

A European Research Infrastructure for Social Science and Humanities Data

Developments in cross-European data sharing

The CESSDA ERIC: a new legal entity to promote access to European SSH data

- Central co-ordinating body for SSH data resources
- Governance Structure
- Sustainable funding
- Contractual agreements with service providers

- In 2007, 20 members jointly held over 25000 datasets

CESSDA mission

To provide a comprehensive integrated social science data research infrastructure of the highest quality across the European Research Area.

Work Topics

- Controlled vocabularies & thesaurus
- Architecture for the CESSDA portal
- Strengthening existing organisation
- Widening membership
- Data harmonisation
- Improving availability of data
- Consideration of e-social science and GRID technologies
- Building prototypes

ERIC – centre of excellence

Benefits for member organisations:

- Certification/auditing
- Professionalization
 - Training
 - Knowledge Transfer
 - Mobility
- Standards development
- Middleware tools

Benefits for researchers:

- Integrated resource discovery tools
 - Multilingual searching
- Integrated common Authentication & Access
 - Single sign-on
 - Single access protocols
- Extensible system
 - nationally & internationally



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Fully integrated data infrastructure

- Achieved by the application of relevant standards:
 - Data management tools for internal use by archives
 - Enhanced data discovery through the CESSDA portal
 - Single sign on and registration
 - Development of standard access agreement/s
 - Seal of approval for data preservation





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Other activity

- Continued development and maintenance of the ELSST multilingual thesaurus
- Development and maintenance of quality data collections (central and virtual) through the identification of gaps/needs and brokering data access agreements
- Providing a lobbying and representative role, with central funders and other key stakeholders





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Progress to date

- Discussions with:
 - European funding agencies, to support national archives and promote data sharing
 - DG Research in support of their policy for sharing EU funded SSH research data and related outputs
 - Eurostat and NSI's about better access to official data, including confidential data



Next steps

Provisional schedule

- CESSDA ERIC established Spring 2009
- 2010-2012 Construction phase
- Goals: consolidation of new organisation, extension of membership, easier access to wider range of data

**For more information about
the CESSDA Research Infrastructure**

<http://www.cessda.org/project/>

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