FP7-212214

Title	**Summary of organisational expertise for activities set out in the ERIC workplan (D3.1b)**
Work Package	WP3
Authors	CESSDA-PPP Partners
Source	CESSDA-PPP Partners
Dissemination Level	PU (Public)

Summary/abstract

This document provides information from PPP partners who were all invited to express their interest in working in clusters or in taking responsibility for activities set out in the PPP work plan.

Descriptions of expertise are all self-assessed.

Note that GESIS interests, in non-standard format, are appended at the end of this document.

THEME 1.1: PROMOTION

Sub-theme 1.1.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services

- Represent cessda-ERIC at high-level meetings;
- Employ promotions staff;
- cessda-ERIC newsletter;
- Post cessda-ERIC aims on website;
- Establish mailing lists for partners, stakeholders;
- Production of cessda-ERIC annual reports.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing.

Sub-theme 1.1.2:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Agree corporate brand;
- Write Public Relations and Corporate Policy;
- Corporate design;
- Corporate communication;
- Guidelines on Corporate behaviour internal values.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing.

UK Data Archive
- All activities under Theme 1.1

Expertise:
- Corporate branding, including websites, for UKDA and the following services: Census, ESDS, History Data Service, RELU, Survey Resources network, Survey Question Bank;
- Responsible for corporate policies for UKDA and the associated services listed above.
- Management function for ESRC distributed data services;
- Negotiation of UK national Service Level Agreements for social science resource services listed above;
- Production of annual reports for UKDA services;
- Established the structures for the management of ESRC distributed services (listed above);
- Presidency of CESSDA 2005-2010;
- Co-ordination of CESSDA projects, including the PPP + FASTER.

THEME 1.2: GOVERNANCE

Sub-theme 1.2.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Appointment of experts for the Board;
- Prepare for meetings;

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing

Sub-theme 1.2.2:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Implement management structures set out in Statutes;
- Ensure each level knows responsibilities.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing

Sub-theme 1.2.3:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Negotiate and sign SLA member by member.

- Implement SLA reporting procedures of RPs.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing.

Sub-theme 1.2.4:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Instigate use of website & teleconference facility.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing.

UK Data Archive
- All activities in Theme 1.2.

Expertise:
- UK Data Archive website. Corporate branding, including websites, for UKDA and the following services: Census, ESDS, History Data Service, RELU, Survey Resources network, Survey Question Bank.
- Responsible for Corporate policies for the UK Data Archive and the associated services listed above.
- Management function for ESRC distributed data services.
- Negotiation of UK national Service Level Agreements for social science resource services listed above.
- Production of annual reports for UK Data Archive services.
- Established the structures for the management of ESRC distributed services (listed above).

THEME 1.3: FINANCE

Sub-theme 1.3.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Open bank account;
- Establish internal accounting system;
- Appoint external auditor/accountant;
- Review internal accounting system.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing

UK Data Archive
- All activities in Theme 1.3

Expertise: Over 40 years experience of financial management of UK Data Archive and associated services and projects, including co-ordination of the FASTER and CESSDA-PPP projects.

THEME 1.4: STAFFING

Sub-theme 1.4.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Appointment of the Director;
- Prepare recruitment procedures;
- Appointment of staff;
- Establish overall HR development plan.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing.

Sub-theme 1.4.2:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Establishing system monitoring performance & skills.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing

Sub-theme 1.4.3:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Communication between Director and staff;
- Information flow between Director and staff.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing.

UK Data Archive
- All activities in Theme 1.4

Expertise:
- Led preparation of Business Plans, for the cessda-ERIC;
- Responsible for the business plans and management of UKDA and associated services;
- Responsible for recruitment of Directors of ESRC-funded data services;
- Responsible for recruitment, appointment and staff performance and development of all staff at the UKDA (current complement: 64);
- Responsible for ensuring effective and efficient information flow between distributed ESRC-funded data services.

THEME 2.1: WIDEN

Sub-theme 2.1.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Meetings with funders from countries unrepresented in the cessda-ERIC;
- System to continuously monitor data production in countries unrepresented;

- Local information meetings with national data provides in unrepresented countries;
- Promotion and information campaigns via web, e-mail, onsite visits.

Expertise: High competence in promotion, governance, staffing

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Promoting principles and practice of data archiving.

Expertise: Established contacts with emerging data archiving initiatives, visits and training, internal evaluation and strategic development planning of organisation.

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Meetings with funders from countries unrepresented in the cessda-ERIC;
- System to continuously monitor data production in countries unrepresented;
- Local information meetings with national data provides in unrepresented countries;
- Promotion and information campaigns via web, e-mail, onsite visits.

Expertise: Actively participated in EDAN and REGIO (Central European archives) activities and we have also established bilateral contacts with several non-CESSDA archives. An extensive collaboration has been developed especially with the SASD and other Slovak data organisations.

UK Data Archive
- All activities in Sub-themes 2.1.1

Expertise:
- Visits to potential CESSDA members in Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Russia.
- The UK Data Archive has prior knowledge from leading WP3 of the PPP and contributions to WP's 6 & 10.
- The UK Data Archive has hosted many visits from funders and researchers world-wide who wish to emulate the services provided from Essex.

THEME 2.2: COLLABORATION

Sub-theme 2.2.1:

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Promotion and information campaigns via web, email, onsite visits.

Expertise: Strategic collaboration on open data facilitation on national and international level, national policy development

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Develop plan showing benefits of Affiliate Membership;
- Target initial potential Affiliate Members;
- Promotion and information campaigns via web, e-mail, onsite visits;
- Make presentations to board/committees of important data suppliers;
- Planning and preparing periodic gatherings of various data producers.

Expertise: Established contacts with the Czech Statistical Office and other relevant organisations in the Czech Republic.

Sub-theme 2.2.2:

None listed

Sub-theme 2.2.3:

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Develop member by member transition from Associate to Full Member;
- Monitor performance of Associate Members.

Expertise: Participated in strategic planning of the CESSDA training programme within the CESSDA-PPP. Experience in organising training activities for Czech universities (workshops and regular courses in data management and data analysis) and different kinds of international meetings (workshops, ISSP General Meeting, etc.). Can also provide access to training facilities of the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Sub-theme 2.2.4:

UK Data Archive
- All activities under sub-themes 2.2.1, 2.2.3 and 2.2.4.

Expertise:
- UK Data Archive has independent links with a number of key potential affiliate members (e.g. OECD) and has extensive experience of promotional work and the organisation of meetings and conferences. It has undertaken a number of international consultancies and hosted fact-finding visits. International collaborations include South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and China.
- The UK Data Archive is a resource provider for and manager of the ESRC-funded ESDS International service; it held the Presidency of CESSDA from 2005-2010.
- It has a highly experienced Publicity and Promotions (P&P) team and provides information and training on principles and practice nationally and internationally.

THEME 3.1: PORTAL

Sub-theme 3.1.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Implement expanded DDI-defined controlled vocabularies;
- Support for SPs;
- Implement Question Data Base QDB ;
- Implement 3CDB.

Expertise:
- Development of data documentation and data publishing tools based on the template concept or DDI Profile concept, incorporating controlled vocabularies like the multilingual thesaurus ELSST.
- Development of a question database as a metadata registry based tool. Likewise development of data harmonisation tools potentially integrated with data loading technology.

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Implement Question Data Base QDB.

Expertise: Extensive resources keeping and experience in variable-level documentation of both paper and CATI surveys; expertise in survey methodology and analysis

CIS - Centre for Sociological Research. Spain
- Implement expanded DDI-defined controlled vocabularies.

Expertise: Participated in CESSDA-PPP WP4.

EKKE - National Centre for Social Research Greece
- Implement expanded DDI-defined controlled vocabularies.

Expertise: Participated in ELSST development projects LIMBER, MADIERA, CESSDA PPP-WP4 and is currently participating in DDI3 Controlled vocabularies working group, since November 2007.

FORS - Swiss information and data archive
- Implement expanded DDI-defined controlled vocabularies;
- Implement Question Data Base QDB.

Expertise: Involved in the CESSDA working group "controlled vocabularies" (Fredy Kuhn), testing ELSST, and translation of terms for both the ELSST and the GESIS multilingual thesaurus.

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Implement expanded DDI-defined controlled vocabularies;
- Support for SPs;
- Implement Question Data Base QDB;
- Implement 3CDB.

Expertise: Participated in preparatory work on the 3CDB. We have experience from participation in ISSP, ESS, PISA-L, ISJP and other international surveys and harmonisation issues connected to these projects. Currently, we have also another project devoted to the research on harmonisation.

DDA - Danish Data Archives
- Implement Question Data Base QDB.

Expertise: Developed a question data base which is now being used, see www.dda.dk

UK Data Archive
- All activities under sub-theme 3.1.1.

Expertise: The UK Data Archive has expertise in controlled vocabularies and their application and hosts and manages the UK's Survey Question Bank (part of the Survey Resources Network)

Sub-theme 3.1.2:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Identify target organisations, establish metadata harvesting protocols
- Develop test cases for access to data via portal for non-members

Expertise: Dependent upon architectural strategy, support or work on metadata registry build-up and harvesting technology development

UK Data Archive
- All activities under sub-theme 3.1.2.

Expertise:
- UKDA was a key partner in the development of the CESSDA data portal which it hosts.
- It developed and manages the ELSST Thesaurus.

Sub-theme 3.1.3:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Establish interface between metadata and access to data collections;
- Extend functionality of portal to include aggregate data.

Expertise: Development of data loading technology linking portal search and find processes with data loading / data exploration technology, for both (complex linked) square matrices and multidimensional cubed data.

THEME 3.2: MIDDLEWARE

Sub-theme 3.2.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Establish Federated Access Group - linked to existing groups;
- Create Open Source Shibboleth based middleware for AAA;
- Technical support for SP.

Expertise: Development of federated access management and middleware for user authentication, user authorization and access.

FORS - Swiss information and data archive
- Establish Federated Access Group - linked to existing groups.

Expertise: In-house accreditation and data access system, which we plan to update in the years ahead.

UK Data Archive
- All activities in sub-theme 3.2.1.

Expertise:
- UKDA operates Single Sign On for national Social Science data services. It built the cross-border demonstrator for the PPP based on this application.
- UKDA operates a number of Helpdesk services.

THEME 3.3: COMMON TOOL KIT

Sub-theme 3.3.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- DDI Tool Development (modular tool).

Expertise: DDI tool development for data documentation, data exploration and metadata registries build-up. Testing of software, planning of developments.

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- DDI Tool Development (modular tool).

Expertise: Extensive experience and expertise in editing and handling the DDI XML resources, conversions routines to MARC etc., including xsl and other methods of web presentation

EKKE - National Centre for Social Research Greece
- ELSST management, cataloguing tools;
- ELSST working group, development of ELSST extensions.

Expertise: Participation in management team.

FORS - Swiss information and data archive
- ELSST working group, development of ELSST extensions.

Expertise: Have been working on technical aspects of implementing controlled vocabularies into our archive database and workflow. We have been developing a local framework for a question database, based on DDI3

DDA - Danish Data Archives
- DDI Tool Development (modular tool);
- Best practice guidelines;
- Engagement with Alliance for Data Archive Technologies.

Expertise: DDA is developing a lot of DDI-tools and a DDI editor in the context of the Archive Technology Alliance and the DDI Alliance (DDI Foundation Tools project and the DDI editor tools project). At the moment we are planning to cooperate with SND and Gesis in order to proceed more quickly.

UK Data Archive
- All activities in sub-theme 3.3.1.

Expertise: UKDA designed, built and manages ELSST and its management tools. It is actively involvement in tools development both in the UK and with ADAT & ODaF.

UKDA hosts and manages of CESSDA portal. It also has long experience of preparing best practice guidelines.

Sub-theme 3.3.2:

CIS - Centre for Sociological Research. Spain
- Testing & assessment of existing software e.g. SDA, DataVerse.

Expertise: In process to develop a new web-access database that have given us experience in software testing

EKKE - National Centre for Social Research Greece
- Monitor use of thesaurus management, cataloguing tools.

Expertise: Participation in management team

UK Data Archive
- All activities in sub-theme 3.3.2.

Expertise: As creators of the thesaurus and its management tools and creator of HASSET (the English language base for ELSST), UKDA has the knowledge required for this task.

UKDA pro-actively contributes to the development of open source dissemination and visualisation tools both nationally and internationally.

THEME 3.4: GRID

Sub-theme 3.4.1:

None listed.

Sub-theme 3.4.2:

CIS - Centre for Sociological Research. Spain
- Further development of data bases, protocols and registries.

Expertise: In process to develop a new web-access database that have given us experience in software testing.

UK Data Archive
- Further development of databases, protocols and registries.

Expertise: Collaborations are well-established with organisations working in this area nationally and internationally.

Development and use of databases to support distributed dissemination.

THEME 3.5: WEB

Sub-theme 3.5.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Review of website functionality.

Expertise: Development of websites and tools. Development of material for presentation on the web-site.

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Establish an editing board for website;
- Review of website functionality.

Expertise: Collaboration in internal and external web architecture and content provision/dissemination/collaboration teams, users requirements evaluation, monitoring

CIS - Centre for Sociological Research. Spain
- Establish editing board for website;
- Review of website functionality;
- Assess need for improvements.
- Integrate help desk, guidelines, training material into website

Expertise: CIS Data Bank Director has experience planning projects on web-based software development.

Sub-theme 3.5.2:

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Implement Open Source Document Management System.

Expertise: Participated in strategic planning of the CESSDA training programme within the CESSDA-PPP. Experience in organising training activities for Czech universities (workshops and regular courses in data management and data analysis) and different kinds of international meetings (workshops, ISSP General Meeting, etc.). Can also provide an access to training facilities of the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

THEME 4.1: DATA MANAGEMENT

Sub-theme 4.1.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Training programme on DDI tools best practice.

Expertise: Participate in development of best practices documents. Run seminars and training programs. Involved in a major EU-financed project (Eurosphere) collecting large amounts of qualitative interview data.

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Maintain guide to good practice for DDI.

Expertise: Extensive experience and expertise in editing and handling the DDI XML resources, conversions routines to MARC etc., including xsl and other methods of web presentation

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Maintain guide to good practice for DDI;
- Training programme on DDI tools best practice.

Expertise: Participated in strategic planning of the CESSDA training programme within the CESSDA-PPP. Experience in organising training activities for Czech universities (workshops and regular courses in data management and data analysis) and different kinds of international meetings (workshops, ISSP General Meeting, etc.). Can also provide an access to training facilities of the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

DDA - Danish Data Archives
- Maintain guide to good practice for DDI;
- Training programme on DDI tools best practice.

Expertise: DDA is developing a lot of DDI-tools and a DDI editor in the context of the Archive Technology Alliance and the DDI Alliance (DDI Foundation Tools project and the DDI editor tools project). At the moment we are planning to cooperate with SND and GESIS in order to proceed more quickly.

Sub-theme 4.1.2:

EKKE - National Centre for Social Research Greece
- Contribution to the work of DDI Alliance.

Expertise: Participated in ELSST development projects LIMBER, MADIERA, CESSDA PPP-WP4 and is currently participating in DDI3 Controlled vocabularies working group, since November 2007.

DDA - Danish Data Archives
- Contribution to the work of DDI Alliance.

Expertise: DDA is developing a lot of DDI-tools and a DDI editor in the context of the Archive Technology Alliance and the DDI Alliance (DDI Foundation Tools project and the DDI editor tools project). At the moment we are planning to cooperate with SND and GESIS in order to proceed more quickly.

UK Data Archive
- Contribution to the work of DDI Alliance.

Expertise: UKDA has been involved in the development of the DDI standard since inception and is a member of the DDI expert committee.
UKDA also contributed to the Metadater, MetaNet, COSMOS and AMRADS projects.

THEME 4.2: DATA IDENTIFICATION

Sub-theme 4.2.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Implementation of PID system for the cessda-ERIC.

Expertise: Development of (Persistent) Identifier solutions and maintenance systems. Development of practical functionalities and technologies for version control. active member of the DDI alliance since the initiation in 1995.

UK Data Archive
- Implementation of PID system for the cessda-ERIC.

Expertise: Collaboration at national level with DataCite. Maintains 'watching brief' on alternatives.

THEME 5.1: OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Sub-theme 5.1.1:

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Establish individual convergence plans and monitor progress.

Expertise: Long record track of monitoring and implementing quality principles internally; participation in workshops, conferences and projects on digital preservation both nationally and internationally.

DDA - Danish Data Archives
- Establish detailed level of OAIS compliance;
- Establish individual convergence plans and monitor progress.

Expertise: DDA is in a process of describing its activities in the OAIS-frame

UK Data Archive
- All activities, Sub-themes 5.1.1 to 5.2.2 inclusive.

Expertise:
- UKDA has ISO 27001 (Information Security) certification;
- It is a designated legal place of deposit for digital records for the (UK) National Archives;
- In parallel with TNA (National Archives), UKDA undertook a detailed assessment of its compliance with OAIS;
- It has collaborated with DANS in the development of the Data Seal of Approval;
- UKDA is an associate member of the Digital Preservation Coalition;
- UKDA works with the Digital Curation Centre and collaborates with the British Library and JISC (members of the Alliance for Permanent Access to Scientific Data).

THEME 5.2.: PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Sub-theme 5.2.1:

DDA - Danish Data Archives
- Survey RP preservation strategies;
- Scope external preservation strategies;
- Advise on preservation and permanence metadata;
- Guide on Good Practice Data Curation and Preservation.

Expertise: DDA is in a process of describing its activities in the OAIS-frame.

Sub-theme 5.2.2:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Produce the cessda-ERIC Guide to OAIS.

Expertise: Analyse consequences of implementation of OAIS Reference model in social science data archives.

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Survey RP preservation strategies

Expertise: Long record track of monitoring and implementing quality principles internally; participation in workshops, conferences and projects on digital preservation both nationally and internationally.

CIS - Centre for Sociological Research. Spain
- Produce cessda-ERIC Guide to OAIS;
- Provide OAIS training for Service Providers.

Expertise: CIS has a Department for training that maintain a program for postgraduate students.

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Produce cessda-ERIC Guide to OAIS;
- Provide OAIS training for Service Providers.

Expertise:
- Participated in strategic planning of the CESSDA training programme within the CESSDA-PPP;
- Experience in organising training activities for Czech universities (workshops and regular courses in data management and data analysis) and different kinds of international meetings (workshops, ISSP General Meeting, etc.);
- Can also provide an access to training facilities of the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic;
- Participated in tasks concerning examination of best practices and planning on minimal standards within the WP6 of the CESSDA-PPP.

DDA - Danish Data Archives
- Produce the cessda-ERIC Guide to OAIS;
- Provide OAIS training for Service Providers.

Expertise: DDA is in a process of describing its activities in the OAIS-frame.

Sub-theme 5.2.3:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Establish the cessda-ERIC Training Team.

Expertise: NSD employ at present about 25 technical- or software developers. The experience of this staff give the organisation extensive competence in data management

CIS - Centre for Sociological Research. Spain
- Plan and organise the cessda-ERIC training activities.

Expertise: CIS has a Department for training that maintain a program for postgraduate students.

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Establish the cessda-ERIC Training Team;
- Plan and organise the cessda-ERIC training activities.

Expertise:
- Participated in strategic planning of the CESSDA training programme within the CESSDA-PPP.
- Experience in organising training activities for Czech universities (workshops and regular courses in data management and data analysis) and different kinds of international meetings (workshops, ISSP General Meeting, etc.).
- Can also provide an access to training facilities of the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Sub-theme 5.2.4:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Engage with external organisations for mutual benefit.

Expertise: Founding members of IFDO and CESSDA, has been secretariat for ISSP and practical data coordinator for ESS.

THEME 6.1: ACCESS

Sub-theme 6.1.1:

NSD - Norwegian Social Science Data Services
- Establish Data Sharing Policy mechanism for sharing data from EC projects.

Expertise: Data sharing policies.

ADP - Slovenia Social Science Data Archive
- Establish Data Sharing Policy mechanism for sharing data from EC projects.

Expertise: Strategic collaboration on open data facilitation on national and international level, national policy development.

UK Data Archive
- Establish Data Sharing Policy mechanism for sharing data from EC projects;
- Produce guide to good practice in sharing Data.

Expertise: UKDA has produced extensive guidance on data sharing for its services and for a range of research data funders. It maintains a national self-archiving system which could be extended to include data from other sources.

Sub-theme 6.1.2:

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Produce Guide to Good Practice on Authentication and Registration;
- Workshops and training on data protection and open access.

Expertise:
- Participated in strategic planning of the CESSDA training programme within the CESSDA-PPP.
- Experience in organising training activities for Czech universities (workshops and regular courses in data management and data analysis) and different kinds of international meetings (workshops, ISSP General Meeting, etc.).
- Can also provide an access to training facilities of the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.
- Established contacts with the Czech Statistical Office and other relevant organisations in the Czech Republic.

UK Data Archive
- Workshops and training on data protection and open access.

Expertise: The UK Data Archive runs regular workshops on data protection, ethics and access nationally and frequently contributes to international workshops and training activities on these topics.

Sub-theme 6.1.3:

EKKE - National Centre for Social Research Greece
- Seek opportunities to emphasise importance of using high quality data.

Expertise: EKKE is basically a research centre in the social sciences active for over 50 years, with experienced and mature researchers in a variety of fields and with good knowledge of social issues in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean.

Sub-theme 6.1.4:

SDA - Czech Sociological Data Archive
- Extend number of themed data guides for cross national comparison;

- Promotion of tools to facilitate comparative analysis.

Expertise:
- Participated in strategic planning of the CESSDA training programme within the CESSDA-PPP.
- Experience in organising training activities for Czech universities (workshops and regular courses in data management and data analysis) and different kinds of international meetings (workshops, ISSP General Meeting, etc.).
- Can also provide an access to training facilities of the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

THEME 6.2: EXTEND

Sub-theme 6.2.1

UK Data Archive
- All activities under sub-theme 6.2.1.

Expertise:
- UKDA has extensive experience in this sub-theme, both as holders of the CESSDA Presidency from 2005-2010 and due to its direct contribution to activity under the PPP in Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Russia.
- It has existing collaborations with NGOs and with international data providers in its management capacity for the ESDS International Service.
- UK Data Archive contributes to the continued development of the UK Social Science Data collections policy.

Strengths of GESIS as the base for a German Contribution

European and International Comparative Data

Per its design as a European infrastructure, the new CESSDA will naturally be regarded as the resource for access to truly 'European' data. GESIS has, at its Data Archive department, built the largest collection of internationally relevant comparative survey programmes in Europe and is recognized across the world as a site with particular expertise in this area. GESIS is the site where most of the ongoing integration and distribution of surveys such as the Eurobarometers of the European Commission, the European Values Study, the International Social Survey Programme, the Comparative Studies of Electoral Systems and the European Election Study (now PIREDEU) are performed, in close interaction with the primary researchers or data providers of these programmes. The GESIS Archive department has built a massive specialisation in the complete and deep documentation and harmonisation of such surveys, in particular relating to matters of the harmonisation of such complex data sets across countries and time. This is complemented by further GESIS departments working in the comparative areas, but concentrating on study design, methodology and data collection (for the European Social Survey, the European Values Survey, the International Social Survey Programme and others). Thus, GESIS has unique experience in building gateways for the direct interaction between the data-archiving

infrastructure to be maintained by the new CESSDA and many research and data collection projects.

The well-established strength in comparative survey data is now increasingly matched by a parallel development with regard to so-called micro data from official statistics, where GESIS is extending its services in the processing and provision of German micro data to the provision of data at the European level.

European Researcher Access and Training Facilities

A core tasks for the new CESSDA will be to train the staff of full, designate and associate members towards the postulated standards and best-practices. Currently, no institution can claim long experience with systematic training programmes on common data archiving processes, because the definition and implementation of such processes is one of the newly introduced unique features of the new CESSDA. However, proven experience in managing the required staff exchange processes and training events will be an essential prerequisite for establishing a successful training system.

With the EUROLAB as a very well recognized access facility for European researchers, the annual 'Spring Seminars' for statistical methods training, and participation in the ESS training programme as well as with its own workshop programme, GESIS has demonstrated expertise in handling the required processes for many years. This experience can be transferred to the systematic training in data documentation and archiving methods, and many of the existing structures and even brand names can be brought to bear for this new purpose.

Safe Data Services

One of the instances where CESSDA will have to respond to new settings and demands was identified above to be the provision of access to data with disclosure risks. Again falling back on existing resources and experiences, GESIS is very well positioned to drive such services. The 'German MicroData Lab' is a long-standing structure for processing and integrating disclosive micro data and is extending its activities to the European sphere. The EUROLAB has similar functions for providing on-site access to restricted survey data to international guests. Establishing a remote-access facility for disclosive data is currently under consideration.

National PID Provider for Social Science Data in Germany

GESIS is a member of the international DataCite initiative, which is a group of large scientific information institutions (libraries and data repositories or registries) from several countries. The DataCite initiative has – compared to similar ventures – arguably the largest potential with regard to establishing one central system of research data identification. In cooperation with DataCite, GESIS is currently building an infrastructure for the provision of Persistent Identifiers for social science data held in German repositories. GESIS will thus be among the first social science institutions worldwide with experience in installing and maintaining a PID system. The technology is easily scalable for an application to international settings.

General Portal Concepts and Web Technologies

Processing, finding, connecting and distributing information is at the heart of the activities of an infrastructure for the provision of research data. More concretely, the

new CESSDA will continuously have to improve its data portal, and develop new applications connected to it, such as the data harmonisation portal and the planned Question Database. Apart from the data archiving department already being part of the current CESSDA portal structure, GESIS avails of two scientific departments specialised in the technical and informational design and maintenance of such facilities, the departments for Informational Processes in the Social Sciences (IPS) and for Specialised Information for the Social Sciences (FI). This unique combination is found nowhere else among the institutions that are currently candidates for becoming national service providers in a future cessda-ERIC.

Metadata Standardisation and Best-Practices

Using a common metadata model and shared working protocols is at the heart of a distributed data infrastructure. The most relevant upcoming metadata standard is DDI 3. GESIS has led an international project that already informed the development of DDI 3 (MetaDater, funded under FP5) and since has even increased its activities in the DDI community. GESIS contributes both to continued development of DDI and to training events.

General archiving and data processing best-practices are a less formalised area that still awaits further specification by the new CESSDA. Being home to Europe's oldest and largest Social Science data archive, it is obvious that GESIS has accumulated massive working knowledge

Development of Data Documentation Tools

Hand-in-hand with the development of standards and best-practices, GESIS has an excellent track record in the development of software tools for (meta-) data documentation, in particular for handling the complex international studies and the provision of high-quality or added-value documentation of research data. Proof of this are the leadership of the CESSDA-PPP work package for a data harmonisation infrastructure and question database, development of the questionnaire documentation system QDDS, and the long-standing development work invested into tools such as the Dataset Documentation Manager and the Codebook Explorer, which can be used as internal workflow tools for processes in data archiving, but can also be used for data documentation and organisation by researchers.