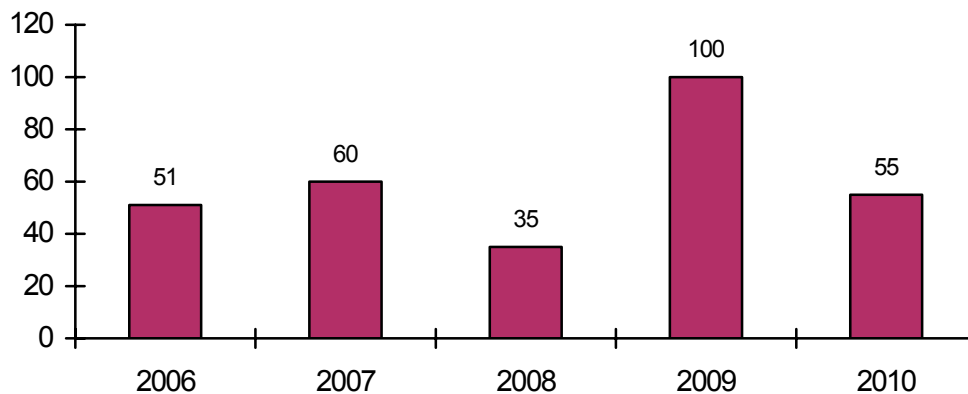# IASSIST Regional Report 2009-2010

European Region

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The report begins with some observations on the IASSIST European membership. This is followed by information on national collaborations and country-by-country reports of national/institutional/individual activities. Here are included reports for those people/organisations/countries/projects which provided information.

European membership 2006-2010 (27 April 2010)

There are currently 55 active European members (based on the IASSIST membership directory, accessed 27 April 2010). The increase in 2009 reflects the fact that the 2009 conference was held in Europe (Tampere, Finland).

Cross European Collaborations

European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)

In the framework of the ESFRI Roadmap there are five social science projects in the preparatory phase for the Establishment of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC): CESSDA-PPP, CLARIN, DARIAH, SHARE-PREP und ESSurvey. According to the latest update of the Roadmap CESSDA-PPP, SHARE-PREP und ESSurvey are already under implementation of ERIC, CLARIN is moving towards implementation in the next two years und the progressing of DARIAH is satisfactorily (source: European strategy forum on research infrastructures. Annual report 2009 http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/esfri/home/annual_report_2009_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none).

CESSDA

Reported by Hans Jorgen Marker

The **CESSDA PPP project** is continuing and nearing its completion. The project has been prolonged to mid 2010. Many important results have been made including a set of draft legal documents for the establishment of a cessdaERIC, which is a legal entity to focus the building and running of the CESSDA research infrastructure. The

negotiations leading to the establishment of a cessda-ERIC has started with Norway and Germany taking the lead in the process. Some meetings have been help between the countries interested in joining.

A new EU-bid "Data without Boundaries" has been produced centred on cooperation between CESSDA and National Statistical Institutes. The application has been favourably evaluated and is likely to enter into negotiations with the EU.

European Language Social Science Thesaurus (ELSST) has been developed over the years by the members of CESSDA. It facilitates access to data resources across Europe, independent of language and vocabulary. ELSST languages are now: English (source), Danish, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish. Browsing is available at: http://elsst.esds.ac.uk/login.aspx

As Kevin Schürer leaves UKDA effective September 2010 he stepped down as CESSDA president at an extraordinary general assembly in March. Hans Jørgen Marker was elected new president leaving a vacancy at the post of secretary for which Adrian Dusa was elected.

CESSDA Expert Seminar

The expert seminar "Towards the CESSDA-ERIC metadata model and DDI3" took place in Slovenia, Ljubljana from November 8th to 11th 2009. The seminar covered the following topics: CESSDA portal and metadata model, question database, harmonisation platform, controlled vocabularies, multilingual thesaurus, DDI 3.
http://www.adp.fdv.uni-lj.si/en/cessda09/index.html

Annual European DDI Users Group Meeting (EDDI)
http://www.iza.org/conference_files/eddi09/2009_12_11_online_program.pdf

The first annual EDDI hosted by the International Data Service Center (IDSC) took place in Bonn (Germany) on December 3 - 4, 2009. EDDI 2009 was jointly organized by the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) and GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences. It focused on DDI as the basis of managing the data life cycle. At the meeting the DDI Editing Framework by the Danish Data Archive was announced.
http://samfund.dda.dk/dditools/default.htm

The East European Data Archive Network (EDAN)

1. The core group of EDAN has been involved in the cessda PPP project as associated partners. In the framework of the work package on widening the existing cessda the involvement of the Eastern European data archives were evaluated and specific recommendations for the inclusion in the process of setting up the cessda ERIC were given.

2. EDAN continued its cooperation project on data documentation: GESIS and ADS (Warsaw) documented the Polish Panel Study on Social Structure (POLPAN) according to DDI:
http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp?object=http://zacat.gesis.org/obj/fCatalog/Catalog66.

European Social Survey (ESS)

In December 2009 the two years project "The European Social Survey Infrastructure Preparatory Phase Project" was successfully completed. This preparatory action brought together key stakeholders from the scientific community and representatives of national research ministries and research councils and the European Science Foundation. Their joint activities included: developing a viable governance structure which will hold for the long-term operation of the ESS ERIC; developing its legal underpinnings and clarifying and securing agreement for the financial model which will support the ERIC activities. One of the results of the work is the progress made in securing member state support for future ESS operations as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). It is anticipated that the ESS will apply for ERIC status in 2010.

National Reports

Finland

Mari Kleemola wrote:

The previous year Finland saw several events related to the collection, preservation and use of research data. One of the major events was of course IASSIST 2009, but the series of conferences and seminars in the field continued throughout the year.

There is a generally growing interest to enhance the accessibility and availability of research data among researchers, universities and funders. The Ministry of Education set up a major project that aims to map and co-ordinate the better utilisation of publicly produced and financed electronic research data. The project is conducted by CSC - IT Center for Science Ltd, and an intermediate report was published on March 2010.

For the Finnish Social Science Data Archive FSD (www.fsd.uta.fi), the year was busy. The number of users continues to grow, and FSD participated actively in the international survey series such as ISSP and EVS and in European projects like CESSDA PPP. FSD is also actively sharing its knowledge and taking part in a number of national digital long-term preservation and access projects. In July 2009, FSD moved to new spacious premises directly connected to the University Campus.

FSD's services expanded, when the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health assigned FSD to launch the Gender Equality Information Service (www.minna.fi) that will focus in gathering, processing and distributing information related to gender equality and gender research. Another major new service is the web guide for research data management (in Finnish); shorter guidelines for data management planning were published in English. FSD also provided data to the new national information service Findicator (www.findikaattori.fi) that was opened in mid-October. It offers up-to-date data on the progress of Finnish society with about 100 indicators describing different areas of life.

Hungary

Zoltán Fabian wrote:

TARKI Data Archive has 800 studies archived. NESSTAR software system has been introduced for creating thematic archive sections (like archive of research on drug use). TARKI Joint Research Centre (which is the operator of the archive) is participated in the national survey and roadmap for research infrastructures initiated by the National Office for Research and Technology. It is the process by which the archive could join to larger infrastructures like the CESSDA-ERIC which will be set up in the upcoming months. The affiliated TARKI Social Research Institute has published a report on child poverty and social exclusion in Europe and across the Member States. http://www.tarki.hu/en/news/2010/items/20100323_en.html

Another recent publication was focusing on "European Inequalities" and its authors analysed various aspects of social inclusion and income distribution in the European Union.
http://www.tarki.hu/en/publications/EI/index.html

Germany

In 2009/2010 GESIS went through some personnel and structural changes. The President, Prof. Hans Rattinger, as left GESIS and an interim President (Prof. York Sure) has been appointed. The data archive department continued its work by providing data services for the community (ALLBUS, EVS, ISSP, Eurobarometer etc.). GESIS became the data archive for the Comparative Study for Electoral systems (CSES) and contributed to the European projects cessdappp, ESSprep, PIREDEU. Within the framework of setting up the cessda ERIC GESIS (together with NSD) took a lead and is continuing the work of the cessdappp.

The "QDDS III" (a tool for documenting survey questionnaires for researchers and data archives (http://www.qdds.org/index.php?id=121) and the new version of the Microdata Informationsystem MISSY went online. MISSY facilitates research based on the German Microcensus providing extensive information about the variables and documentations of the Microcensus Scientific Use Files since 1973. http://www.gesis.org/missy.

Besides there are new projects that were started recently:

a) Programme for the International Assessments of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) PIAAC is a new OECD study that aims to examine and compare the skill levels of adults across countries. PIAAC will be administered simultaneously in 27 countries worldwide. The first results are expected in autumn 2013. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has commissioned GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences to implement the PIAAC study in Germany.

b) Data Registration Agency for Social Science Data (da|ra). In February 2010 GESIS became member of the initiative DataCite and started to set up the DOI registration service for primary data. DOI names are widely used in scientific publishing to cite journal articles. More 98% of all DOI registered are for scholarly articles. The use of DOI names for the citing of data sets makes their provenance trackable and citable and therefore allows interoperability with existing reference services.

In 2010 the Archive is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Greece

Chryssa Kappi wrote:

The archive, as part of EKKE, is at a 'standby' phase until the government plans re: the public sector, are finalised. At the archive we are currently working on a project financed by the State with the purpose of 'mapping' the Greek research community needs for infrastructures. This project was designed as an expediency study before the government decides on its financial support to the ESFRI infrastructures. We are also partners of the DwB (Data without Boundaries) joint proposal of CESSDA and NSIs. There are also a number of other proposals, which are indirectly related to the archive, that have been submitted by EKKE institutes, but there is no news on their outcome, so far. We just completed one of our larger national projects –the Node for Secondary Processing, which was practically the major financing source for the archive Portal. Another development which is worth mentioning is the setting up of a research laboratory –the Laboratory for Monitoring Social Cohesion Policies- run by the Institute of Social Policy at EKKE and managed by myself. This laboratory acts in support of the archive in that it provides the research data and metadata produced at the Institute of Social Policy, while at the same time it functions as an e-repository of Social Policy research products for the relevant academic community and e-training facility for postgraduate students.

The Netherlands

Peter Dorn and Marion Wittenberg wrote:

Jubilee
In 2009 there were a number of anniversaries of the predecessors, which are incorporated in DANS. Steinmetz Archive for the social sciences existed 45 years, the Netherlands Historical Data Archive (NHDA) 20 years, the Scientific Statistical Agency (WSA) 15 years and the Electronic Repository of Dutch Archaeology (EDNA) 5 years.
Data Seal of Approval
In 2009 the responsibility of Data Seal of Approval (www.datasealofapproval.org) was handed over to the Data Seal of Approval Board. This board consists of members belonging to a variety of international Data Archives. The Data Seal of Approval ensures that in the future, research data can still be processed in a high-quality and reliable manner, without this entailing new thresholds, regulations or high costs. The Data Seal of Approval and its quality guidelines may be of interest to research institutions, organizations that archive data and to users of that data. It can be granted to any repository that applies for it via the assessment procedure.
Cost models for data archiving
To have a better understanding of the costs of digital archiving DANS has adopted and adjusted two managerial models, the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) and the Activity Based Costing (ABC) model. Data generated by these models can be combined and used as decision making instruments regarding project specific costs, funding-related decisions, and predicting expenses.
Other disciplines
At the moment DANS is responsible for storing and providing permanent access to research data in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. In 2010 DANS is exploring the prospects to expand to more disciplines.
Qualitative data

Increasingly DANS is involved in the curation of qualitative data. Until the end of 2009, hundreds of eyewitnesses to the Second World War have been interviewed as part of a program of the Dutch Ministry of Health and Welfare. The core collection of interviews will be archived and made available through DANS. Also the core collection of interviews of the Veterans Institute, part of the Dutch Ministry of Defence will be archived by DANS.

Data contracts

To promote data acquisition DANS has negotiated data contracts with funding agencies and research initiators.

- ARVODI. - Common governmental conditions for research projects issued by Ministries
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- Cadastral Register (Topographical Services) became freely available for research purposes.

Projects

DANS was involved in the following projects in 2009 (a selection):

- DARIAH - Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, a 'digital workbench' for arts and humanities scientists in Europe.
- PersId – A European collaboration to establish a persistent identifier infrastructure that unambiguously identifies and locates digital objects.
- OpenAIRE - Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe, an European collaboration to establish a network of open access repositories and tools for researchers to deposit data and publications open-access.
- DCDD – Digital Collaboratory for Cultural Dendrochronology in the Low Countries. Thirty thousand series of measurements and metadata of dendrochronological studies will be contained in the database that DANS is building for this project.
- DISS - Data Infrastructure for the Social Sciences, a collaboration between DANS, Statistics Netherlands (CBS), The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), the Netherlands institute for social research (SCP) and universities to improve the data infrastructure for the social sciences in the Netherlands.
- Alfalab – a project of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), which applies and promotes use of digital tools and methods in humanities research, and fosters cooperation of humanities researchers at national and international levels.
- A number of 'Small Data Projects', aimed at describing important data sets, feasibility studies, pilots and explorations in the area of new ways of archiving research data or making them accessible.

DANS will focus on those services that are shared by several disciplines or user communities, such as: data quality criteria (Data Seal of Approval), selection criteria for digital preservation, persistent identifiers, licenses for data deposit and use, authorisation and authentication, etc. In 2010 DANS will develop this vision into a new strategy. Moreover, DANS also aims to expand its work in the linkage of data sets, e-publications and research information.

Romania

Adrian Dusa wrote:

The major news is that finally the National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS) has approved *RODA*'s application of becoming a NII - National Interest Installation. There are no more than 19 such installations in Romania, and RODA is about to become number 20. Actually, RODA it is no clear how many of the initial organsiations will survive the re-evaluation, but the fact is that RODA has been positively evaluated.

Next step is for ANCS to prepare a Government Decision proposal to be signed by various ministries (especially Ministry of Finance, but also the Prime- Minister and possibly the President if international treaties are involved - this is the procedure), all of this taking an estimated duration of three months. RODA is expecting to get funding in the 4th quarter, and full engines from the start of the next year. Way to go!

Other than that, given my new position in the CESSDA Executive Board, probably means that RODA has extended its activity in the European landscape. We have many development plans, including some open-source tools that are to be funded from the money we will receive via the NII list.

Sweden

Hans Jørgen Marker wrote

The time from last IASSIST has been a period of growth in staff and activities for the Swedish National Data Service (SND) http://www.ssd.gu.se. SND administers the Swedish stipends for participation in the ICPSR summer school. Seven young Swedish researchers received stipends in June 2009.

SND inaugurated its new web-pages in July 2009. Hans Jørgen Marker became new director for SND in September 2009. In November 2009 there was the kickoff for a project about open access to research data within arts and humanities. The project is conducted by four university archives and SND. During the year SND participated in a working group analysing the possibility of making integrated analyses on register data from SCB, the Swedish NSI, and Socialstyrelsen, the health authorities. A proposed technology would be a federated data bases as the person identifiable data are not generally allowed to move out of the authority where they are held. Other technical solutions are also being explored.

Switzerland

Brian Kleiner wrote:

For the Data and Research Information Services (DARIS, http://www2.unil.ch/daris/?lang=en) unit at FORS (Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences), 2009 was a year of planning, development, and innovation. We laid the groundwork for a smoother workflow, including eventual publication of most of our archived data to the Nesstar server. Leading a FORS effort, "Daris" took the first steps in 2009 towards developing a question databank, which would include question and variable level information for all FORS produced or distributed data. We also moved closer in 2009 toward the archiving of qualitative research data, and are now positioned to serve as a national resource center for qualitative research.

Our inventory of social science research project descriptions grew to 8,500 in 2009, and we concluded data sharing agreements with a number of partner institutions within Switzerland.

With the aim of engaging researchers and attracting interest in secondary analysis and research information, "Daris" at FORS set into motion a programme of promotional activities on several fronts, including presentations at universities and quarterly bulletins to Swiss researchers in the social sciences. In addition, we conducted a brief national online survey of over 4,000 social science researchers in Switzerland, with the general purpose of gauging researchers' usual practices and data needs.

We also stepped up our international collaborations and worked on several CESSDA-based projects.

UK

Libby Bishop wrote:

Professor Kevin Schürer, Director of the UK Data Archive and ESDS will stand down from his post at the University of Essex in August this year. He will be taking an appointment at the University of Leicester as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research and Enterprise. Kevin will be replaced by Dr Matthew Woollard, currently Associate Director and head of Digital Preservation and Systems.

Selected project updates (UK Data Archive or ESDS have been involved):
Keeping Research Data Safe 2 – a report on understanding the costs of digital preservation throughout the data life cycle. Contains detailed cost and impact analysis of UKDA preservation activities.
Secure Data Service – funded to expand from pilot to full service to provide safe and secure remote access to data too sensitive or disclosive for standard licensing. Currently undergoing ISO based audit.
Survey Resources Network – promoting best practice in survey design, including the development of the Survey Question Bank.

Selected events at the UK Data Archive:
The number of datasets delivered to users exceeded 50,000 for the first time.
Federated Access Management (shibboleth) has replaced Athens for user authentication.

The Research Data Management and Support Services team received two grants to work on bespoke data management support and training.

Initial meeting of newly launched DDI Qualitative Data Working Group.

The CEESDA PPP will finish in mid-2010. The UK Data Archive is looking forward to participating in the next phase, CESSDA-ERIC (see details above).

The Timescapes Archive, a new resource of qualitative longitudinal data on personal lives, was launched in October 2009.