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(RE)DEVELOPING NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE SERVICE: LATVIA

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"Strengthening and Widening of the European infrastructure of social science data archives"
CESSDA ERIC WIDENING MEETING - 2018.06.05.-06., Milan, Italy

Publications on subject

'LATVIA (Deliverable 3.2 - Country Report on Development Potentials)'. CESSDA Strengthening and Widening. 2017, by Ilze Lāce.

'Latvian National Data Service Plan (Prepared for CESSDA SaW Project by Team of Latvian Sociological Association Members)'. Rīga, Latvija, 2017, by Daugavietis, Jānis, Baiba Bela, Ilze Lāce, and Miķelis Grīviņš (https://www.facebook.com/LatSocAsoc/; http://sociologija.lv)

My background

Education at University of Latvia (sociology)

Worked at:

> The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute (ASPRI), Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Latvia
> The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

Currently:

> Researcher, Department of Theatre, Music and Cinema Art, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art - University of Latvia
> Member of the Board of Latvian Sociological Association

Academic fields: sociology of music, cultural policy, online surveys, DH

Latvia's context

Bigger than Netherlands and Slovenia altogether, but population is under 2 mlj.

Social sciences - in deep crisis.
(because of economic and socio-demographic factors), socialist time legacy still not overcome

The University of Latvia - biggest in country and leading in social sciences.
(14 000 students, 13 faculties and over 20 research institutes and independent study centres)
[prof. Jānis Ikstens, vice-rector of social and legal sciences is here]

QS World University Rankings 2018 - The University of Latvia (nr. 701-50),
University of Tartu (314), Vilnius and Tallinn universities above too.

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D, 2016 (%, relative to GDP) - last in EU.
Higher education sector - 4th from below.

Past experience: Archive 1996-...~2006

The Latvian Social Sciences Data Archive (LSSDA), founded in 1996 and hosted by the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of Latvian Academy of Sciences Mostly voluntary work by prof. Aivars Tabuns and Ausma Tabune. *Nesstar*, ~15 data sets, mostly ISSP.

> *"[...] unsustainable funding, human resources policy and changes of institutional affiliation [...] several unsuccessful attempts to include LSSDA activities in national and international research and infrastructure project proposals [...]"* (2017 CESSDA SaW report)

Unsuccessful in convincing science administrations, leadership of university and faculty, and community.

Possible loss of LSSDA data.

Sociological Association activities: 2016...

12.02.2016 Open discussion on the accessibility of publicly funded research data in the social sciences in Latvia.

02.06.2016 Informal meeting between Max Petzold (Director of the SND).

18.08.2016 Discussion on archiving of social science data with officials of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia.

23.05.2017 Discussion on archiving social science data with the leading stakeholders from academic and public institutions.

14.06.2017 Consultations and advocacy for interests of social science community with the State Chancellery.

2017 Attendance of CESSDA SaW meetings.

2017 National Development Plan.

Status Quo

Community of social scientists - supportive, but inactive.

Administration of University of Latvia and the Department of Ministry of Education and Science - slow / not supporting.
(different priorities / own projects and understandings)

Legal framework - too "indifferent".

Data sharing culture - informal and unregulated.

No pressure on academic community from the outside the country - due to the minimal involvement in EU level projects.

What could foster the process?

Stricter local legal requirements for dissemination of publicly funded research data.

Personal interest of scientists, research teams and universities.

More intense involvement in international academic research.

Influence of EC 'Recommendation on access to and preservation of Scientific Information'.

Future plans, 1

Collect some old data voluntary/ DIY way - depositing in Zenodo [https://zenodo.org/communities/lszda]. ...or NADA?

Continuing to lobbying the ministries.
(Ministry of Welfare case)

More contacts with other disciplines, e.g. public health, geography...
And w/ H.

Future plans, 2

Consultations and coordination with national CLARIN. … ESS ERIC, SHARE.

… 'old partners' University of Latvia, Latvian National Library.

… NGO's, professionals, citizen scientists.

Joining forces with Estonian and Lithuanian Archives?
(meta-Baltic archive?)

Participate in projects; write a project proposals…

http://sociologija.lv

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