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Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives
European Research Infrastructure Consortium

National Data Service - LATVIA

LSZDA

Latvijas Sociālo zinātņu datu arhīvs
The Latvian Social sciences data archive

About CESSDA ERIC

CESSDA ERIC provides large scale, integrated and sustainable data services to the social sciences. It brings together social science data archives across Europe, with the aim of promoting the results of social science research and supporting national and international research and cooperation.

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Why establish a national data service?

From a research policy perspective, national data services provide a number of benefits to scientific communities that justify the needed investment.

Long-term access
To ensure wider and more effective use of existing data, respecting FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles

More efficient use of public finances
Publicly funded data are further exploited by secondary users for new insights and scientific contributions

Stronger research practice and quality
By rendering research more transparent and open for replicability

Funding and publication in journals
Increasingly a requirement that data be deposited in archives/repositories

Added value of secondary research
Secondary data brings value to university lecturers and students, as well as to society and business

Who are we?

The Latvian Social Sciences Data Archive (LSSDA) will be a national research infrastructure that provides long-term preservation and distribution of research data in the social sciences in Latvia. The establishment of a new national data archive for the social sciences is a project led by the Latvian Sociological Association. A previous national archive for the social sciences functioned from 1996 until 2009, which means that there is past experience and a virtual structure to build on. There are several potential institutions which could serve as a host institution for the national data service and LSSDA is open to cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

Our mission

Our mission is to preserve and provide access in the long-term to social science data produced in Latvia. We believe that better access to social sciences data for reuse will benefit the national scientific community by reducing fragmentation and ensuring that limited resources are used effectively. We intend to achieve national coverage in the provision of data and to join relevant European Research Infrastructures.

What do we do?

The main services will be:

» selecting and acquiring data;
» processing and cataloguing data and documentation;
» data dissemination;
» digital preservation and the development and maintenance of technical systems;
» education and support for depositors (how to manage data, data management plan) and users (how and why to use data for secondary research).

Additional services and activities to be developed at a later stage, include support, advice and trainings for data depositors (how to prepare data for inclusion in the archive, how to deposit prepared data) and for data users (how to find data in the catalogue, how to download data), as well as data management trainings for researchers, promotional and outreach activities, and setting up regional collaboration and a network of service users.

What kind of data do we have?

The archive will collect data across a range of social science disciplines. This includes traditional-scale quantitative and qualitative data. The primary focus will be on quantitative data (surveys and several registers) in the disciplines of sociology, political science, education science, communication science, psychology, library and information science, public health, and economics. Qualitative social sciences data require a different approach and will be added to the data collection at a later stage, in close cooperation with other stakeholders that have experience in working with such data (e.g. cultural heritage institutions, CLARIN centre, digital humanities centres).

Who is it for?

The archive aspires to be useful to both data producers and data users. The services offered are aimed at university researchers, lecturers and students (doctoral, master and bachelor), researchers from other public institutions (e.g. scientific institutes, government agencies), researchers from private institutions (NGOs, private research companies, newspapers, businesses, associations, etc.), secondary school teachers and pupils, as well as policy makers, journalists and the general public.

The Latvian Social Sciences Data Archive has a large network of archives in Europe to provide it with support via possible future membership of CESSDA ERIC.

More information

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