (1962)

Important Tasks and Objectives

• Open access to data and metadata across national and language boundaries
• Development of tools and methods for effective data transfer and access
1974: IASSIST - International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology

First meeting in Toronto, Canada

Has now members around the World

IASSIST is an international organization of professionals working in and with information technology and data services to support research and teaching in the social sciences.

Its 300 members are from a variety of workplaces, including data archives, statistical agencies, research centers, libraries, academic departments, government departments, and non-profit organizations.

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The digital age has changed social science research

What Will We Achieve?

• More research with more data in less time and at a lower cost
• Combine existing data with new forms of data
• Creates new opportunities for social science research, for example in terms of reusing data that were thought only for answering one research question, expanding their research potential
CESSDA as an Example
Important Milestones for CESSDA

- 1976, Amsterdam: ZA, The Survey Archive, DDA, Steinmetz, BASS, NSD, ADPSS
- 1976: IASSIST
- 1974: IFDO
- 2008-2010: EC Preparatory Phase Project
- 2009: Meeting between Germany and Norway
- 2002, ESFRI Roadmap
- 2006, ESFRI Roadmap
- 2008, ESFRI Roadmap 1st Update
- 2011, Steering Committee Agreed on Documents
- 2011, MoU 12 countries
- 2011, ESFRI Roadmap 2nd Update
- 2010, CESSDA ERIC Formal Process
- 2011, MoU 12 countries
- 2011, ESFRI Roadmap 2nd Update
- 2013, MoU 13 countries
- 2014, CESSDA AS Main Office staffed
- June 18th 2013, CESSDA AS as a Legal Institution, First General Assembly Meeting
- Dec. 5th 2013, Formal Opening
- June 14th 2017, CESSDA-ERIC Launch
- 2013, MoU 13 countries
- 2014, CESSDA AS Main Office staffed
- Milano, 5th June 2018
CESSDA; 12 Years on ESFRI Roadmaps

2006: 3 Social Science RIs

2008: 3 Social Science RIs

2010, Strategy Report: 3 Social Science Success Stories

2016, Landmarks: 3 Social Science RIs

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1976: CESSDA as an Umbrella Organisation

Amsterdam 1976

7 Social Science Archives:
- BASS, Belgium (Philippe Laurent)
- DDA, Denmark (Ole Engberg, Per Nielsen)
- Zentralarchiv, Germany (Erwin Scheuch, Ekkehard Mochmann)
- ADPSS, Italy (Guido Martinotti, CESSDA’s first President)
- NSD, Norway (Bjørn Henrichsen)
- Steinmetz, the Netherlands (Cees Middendorp)
- The Survey Archive, United Kingdom (Ivor Crewe, Eric Tannenbaum)

Professor Stein Rokkan:
Memo to CESSDA “Inaugural Meeting” in Amsterdam

Our basic philosophy is very simple: we do not believe the archival movement in Europe will get anywhere unless there is a real break with the tradition that archives are simply to store, clean and reformat separate datasets. The future lies with active reorganisation of data: linkage across data files, build-up of time series set, preparation of handy packages for use in the class room, integration of package with better computer routines for graphic display, cartography, visual model-to-data fitting.»

May 31 – June 1, 1976
1976: CESSDA as an Umbrella Organisation

In agreement with its constitutional objective, CESSDA started to:

- facilitate the exchange of data and technology among data organizations
- support the development of new organizations
- promote the acquisition, archiving and distribution of data throughout Europe
- promote projects and procedures for enhancing exchange of data and technologies among data organizations
- stimulate the development and the use of these procedures throughout Europe
- encourage new data organizations to further these objectives
- promote the integration of the European database
- associate and cooperate with other international organizations sharing similar objectives
2010: CESSDA ERIC Formal Process

MoU for CESSDA-ERIC

The objective is to establish a distributed European research infrastructure called the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, with legal personality and full legal capacity, with the legal status of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

In each of the countries taking part in CESSDA-ERIC there shall be a Service Provider capable of delivering services from the country to CESSDA-ERIC, and also capable of functioning vis-à-vis the scientific community in each country.

The statutory seat will be in Bergen, Norway, while Germany will take responsibility for important tasks.

Other partners are also invited to take on important tasks according to their contribution.

CESSDA Steering Committee

- One member and one expert from each country that have signed the MoU
- One observer and one expert from each country that have a intention of signing the MoU
- One observer from the European Commission
- CESSDA President as observer
- Chair: Bjørn Henrichsen
CESSDA Established as Legal Entity

The Official Launch – 5 December 2013

Dag Rune Olsen, Rector, University of Bergen
Beatrix Viertlroeder, Chair (til October 2013), ESFRI and Deputy Director General, Large Research Infrastructures, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
State Secretary Bjørn Haugstad, Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research
Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

The Official Launch – 14 June 2017

CESSDA AS

CESSDA ERIC

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Now: CESSDA ERIC
CESSDA ERIC: Key Benefits

- More resources to more European countries in a cost effective way
- Involvement of organisations beyond Europe
- Cross-European resource discovery
- Improved quality of data and metadata
- A wider selection of comparable data
- Certification of data archiving organisations
- Professional training for data archivists
- Improved mechanisms for data dissemination and analysis

The key benefit of CESSDA ERIC is to maximise the ability of social sciences, humanities and other research fields to access data resources necessary to conduct high quality research, teaching and learning, irrespective of the location of either the individual or data.
CESSDA ERIC: Looking Forward

2018 Work Plan

• yearly work plans
• a number of tasks
• led by one Service Provider
• involves a number of other Service Providers

• Enhanced Data Management Training
• DataverseEU 2018
• Implementing the CESSDA Persistent Identifier Policy
• Euro Question Bank 2018
• Trust 2018
• Data Catalogue
• Technical Framework 2018
• Vocabulary Services Multilingual Content Management
• CESSDA Widening Activities 2018
What can CESSDA Expect?

ESFRI will:

• monitor all ESFRI Projects;

• provide guidance to them to move towards full implementation;

• periodically review the ESFRI Landmarks to follow the progress in the lifecycle of the infrastructure;

• when needed, specific suggestions for improvement or remedy of weaknesses will be given.

Landmarks that will fail to maintain the expected standard after a specific assessment may eventually leave the roadmap.
Need for an Infrastructural System
Infrastructural System

What is Needed?

• National funding for the local activities and for formal linking up with the international institutions

• It means a strong local organisation and support from research councils and ministries

• International funding to secure synergies between the different research infrastructures.

• Concentrate efforts and funding on making the present institutions sustainable and make sure that they can deliver to their full potential

• Build bridges between infrastructures in Social Sciences, Humanities, Health Science and Environmental Sciences. These linkages will be crucial in the years to come.
Infrastructural Synergies

establish synergies in a cost effective way

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Infrastructural System

TO DAY

BMS

SSH

ENV

PSE

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Infrastructural System

TOMORROW
Infrastructural System

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
Thank you!