SERSCIDA Project

Country Assessment Reports: researchers' interest in data services

Aleksandra Bradic-Martinovic,
Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade
abmartinovic@ien.bg.ac.rs

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Introduction

- Local partners with assistance of CESSDA partners developed appropriate methodology.

- We designed the instrument in order to collect information about existing potentials for researchers - online, survey questionnaire.

- The questionnaire was conducted during June and July, 2012 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

- The access to the questionnaire did not imply any restriction, no registration was needed.
Parts of Survey

I Characteristics of Respondents

II Producing Data

III Methods of Data Gathering

IV Archiving Practices and Preferences

V Use of Data and Secondary Analysis
Data use Survey

About you
First, we would like to get some information about you.

What is your current principal activity?
- Undergraduate student
- Doctoral student / research or teaching assistant
- Researcher / professor
- Project leader
- Head of institution
- Other
- No answer

Choose one answer only

With what type of institution are you currently principally affiliated?
- Higher education institution
- Research institute
- Currently not employed
Response rate

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - 225 – complete 139

- Croatia
  - 307 – complete 186

- Serbia
  - 493 – complete 322

- Average completion rate – 63%
1 Characteristics of Respondents
Current principal activity

• Each country has some specificity

• In Bosnia – there are approximately the same number of respondents in the category of undergraduate students, assistant and PhD students and researchers and professors.

• In Croatia and Serbia, most of the respondents were PhD students and researchers and professors.
Current principal activity

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Without declaration: 14%
- Other: 24%
- Project leader: 7%
- Doctoral student / research or teaching assistant: 20%
- Researcher / professor: 13%
- Undergraduate student: 22%

**Serbia**
- Project leader: 5%
- Other: 4%
- Undergraduate student: 3%
- Doctoral student / research or teaching assistant: 36%
- Researcher / professor: 52%

**Croatia**
- Project leader: 5%
- Other: 8%
- Undergraduate student: 10%
- Doctoral student / research or teaching assistant: 39%
- Researcher / professor: 38%
Principal research discipline
II Producing Data
Dataset produced during the past 5 years

• The findings regard this question are very similar in all three countries

• In each country over 50% of researchers confirmed that they produced five or more dataset during past 5 years

• Based on this we can conclude that there are enough research potential in our countries, and that our researchers produce substantial amount of datasets
Dataset produced during the past 5 years

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Croatia

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Serbia

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III Methods of Data Gathering
Applied data collection method

- In Bosnia over 80% of researchers used either questionnaires or interviews in their last data collection.

- In Croatia, the dominant collection method was survey and quantitative and qualitative questionnaires (focus groups and interviews).

- Questionnaire was the dominant method of data collection in Serbia.
Applied data collection method

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Questionnaire: 32%
- Interview: 47%
- Focus group: 4%
- Experiment: 2%
- Online questionnaire: 11%
- Other: 4%

Croatia

- Interview: 27%
- Focus group: 12%
- Survey: 53%
- Experiment: 6%
- Online questionnaire: 21%
- Other: 11%
- Quantitative (surveys): 70%
- Qualitative (focus+interview): 33%
- Mixed methods: 20%

Serbia

- Questionnaire: 49%
- Interview: 16%
- Focus group: 11%
- Structured interview: 10%
- Experiment: 7%
IV Archiving Practices and Preferences
Type of stored data

• The answers on this question indicate that great number of researchers store collected data in form of raw data, data prepared for analysis and clean data

• But the problem is that only minority provide well documented data with metadata

• The results are fully consistent across countries
Type of stored data

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Raw data: 34%
- Data prepared for analysis (with transformations, created indexes, recoded): 27%
- Cleaned data (coded, anonymised, ..): 32%
- Well documented with metadata: 7%

Croatia

- Raw data: 87%
- Data prepared for analysis (with transformations, created indexes, recoded): 75%
- Cleaned data (coded, anonymised, ..): 69%
- Well documented with metadata: 12%

Serbia

- Raw data: 75%
- Data prepared for analysis (with transformations, created indexes, recoded): 65%
- Cleaned data (coded, anonymised, ..): 51%
- Well documented with metadata: 16%
Place for keeping stored data

• The answers on this question are also consistent between countries

• The dominant number of researchers keep the data in their own computers or several copies in different computers

• Only few of them keep the data on some form of archive
Place for keeping stored data

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On my computer: 36%
- Several copies on different computers and/or different media: 34%
- On my colleague's computer: 12%
- Data archive/repository: 3%
- Server at my local institution/university (d): 2%

Croatia

- On my computer: 71%
- Several copies on different computers and/or different media: 55%
- On my colleague's computer: 34%
- Data archive/repository: 3%
- Server at my local institution/university (d): 2%

Serbia

- On my computer: 55%
- Several copies on different computers and/or different media: 51%
- On my colleague's computer: 29%
- Data archive/repository: 10%
- Server at my local institution/university (d): 5%
IV Archiving Practices and Preferences
Current access to data v.s. ideal level of access

• The most of the researchers in each country said that the research team members only or members of the same research institution can access the data.

• But they also think that data should be available to public (Open Access) or at least to broader scientific community.
Current access to data v.s. ideal level of access
Willingness to provide research data to archive, provided that data would be safely preserved and access regulated

• Great majority of researchers want to provide research data to archive if the data would be safe with regulated access

• Over 80% of researchers answer with „Yes, certainly“ and „Yes, probably“ on this question

• These results are encouraging
Willingness to provide research data to archive, provided that data would be safely preserved and access regulated.
V  Use of Data and Secondary Analysis
Importance of sharing the data

Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Somewhat important: 24%
- Very important: 75%
- Not very important: 1%

Serbia
- Somewhat important: 31%
- Very important: 64%
- Not important at all: 2%

Croatia
- Very important: 51%
- Not important at all: 3%
- Not very important: 8%
- Somewhat important: 38%
Better access to data as benefit for scientific work

- The results in previous slide suggest that researchers in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia are very aware of potential benefits from better access to data
Better access to data as benefit for scientific work

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Yes, considerably: 72% (Produced in BiH), 71% (International research data)
- Yes, moderately: 20% (Produced in BiH), 22% (International research data)
- No, not very much: 3% (Produced in BiH), 2% (International research data)
- No, not at all: 1% (Produced in BiH), 0% (International research data)

**Croatia**
- Yes, considerably: 52% (Produced in CRO), 44% (International research data)
- Yes, moderately: 37% (Produced in CRO), 47% (International research data)
- No, not very much: 9% (Produced in CRO), 8% (International research data)
- No, not at all: 2% (Produced in CRO), 1% (International research data)

**Serbia**
- Yes, considerably: 56% (Produced in SER), 60% (International research data)
- Yes, moderately: 35% (Produced in SER), 33% (International research data)
- No, not very much: 7% (Produced in SER), 5% (International research data)
- No, not at all: 1% (Produced in SER), 1% (International research data)
Conclusions

• Researchers in social sciences in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia keep the collected data without proper procedures and standards
• Stored data in most cases are not available even for the colleagues from the same institution, and certainly not publicly available
• Researchers do not have enough knowledge about the concept of archiving, preservation and anonymisation of data, which creates distrust
• But what we seem to be most important is that on the final question most of the respondents answered that the existence of the archive data would be very useful