SERSCIDA

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

OPENING DATA SERVICES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

(21-22 March 2013, Belgrade)

CONFERENCE REPORT

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The international conference "Opening Data Services in Social Sciences" (the Conference) took place on March 21-22 in Belgrade, Serbia, in the frame of the SERSCIDA project.[1]

The Conference was opened by Dr. Žarko Obradović, Minister of Education, Science and Technical Development of the Republic of Serbia. Dr. Jasmin Komić, Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic Srpska and Jasmin Branković, Deputy Minister of the Education and Science of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, were also in attendance at the Conference, giving full support and commitment to the SERSCIDA project from the governmental institutions that they represented. The Conference was attended by 108 participants. The majority of participants were researchers/lecturers from Western Balkan (WB) countries, attending the Conference as spectators, but some of them took a more active role during the sessions' discussion. Twelve representatives of the CESSDA countries participated at the Conference, the majority of them as the Conference speakers. In total, 25 representatives of data infrastructure were present at the Conference, among them 16 from WB countries, mostly representatives of statistical offices, national libraries and university computing centers (which were recognized as important stakeholders in the establishment of data archives).

During the Conference, country assessment reports resulting from previous project activities, were presented by WB SERSCIDA teams' representatives and discussed by the Conference participants. WB SERSCIDA teams proposed, supported by the Conference Participants and based on empirical evidence from reports, the establishment of individual country data services based on a country specific organizational model rather than a regional one. In general, participants at the Conference agreed that the establishment and financing of data services in WB countries should be primarily supported by government institutions, mainly ministries in charge of science. However, there was no full agreement on how WB

[1] This report represents deliverable D3.1 of Work Package 3 (WP3), "Policy dialogue and conference on establishment of social science digital data archives in the region", specified in Annex I of the Grant Agreement. It presents the international conference, "Opening Data Services in Social Sciences" (the Conference) that was organized in line with the work plan of the SERSCIDA project, as milestone 3 (MS3), "Successful conference", within activity T3.2 of WP3.

countries should go about motivating researchers to share their data. The most discussed topic at the Conference was data security issues, more specifically, controlled access to sensitive data, remote access and confidentiality and appropriate use of micro-data.

Based upon the discussion's findings and conclusions, several recommendations for further steps in data services establishment were made:

- SERSCIDA WB teams in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina should clearly identify institutions that will provide infrastructure for the development of data services and specify an organizational model.
- Along with selecting institutions to take a role in providing data service infrastructure, people who will potentially be employed by the newly established data services should be selected by WB SERSCIDA teams in all three countries to attend the training sessions that will be delivered by CESSDA partners in Work Package 4.
- As findings have shown that there is a substantial lack of knowledge surrounding data documentation and preservation by social science researchers, training sessions should be designed to cover these issues as well as confidentiality, appropriate use of micro-data and remote access to data.
- WB SERSCIDA teams should consider, with representatives of relevant government institutions, the most efficient mechanism for secure data sharing by researchers in social sciences. As there is no general guideline on this issue agreed by the Conference participants, it should be solved in country specific manner.
- In order to motivate government institutions to provide financing for data services, WB country teams should demonstrate the economic and scientific benefits of data services through the establishment of a system to monitor the number of data downloads, papers based on data downloaded etc.

2. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. Conference objectives

The international conference “Opening Data Services in Social Sciences” was organized in line with the work plan of the SERSCIDA project, as MS3 “Successful conference” within activity T3.2 of WP3 “Policy dialogue and conference on establishment of social science digital data archives in the region”, as specified in Annex I of the Grant Agreement. The program and objectives of the Conference mainly followed the general objectives of WP3, stated as follows:

- Establishment of basic network of relevant stakeholders (data users, data producers, research financing institutions, CESSDA members);
- Exchange of knowledge and transfer of experiences between members of CESSDA and potential actors from the Western Balkan countries in establishing data archives;
- Reaching agreement on setting up social science digital data archives in WB countries involved;
- Open access of policy and decision makers in WB countries;

In addition, results of the activities from WP2 (mapping the existing potentials for DDA establishment) and preparatory activities from T3.1 in WP3 (round tables and meetings with policy makers) were also taken into consideration in the construction of the program and objectives of the Conference. The main objectives of the Conference were defined as follows:

- Offer presentations on the models of data services, benefits of data services for government, researchers and academic institutions and share plans for the development of new data services in the project partner region;
- Promote the exchange of ideas and experiences among existing data services in Europe and those that are being developed in project partner countries;
- Help strengthen the network between data services, government institutions and experts in the project partner countries.

2.2. Topics discussed

Using the main Conference objectives as a starting point, through a series of Skype meetings between SERSCIDA project partners, conference sessions were decided and speakers and participants selected. The topics of the sessions were as follows:

- Country Assessment Reports: policy, infrastructure and researchers' interest in data service;
- Data Services: examples from CESSDA countries;
- Benefits of Data Services for Researchers and
- The Region and Open Access.

The first session of the Conference was concerned with presentations on research of mapping potential in WB countries for the establishment of digital data services in the social sciences, in order to inform the wider community of stakeholders about the current position and further plans for the development of new data services in the WB region.

The second session consisted of presentations on examples of data services from CESSDA countries including the Slovene Social Science Data Archives, the United Kingdom Data Archive and the Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences.

The third session gave direct examples of the benefits of data archives for research and educational activities of the research community in the social sciences, through the personal experience of speakers illustrated with practical examples.

The fourth session dealt with the open access initiative, where WB country representatives gave snapshots on the current state of open access in WB countries.

The topics discussed in sessions were fully compatible with the requirements of the first two Conference objectives. The third objective was reached with the selection of Conference participants, mostly based on the results of WP2 and T3.1 activity, to ensure representation

from the most relevant policy makers and data infrastructures, as well as individual experts and the wider research community in social sciences in WB countries as a base for networking and ideas exchanging between stakeholders.

2.3 Expected and actual results

Comparison of the expected and actual results of the Conference shows that actual output fully covered the expectations stated in the SERSCIDA work plan, as explained in more detail further in the text. According to the Description of Work, Annex I of the Grant Agreement, several outcomes were expected:

- The conference will first present results of the analysis conducted (see WP2) on existing potentials for establishing social science digital data archives, as well as to discuss possibilities and models for establishment of such archives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia, either as three separate archives or one regional archive.

During the first session, representatives of the WB SERSCIDA research teams described the existing environment for the establishment of social science digital data archives in the form of comparative analysis of empirical evidence of research from previous activities, focusing on issues such as researchers' interest in data services, existing infrastructure for data services in WB countries and regional data policies and funding opportunities which emphasized the important differences and similarities among WB countries when considering the establishment of data services. The main conclusion seemed to be that the idea of a regional data archive/service should be abandoned and it would be better to establish separate data archives/services.

- The conference will include all stakeholders, including representatives of competent ministries (from each of the three WB countries involved), possible financing institutions (both governmental and non-governmental institutions), universities (public and private), researchers (as data users and data producers), statistical offices

(as data providers), CESSDA institutions and all other stakeholders identified during the process of mapping potentials.

Table showing the breakdown of the participants of the Conference

	Serbia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	CESSDA	Total
Research and academia	28	11	19	3	61
Data infrustructure (including statistical offices)	5	4	7	9	25
Policymakers	4	2	1		7
Other stakeholders (nongovernmental organizations, media, public entities…)	11	3	1		15
Total	48	20	28	12	108

The table above shows that the participants in attendance match the expectations given in the work plan about stakeholder representation. Among the policymakers, the Minister of Education, Science and Technical Development of the Republic of Serbia, the Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic Srpska and the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina were present at the Conference; giving speeches of support to the establishment of Data Archives (see section 3, plenary session). The Conference was attended by 108 participants. The majority of participants were researchers/lecturers from Western Balkan (WB) countries, attending the Conference as spectators but some of them took a more active role during the sessions' discussion. Twelve representatives of CESSDA countries participated at the Conference, the majority of them as the Conference speakers. In total, 25 representatives of data infrastructure were present at the Conference, including 16 from WB countries, mostly representatives from statistical offices, national libraries and university computing centers (which were recognized as important stakeholders in the establishment of data archives).

- The main result expected from this conference is general agreement between relevant stakeholders on establishment of social science digital data archives, as well as definition of next steps (general action plan) to undertake in each country – B&H, Serbia, and Croatia. These findings should be included in conference report and used

afterwards as a tool and guide for further processes and procedures for establishment of the archives in the region.

The diversity of topics discussed and the expertise of the speakers allowed for discussion on the multiple issues which affect the work of digital services. In the first session, representatives of WB countries presented their own views of the future development of digital data services, which were not significantly challenged during the discussion and thus gained support from the other stakeholders. In the session concerned with examples of CESSDA data services, a broad picture was given on the current challenges faced by such institutions that will probably also affect the establishment of DDA in WB countries and thus should be taken into account in the action plan. The third session presented a variety of possibilities of how DDA can benefit researchers and lecturers in their work as an argument to raise awareness among researchers about the significance of DDA and to motivate them to share their data. The final session presented the current level of implementation of the Open Access initiative as a part of a wider framework which needs to be taken into account upon the establishment of a data service. The initial propositions of WB country representatives were eventually accomplished with important findings from the other sessions. The main findings and conclusions from the sessions are provided in section 4.

3. SESSION REPORTS

3.1 Plenary Session

Moderator: Lejla Somun-Krupalija, Sarajevo University of Sarajevo, Human Rights Centre

Rapporteur: Hilary Beedham, University of Essex, United Kingdom Data Archives

Dr. Dejan Eric, director, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

Dr. Eric opened the Conference by welcoming all the attendees, particularly mentioning his pleasure in hosting visitors from other West Balkan States and from established European archives in Slovenia, Switzerland, the UK and Sweden. He went on to emphasise the importance of the conference for the strategic development of free-flowing information in the region and noted that the open design of the logo reflects the openness of mind and spirit and the freedom to express ideas which are goals for the SERSCIDA project.

Dr. Eric noted the importance of the conference for IEN, the only institution in the field, and that the Conference coincided with the Institute's 55th anniversary celebrations. He went on to describe his excitement at the project plans, wishing it success in the achievement of its aims, particularly in meeting gaps in access to data.

Finally, Dr. Eric welcomed the next speakers and the researchers and students in the audience from partner States, exhorting them all to publish and share their research outputs for the benefit and enrichment of social science research across the region.

Dr. Žarko Obradovic, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia

Dr. Obradovic was honoured to be able to address conference participants on behalf of the Serbian government and thanked both attendees and the organisers for their participation, saying that Serbia is keen to work collaboratively in support of the project. He first observed that the social sciences have tended to be late in developing data exchange mechanisms and summarised his country's participation in European Union research activities, for example, in

10 EU-funded projects. Dr. Obradovic emphasised the importance of compliance with EU standards in social science and research as a means to develop the social sciences, to support the continued exploration of social processes, to seek new solutions and ideas to meet new challenges and to aid the education of youth and define new morals for social organisation. **He highlighted the need for databases to supply information in order to help solve regional problems and encourage international co-operation and assured the audience that the Ministry fully supports the project and its goals.**

Dr. Jasmin Komic, Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic Srpska

Representing Bosnia-Herzegovina, Minister Komic also began by welcoming the attendees and went on to highlight the benefits of safeguarding data. Speaking from personal experience as a statistician, Minister Komic discussed the problems facing researchers in the region who wish to access data and expressed the hope that through technical development and co-operation between countries, data access will improve and valuable data will be safeguarded for future use. **The Minister went on to say that everyday decisions rely on adequate, timely, complete and accessible data and that participation in collaborative EU projects such as SERSCIDA is important to activate all those who need to be involved in the development of data services in the region.**

Jasmin Brankovic, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Education and Science, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Brankovic expressed his pleasure at being able to attend this important event in support of the work of the project team. His Ministry has been aware of the importance of data archives for many years and, during the last three years, has supported local attempts to develop them. This project will help to move these intentions in the right direction by improving the quality of data and promoting the work at government level.

Like Minister Komic, Mr. Brankovic has personal, professional experience of the importance of having easy access to data and, having ten years of experience of archiving, recognises the

importance of having accessible data for research. He noted that due to technological developments, remote access mechanisms mean that it is no longer necessary to be physically present in an archive to have access to a database. **In conclusion, Minister Brankovic reiterated the need for support for initiatives such as SERSCIDA to support access to quality data across the region.**

Fifth Speaker: Sasa Madacki, Director, University of Sarajevo, Human Rights Centre

Mr. Sasa Madacki offered a few words of explanation about the SERSCIDA project which is being co-ordinated by the Human Rights Centre at the University of Sarajevo. He first asked why are we talking about data when social scientific data collections are tiny compared with the many petabytes of data collected annually, for example, from telescopes. **The answer is that within the region there is no tradition of data sharing, due, for example, to concerns that re-use of data may result in harmful re-interpretations of original analyses.** The reality is, however, that sharing data not only opens up research to scientific questioning, it is cost effective in removing the need to waste money on duplicating surveys. Consequently, the region needs a strategic plan for the creation of an infrastructure for archiving as a means to ensure open access to data. In conclusion, Mr. Madacki thanked the project partners, in particular those individuals who had successfully prepared the proposal and negotiated the details with the Commission and wished the team continuing success.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Denis Huschka, German Data Forum.

Dr. Huschka expressed his pleasure at being asked to speak at a conference with 'opening data' in its title and that all the Ministerial speakers had expressed their support for the project.

Dr. Hushka began by saying that at a time of rapid social change, access to data is important but then asked why should we share data? Answering his own question, he said that more data are collected now than ever before, that they are often stored on portable devices and that although some of these data are potentially useful for research purposes, some will not

be. The difficulty is that the distinction is not easily made and rich data resources are difficult to find and are often lost. The arguments for preserving data are fourfold:

1. ***Scientific argument.*** The ability to replicate work is a basic requirement for the conduct of scientific work so data need to remain available and are a public good. Some publishers now require the data on which scientific papers are based to be made available for secondary analysis.
2. ***Economic benefits.*** The continued availability of data ensures that maximum benefit is gained from the investment of public money in the collection of those data. Many studies have greater research potential than the originator usually considers and access to such data also prevents the need for reproduction and can provide additional value where combining studies saves the costs of running new surveys.
3. ***Citation.*** Citation of a dataset enhances the reputation of the originators of the study. Similarly, the reputations of National Statistical Institutes can be increased if their data are seen to have wide use through correct citation.
4. ***Sharing.*** Data sharing has a positive impact on society as it enables more analysis and more research leading to better policy decisions and a more prosperous society.

Dr Huscka then discussed means by which data can be shared, pointing first to the need to protect the confidentiality of those who participate in surveys and studies. Data can be aggregated to achieve this but researchers need micro-data and other options have been developed which work within the law and provide both the protection needed for respondents and micro-data access for researchers. Differences exist between organisations and it is important to realise that there is a need for flexibility because it may not be possible for one organisation to meet all needs. In some instances, infrastructures are centralised whilst in others they are decentralised. Dr. Huscka went on to describe the German system where a centralised, umbrella organisation sits above a decentralised system. There are financial savings for this model, for example, metadata can be managed centrally but there are also disadvantages and specialist centres are needed to deal with complex data such as biomarkers. These specialist research data centres, with staff who understand the complexities of the particular data, include staff with the detailed knowledge required to

support researchers who may not be so familiar with the data. These staff also create links between data users and producers.

The German Data Forum (GDF) formulates rules for sharing and accreditation and brings stakeholders together, acting as a clearing house for problems. The GDF has a governmental advisory board and a scientific advisory board which comprises disciplinary experts who have been elected to the board.

Dr. Huscka concluded by identifying some of the future challenges facing the German data infrastructure including: making more quality data available for research; making access easier through fast, transparent and free access from office or home; simplifying metadata standards to make it easier for researchers to share their data; establishing a system for persistent identifiers; long term preservation; data protection, especially in the context of merging data from different sources; synchronising national access mechanisms (research crosses boundaries, why does not data?); and finally, establishing a syntax for archive procedures.

Dr. Žarko Obradovic, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia

Dr. Denis Huschka, German Data Forum

3.2 Session: Country Assessment Reports: policy, infrastructure and researchers' interest in data services

Moderator: Mattias Persson, University of Gothenburg, Swedish National Data Service

Rapporteur: Aleksandar Zdravkovic, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

Dr. Aleksandra Bradic-Martinovic, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade: Researchers' interest in data services

Mrs. Bradic-Martinovic presented research on the practice of gathering, safeguarding and reuse of data collected in the social sciences which was conducted through online questionnaires in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, during June and July, 2012. Her presentation revealed a lot of similar patterns regarding the researchers' activities in data production and archiving in all three countries, as well as in the perception of the significance and benefits of data services for their activities. Very few exceptions include research financing (in B&H international funding dominates while in Serbia and Croatia public funding dominates) and opinion on the usefulness of specialized institutions for data archiving on a national level (almost 50% of examinees in Bosnia do not have opinion as opposed to Serbia and Croatia where positive attitude dominates). The presentation concluded with some general findings that in WB countries researchers store their data, but the data is often very poorly documented and mostly on individual computers with several copies on different computers and media. Generally, a positive attitude of researchers toward readiness to archive their data in a specialized data archive for the social sciences significantly prevailed.

Marijana Glavica, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb: Existing infrastructure for data services in WB countries

Ms. Glavica presented field research of existing infrastructure for data services in WB countries with a twofold purpose: to examine capacities of existing infrastructure for long term data preservation and to inform institutions and individuals about the possibilities of archiving in order to recognize potential cooperatives. The research was conducted as semi-structured interviews, where targeted institutions were asked about their infrastructure for data archiving, the protocols for documentation, investment in staff, development of technical capacities etc. Research encompassed two types of institution: research institutions and institutions dealing with research infrastructure. In Serbia, two institutions were found to have an existing infrastructure for data preservation: the Institute of Social

Sciences and the Institute for Social Research. In Croatia, University of Zagreb University Computer Centre (SRCE) has already developed an infrastructure for data archiving, closely linked with the European infrastructure. In Bosnia, institutions concerned with data archiving are the Human Rights Centre of University of Sarajevo and the Statistical Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Taking into account all three countries, it could be said that, except for SRCE in Croatia, policy and documentation for data archiving do not exist and therefore there is a high probability that data could become neglected. The presentation ended with proposals for country specific models of data services:

- Serbia – three possibilities – using the National Library, the Computer Center of the University of Belgrade or a scientific institution as a central point for data archiving.
- Croatia – through the continuation of development of current services offered by SRCE.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – a satellite model where data collecting is decentralized with three local centers (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar) while data distribution is centralized.

During the discussion, the representative of the National Library of Serbia objected to the proposal of the establishment of a data service under the roof of NLS, as she stated that there is a significant difference between data depositing and the standard deposit activities operated by NLS.

Lejla Somun-Krupalija, Human Rights Centre of University of Sarajevo: Regional data policies and funding opportunities

Ms. Somun-Krupalija began her presentation with a comparative analysis of the legislative framework in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding data archiving. Serbian legislation on this issue was deemed to be very encouraging, taking into account the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development which gives support to the development of databases. Similarly, strategies concerned with scientific development in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia are assessed as satisfactory, regarding the support of the establishment of data services. Regarding the funding, it was pointed out that spending

on science in all three countries relative to gross domestic product is far less than European Union average spending. The presentation was concluded with the observation that governmental institutions do have an interest in supporting the establishment of data services and that possibilities for their financing exist in all three countries.

3.3 Session: Role of CESSDA and Examples of Data Services from the University of Ljubljana, University of Essex and University of Lausanne

Moderator: Brian Kleiner, FORS - Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences

Rapporteur: Aida Hajro i Nina Karać, Human Rights Centre of University of Sarajevo

Data Services Movies (movies)

At the beginning of this session the audience watched “Team Digital Preservation”, two short animated films. The first film presented the process of preserving the data (back up) and assigning metadata in the case of essential information with the example of a weather forecast. The animation shows how to create a thesaurus - a controlled vocabulary which facilitates the correspondence and cooperation between various sectors. Another film presented data protection and methods of possible defense of the so-called "cyber-attack" and viruses as threats to digital documents.

Hans Jørgen Marker, CESSDA President: *Role of CESSDA in SERSCIDA*

In the first part of the presentation Hans Jørgen Marker gave a history of CESSDA from its beginning in 1976. He said that it is a form of framework which gives guidance, knowledge and tools in the field of data preservation. He emphasized that CESSDA has been active in the development of research materials at study level since 1980. Today it is DDI standard. After late 1990 CESSDA started to have EU funded projects. Those projects were very technically focused and successfully acquired funding which enabled further development.

In 2001 it was decided that there was a need to formalize cooperation. After a meeting in Amsterdam an umbrella organization model was developed and CESSDA become central to

infrastructure. Today it is an informal association which gathers 21 European organizations as members (data services or data archives). Some of the objectives of CESSDA are to promote the acquisition, archiving and distribution of data, project promotion, development incentives, encouragement of new institutions to access, promotion of European cooperation databases and similar organizations. CESSDA ERIC-objectives are: an integrated information infrastructure, multilingual search, augmented system (national / international), professionalism (training, development standards) and certification.

Irena Vipavc Brvar i Dr. Janez Stebe, Slovene Social Science Data Archives, University of Ljubljana: ***Data services: an example from the University of Ljubljana***

Dr. Janez Stebe and Ms. Irena Vipavc Brvar presented Arhiv družboslovnih podatkov (Social Science Data Archive) – ADP from Ljubljana, Slovenia and discussed the Slovene experience. After the incentives from the beginning (90-ties) Dr. Stebe talked about the present issues and especially pointed out the need for a robust research data ecosystem, cooperation in easing high quality access to governmental data and the significance of the data publication metaphor. He also explained the position of ADP in the system of international research and cooperation with CESSDA, GESIS, UKDA, SHAPE and other organizations and funds. Ms. Vipavc Brvar presented ADP from the perspective of end users and depositors and explained the archive interface with its properties (viewing and browsing data, online registration, searching, help desk options etc.). She also described the development process of data in the social science digital archive.

Hilary Beedham, UK Data Archive: ***A data service for the future***

The UK Data Archive at the University of Essex provides access to data through the UK Data Service which was recently developed as a unified service for the Economic and Social Data Service, the Secure Data Service, the Census Program, the Survey Resources Network, and others. In the first part of her presentation Hilary presented the working experience of the UKDA during its 45 years of existence. She pointed out that the aim of this institution is to provide flexible access to data, as well as relevant and quality information. To achieve these

objectives the UKDA operates on the principle of data collecting, data preservation, data quality and adequate search mechanisms. A new website has been developed for the UKDS which provides faceted searching. This organization keeps data for a large number of institutions, the most important being the Office of National Statistics, government services of the United Kingdom, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, research institutions, individuals etc. The main services provided by UKDS are: access to government research, controlled access to sensitive data, secure access, a single point of access, and space for downloading data. The main users of the data are researchers. Currently they can use only transcripts as audio materials are not available to users.

Peter Farago, FORS - Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Science

Mr. Farago presented development of FORS and their work noting that this institution does not only archive and preserve data, but also produces it. FORS activities are monitoring social change, publishing in three languages and providing access to micro data for research. Data can be accessed in three languages (Swiss, French and English) and the further idea is to enable a search option in all languages regardless of the language used to conduct the research. FORS donors are the Government of Switzerland, the National Science Foundation and the University of Lausanne. It has 35 members.

3.4 Session: Benefits of data services for researchers

Moderator: Irena Vipavc Brvar, Social Science Data Archive, University of Ljubljana

Rapporteur - Brian Kleiner, FORS - Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences

Dr. Daniela Andren, Orebro University, Sweden: *Working with data in Sweden: A researcher's experience during the last 20 years*

Daniela Andren, from the Department of Economics at Orebro University, Sweden, described her work using secondary data drawn from a variety of sources, such as the Swedish National Data Service (SND), the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (SSIA), and the system

MONA (Micro-data Online Access) from Statistics Sweden. Topics have included: State dependence in social assistance in Sweden during the 1990s; part-time sick leave in Sweden; and the effects of managers' gender for Swedish firms. Her experiences with these various data sources began in 1994. She discussed modes for accessing confidential data, such as the remote access system of Statistics Sweden, where data can be seen and analysed from a remote server rather than being directly sent to researchers. Her key point was that secondary use of the data provided by data services allows for very rich and important analyses, findings, and publications. Finally, Dr. Andren discussed the benefits for researchers of archiving their data at a data service, such as the Swedish National Data Service (SND). These include coding and documentation of data, being able to understand one's own data in the future, and increasing one's visibility by making one's data available to others.

Tony Chapple, United Kingdom Office for National Statistics: *Benefits of data services for researchers* (presented by Hilary Beedham)

The second paper of the session, presented by Hilary Beedham of the UK Data Archive on behalf of the Office of National Statistics of the UK (ONS), described the data of ONS and how these are made available to researchers for secondary analysis. The ONS has released 11,000 datasets to researchers in the past year, and over 2,600 researchers have been "approved" since 2008 to access these data. This means that researchers have participated in a training that covers issues such as confidentiality and appropriate use of micro-data. The results of the research have been shown to have a significant impact on public policy as well as science. Behind this process is an elaborate system of rules and procedures that have been put into place to ensure that the confidentiality of respondents is protected. Ms. Beedham described the data access model that operates to match specific access channels with data of varying levels of disclosure risk. For example, secure/controlled access is used for more detailed, less anonymised data. She discussed the special relationship between ONS and the UKDA, lasting for over 40 years, which may serve as a model for other countries that have national data services for the social sciences. She also addressed the benefits of

making public statistical data available for research purposes, both to the research community and to the public at large.

Dr. Miran Lavric and Dr. Sergej Flere, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor, Slovenia: *The Slovenian Social Science Data Archives (ADP): A user's experience and a sociological reflection*

The last paper of the session was presented by professors Miran Lavric and Sergej Flere, from the University of Maribor, Slovenia. The focus of their presentation was on the value of archive data for both research and teaching. They emphasised that a professional data service is capable of easy access, well-documented, and high-quality data that makes methodology sufficiently transparent for appropriate use. In addition, data services provide support to researchers and teachers about discovering and using data that they hold, and they provide a channel for one's data to be found and cited in journals. Their presentation included several demonstrations of how secondary data can be used to full effect in both teaching and research across a range of topics (e.g., settlement patterns of young people over time, religion, political attitudes). For teaching, data from a data service provides empirical support on many sociological topics and allows grounding of methodological courses in real data. This makes courses more interesting and concrete for students. Dr. Flere provided an historical perspective on the role of data-keeping, and the developing ways of using and analysing data in the region. He concluded with a provocative call to consider establishing a single regional data service.

3.5 Session: The Region and Open Access

Moderator: Marijana Glavica, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

Rapporteur: Mattias Persson, University of Gothenburg, Swedish National Data Service

Keynote speaker on Open Access: Iva Melinscak-Zlodi, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

Ms Melinscak-Zlodi began with an introduction to the term Open Access from the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI, 2002) and the two different approaches to OA: the green and golden road. The green road focuses upon self-archiving and the golden road focuses upon OA-journals. Now, 11 years after BOAI, there are new priorities for OA e.g. requirements from funders to make data OA and a legal framework and promotion of OA. Ms. Melinscak-Zlodi also raised the problem of authors to understand the license of CC-BY and its underlying foundation. To this the OA spectrum also should be included covering everything from copyright to readers' right to use the materials. The material may be free of charge for the reader, but the author may have to pay large amounts to get published in certain "predatory" publications, which is a huge problem today. The incentives to OA for publications which are of crucial importance are the citation impact and public access to publicly funded research. Then she changed the focus to the possibilities and barriers OA could have on research data for example, privacy and data protection concerns as well as researchers first rights to their own collected materials. Another barrier at the moment is that there is no infrastructure for OA research data in all countries. The possibilities include fostering collaboration, avoiding duplication and building new research on previous research results. Both OECD and EU/C have made some recommendations and guidelines when it comes to open access to research data which has been publicly funded, to make it accessible for each "citizen".

Valentina Pelizzer, Oneworld - Platform for Southeast Europe (owpsee), Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms. Pelizzier started by telling the story of Aaron Swartz, a young American internet rights chart advocate, involved in Creative Commons who committed suicide in January 2013, in order to introduce the internet right charts and specific theme – access and participation to knowledge. Ms. Pelizzer continued to talk about open content/access and how Creative Commons helps the individual "author/producer" to protect their work in an OA environment. The license will stipulate how other users could reuse a study and how they will give credit to the creator. She then described an OA project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which maps how different regions had elected women in to the parliament and gave a brief description about their work with the data. It´s of great importance that we have OA to data, so other researchers and citizens can use these.

Alen Vodopijevec, Rudjer Boskovic Institute, and Dr. Jadranka Stojanovski, University of Zadar/Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Croatia: *Open Access in Croatia*

Mr Vodopijevec and Dr. Stojanovski began with a short introduction of the Croatian research community, e.g. 25 000 papers are produced by 11 000 scholars. Mr. Vodopijevec introduced the green and golden road of OA and its role in Croatia. For the green road, the Croatian Scientific Bibliography (CROSBI) includes more than 16 000 papers in full text and, at the moment, there are four repositories in OpenDOAR in Croatia, and two new ones have recently been introduced. Other repositories are the national and university libraries in Croatia. There is international cooperation and infrastructure in Croatia for Open Data. Researchers want to deposit datasets and programs but there are no possibilities to archive it for reuse. However, the Computing Center at University of Zagreb stores public datasets collections and uses a common metadata scheme. This could be a good partner for the SERSCIDA project. Mrs. Stojanoviski described the golden road of OA, and presents HRCAK which today includes 327 journals, of which 15 are new. These journals give access to over 90 000 full text articles. The humanities and social science are the largest subjects in HRCAK. She also promoted the Croatian Open Access Declaration, which is an important step for OA in Croatia for the future.

Biljana Kosanovic, *National Library of Serbia*: *Open Access to scientific information and research concept and policies: Serbia*

Ms Kosanovic began by describing the current status of OA in Serbia, which has been a topic in Serbia for the last 10 years, remarking that the OA journals are excellent and repositories are good. Key national OA projects in Serbia are DOISerbia, legal deposit of publications, thesis and New Library Services at Western Balkan Universities. DOISerbia is repository of 60 local journals which includes 22 000 articles and the NLS has developed and now maintains this repository. The legal deposit of publication focuses on the deposit of digital copies of printed publication, with possibilities of OA. At the moment there are over 10 000 depositions, of which 2 500 are OA. The NLS also tries to cover thesis, although not at national level, about 600 theses are deposited each year. In the future NLS wants to harvest thesis from bachelor to doctoral level at a national level. Belgrade University was the first university in Serbia to sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Scientific Knowledge and the University of Novi Sad will sign it this year. Then Ms. Kosanovic presented the potential barriers of OA in Serbia, for example the lack of knowledge of the benefits of OA by the research community in Serbia and the desire of the government in Serbia for someone else to take the initiative to mandate OA. But, OA could be taught and promoted to researchers and publicly funded research projects could mandate OA. Biljana ended the presentation to show what kind of initiatives that have been taken concerning data, e.g. the Thomson Data Citation Index.

Iva Melinscak-Zlodi, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

Conference Participants

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Most important findings and conclusions

Country Assessment Reports, presented by WB SERSCIDA teams' representatives, provide empirical evidence that in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina researchers do store their data, but often very poorly documented and mostly on individual computers with several copies on different computers and media. Generally, a positive attitude of researchers toward the archival of their data in a specialized data archive for the social sciences significantly prevailed.

There are institutions in all three WB countries concerned with data collecting and archiving; however, with the exception of Zagreb University Computer Centre in Croatia, policy and documentation for data archiving do not exist and therefore there is a high probability that data could become neglected. Regarding the further development of data services in social sciences in WB countries, the idea of regional development of a single data service is rejected as research shows a lack of evidence for eligibility and sustainability of such a solution. Instead, each country team proposed country specific solutions based on research evidence, as follows:

- Serbia – three possibilities – using the National Library, the Computer Center of the University of Belgrade or a scientific institution as a central point for data archiving.
- Croatia – through the continuation of the development of current services offered by the Computer Centre.
- Bosnia – a satellite model where data collecting is decentralized within three local centers (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar) while data distribution is centralized.

There were no objections to the proposal of WB SERSCIDA partners on the establishment of specific country data services rather than a regional one by the Conference participants. However, the representative from the National Library of Serbia objected to a proposal for the establishment of a data service under the roof of NLS, as she stated that there is significant difference between data depositing and standard deposit activities operated by NLS.

The establishment and financing of data services should primarily be provided by governmental institutions, mainly ministries in charge of science, for several reasons:

- The research activities of WP2 identified ministries in charge of science as key policy makers in the field of social sciences research;
- The majority of the research in social sciences in WB countries (with the exception of Bosnia and Herzegovina) is financed by public funds. Thus, the initiative of governmental institutions to make the depositing of research data mandatory should result in the archival of most of the data produced in social science research;
- Representatives of the ministries that participated at the conference (Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic Srpska, Ministry for Education and Science, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) confirmed full commitment and support to the SERSCIDA project and its goals and a readiness to take a more active role in the further realization of the project;
- As spending on science in all three countries relative to gross domestic product is far less than European Union average spending, there is a space for advocating additional budget resources to fund the establishment and operation of data services on a sustainable basis.

Researchers in WB countries do not possess appropriate knowledge on data documentation and preservation, so a proposed data service should employ some permanent staff.

During the conference, several country specific issues relating to data services in CESSDA countries were discussed by representative of CESSDA countries, such as organization and

financing issues. However, the majority of speakers from CESSDA countries emphasized the single issue of data security in general (see. e.g. in session reports Denis Hushka, *keynote speech*; Tony Chapple, *Benefits of data services for researchers*), and, more specifically, controlled access to sensitive data, remote access and confidentiality and the appropriate use of micro-data. Consequently, dealing with data security could be considered as the most important issue that is currently being faced by CESSDA countries.

There is no culture of data sharing among researchers in social sciences, even in CESSDA countries. Unfortunately, there was no full agreement on how WB countries should deal with the issue of motivating researchers to share their data. Opinions vary from mandatory obligation, i.e. that data from all publicly funded research projects must be deposited in an archive, voluntary sharing based on rewarding researchers if their data are cited (e.g. Thompson Data Citation Index) alongside local practice of researchers' work evaluation and using concrete examples of the benefits of data sharing to encourage researchers to share their data. In addition, as researchers can be reluctant to the idea of compulsory data sharing, it is important to consider that any solution will require flexibility in terms of deadlines and the periodical persuasion of researchers to deposit their data by data service staff.

4.2 Recommendations on following steps to undertake in each WB country

Based on the findings and conclusions from the conference, several recommendations on further steps for the establishment of data services can be made:

- SERSCIDA WB teams in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina must clearly identify institutions that will provide an infrastructure for the development of data services and specify a preferred organizational model.
- As well as selecting institutions to take a role in providing data service infrastructure, people who will act as potential staff in the newly established data services should be selected by WB SERSCIDA teams in all three countries to attend the trainings that will be delivered by CESSDA partners in Work Package 4.
- As findings have shown that there is a substantial lack of knowledge surrounding data documentation and preservation by social science researchers, training sessions

should be designed to cover these issues as well as confidentiality, appropriate use of micro-data and remote access to data.

- WB SERSCIDA teams should consider, with representatives of relevant government institutions, the most efficient mechanism to ensure secure data sharing by researchers in social sciences. As there is no general guideline on this issue agreed by the Conference participants, it should be resolved in country specific manner.
- In order to motivate governmental institutions to provide financing for data services, WB country teams should consider the clear arguments for the economic and scientific benefits of data services that could be demonstrated with concrete examples; this could be done through the establishment of a system of monitoring the number of data downloads, papers based on data downloaded etc.