IFDO Survey on Research Funders’ Data Policies

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The Context is Changing

A common understanding internationally that data is a key element of a functioning research infrastructure

A common recognition that research contributions and returns of public investments are limited

A growing acknowledgement that existing access mechanisms and solutions do not work

An increasing political will to use strong incentives; changing legislation and establishing new funding schemes to support and enforce data access and data sharing
IFDO Survey on Research Funders’ Data Policies

- Country-by-country information on current institutional research data policies
- Main focus on formal data policies
- Existence, contents and quality of data sharing requirements
- Type of linkage to funding
IFDO Survey on Research Funders’ Data Policies

- From May 2012 to January 2013, survey invitations were sent to potential respondents from 90 different countries.
- As of March 2013, 45 individuals from 33 countries have completed the survey.
- Though most participating countries are represented by one respondent, 10 have multiple respondents.
1. Introduction
2. Why Data sharing and why Data Policies?
   2.1 Challenges to data creation
   2.2 Data sharing and trust
   2.3 International data policy initiatives
   2.4 Examples of research funders policies
3. Survey Findings
4. Conclusions
Initiatives Assessed in the IFDO-Report
**Table 1: summary of challenges and recommendations from the OECD Global Science Forum Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Main actors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reliability, statistical validity and generalizability of new forms of digital data</td>
<td>Collaborate internationally to provide resources (methods and tools) for researchers</td>
<td>National research funding agencies</td>
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<td>Information about the existence of micro-data and their availability</td>
<td>Data should be processed and documented to agreed and common standards</td>
<td>National and international statistical organisations</td>
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<td>Privacy of individuals</td>
<td>Collaboration to develop an internationally recognised framework code of conduct for research use of new forms of personal data</td>
<td>Research funding agencies and data protection authorities</td>
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<td>Barriers to access (legal, cultural, language, proprietary rights)</td>
<td>Cooperation on mechanisms to improve access for comparative research</td>
<td>National statistical agencies and international agencies (e.g. World Bank, WHO, OECD)</td>
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<td>Increasingly interdisciplinary research agenda</td>
<td>Share expertise, knowledge and resources, particularly in the areas of data access, linkage, integration and analysis</td>
<td>Data producers and data users</td>
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<td>Increased focus on cross-country comparative research</td>
<td>Harmonise social and economic data; foster an integrated approach to data design and harmonisation, access and sharing</td>
<td>National and international statistical agencies, researchers and research funders</td>
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<td>Re-usability of data</td>
<td>Requirements for researchers to make data management plans</td>
<td>National funding agencies</td>
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<td>Resources and infrastructures connected to professional data preservation and curation</td>
<td>Assessment of national needs and assets that will contribute to national plans of action</td>
<td>Social science research communities</td>
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<td>Ensure effective data sharing</td>
<td>Incentives to ensure data sharing, through common systems for referencing and recognizing data resources in research publications</td>
<td>Research funding agencies, publishers of research and employers of researchers</td>
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Examples of Research Funders Policies

Policy statements from national funders can be divided into three categories or groups:

- those who have explicit policies on data sharing and clear implementation of these policies (e.g. by specifying where data should be deposited);

- those who have explicit policies but no clear implementation;

- those who have no explicit data sharing policy statements.
Research Funders Policies – Major Findings

- Researchers in nearly half of the countries report that they are met with data sharing requirements but receive no support or motivation to comply with requirements
- Policy enforcement, acknowledgement and rewards are more or less non-existent
- Existence of data repositories in the majority of countries indicate that data sharing activities are occurring
For those countries that reported that no such data sharing requirements exists

- **Lack of culture** - the most cited reason
- **No established policy**
- Lack of infrastructure, funding
- Data treated as private ownership
- Lack of awareness, motivation...
How common it is that the following organizations operating in your country have issued requirements promoting data sharing in SSH disciplines? Answers = “Somewhat Common” and “Very Common”
Please indicate if any of the major SSH research funders operating in your country recommend, require, and/or enforce the following measures to promote data sharing:

- Include data management plans in their grant applications
- Share data after the research project is completed
- Make provisions for formal data archiving and preservation
- Describe and apply standard metadata and metadata formats to research data
If social scientists working in your country have newly-generated data and would like to share these data with the academic community, which of the following infrastructures for sharing are presently easily available to them?

- Institution based repository
- Discipline specific repository
- Government sponsored repository
- Other
- None

The graph shows that institution-based repositories are the most commonly available, followed by discipline-specific repositories, and then government-sponsored repositories. Other options and the 'None' category have fewer responses.
Common Challenges and needs

Looking at the overall picture:

• In many countries high-level policy recommendations has not yet led to specified national policies by key research funders.

• If SSH funders has formulated open access policies, they are likely to be soft recommendations without well defined requirements and guidance to follow-up and implementation of recommendations.
Common Challenges and needs

Looking at the overall picture:

• it is still unusual to enforce projects to open their data - we need to move form policy statements to policy enforcements and monitoring

• too many countries lack sufficient data sharing infrastructures – we need to move from short-term funding to long-term funding a business models that build trust, confidence and incentives to contribute to the data infrastructure.
SSH are well placed to develop common solutions for data management and sharing
Towards an Infrastructural System – Cluster DASISH

To-Day

CLARIN

UTILIZATION

COOPERATION

STANDARDIZATION

HARMONIZATION

INTEROPERABILITY

ACCESSIBILITY

European Social Survey

DARIAH-EU

SHARE

cessda
Thank you for listening!