

Contact

Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

13A Moskovska Street
1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
Phone: +359 2 981 79 46
Web: issk-bas.org

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.

CESSDA ERIC

Parkveien 20
5007 Bergen, Norway
Phone: +47 55 58 36 48
Email: cessda@cessda.eu
Web: www.cessda.eu



National Data Service - BULGARIA

ISSK-BAS

Institute for the Study of
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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 national data service will be a unit of the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (ISSK-BAS). ISSK-BAS will be the national collector and provider of social survey research data collected by Bulgarian research and scientific institutions in the social sciences and humanities. ISSK-BAS was founded in 2010, bringing together the research experience of scientists from the Institute of Sociology, the Institute for Philosophical research, and the Centre for Science Studies and History of Science. ISSK-BAS is the main national research centre in the sphere of social sciences. The institute conducts complex theoretical and empirical, fundamental and applied research devoted to knowledge, values, and human society.

Our mission

Our mission is to take into consideration all data on studying basic socio-economic topics of Bulgarian transitional society and to make the data accessible, to promote correct scientific usage of research data also with the aim of public policy design.

What do we do?

The services will be:

- » solicitation and acquisition of data from data providers;
- » curation and long-term preservation of data;
- » online catalogue of archived data;
- » access to and dissemination of data for use in secondary analyses.

A number of additional services and activities will also be offered such as data management training for researchers, training for data depositors (how to prepare data for inclusion in the data archive and how to correctly deposit the proposed data) and for data users (how to find needed data in the data catalogue and how to download them), support, assistance and advice to data depositors and data users, promotional activities and outreach to users and the establishment of a regional network.

Furthermore, data users will also benefit from basic analytical services such as an inventory of existing research projects in the country, access to online tools for data and statistical analyses and the wider promotion of Open Access to data.

What kind of data do we have?

Social surveys conducted since 2000 make up the main data that will be included in the future data service collection. In collecting and managing social survey data, priority will be given to surveys in the following fields: sociology, political science, education, economics and psychology. Surveys which cover all major aspects of socio-economic life of contemporary Bulgarian society are of high relevance to the archive. ISSK-BAS intends to provide access to both qualitative and quantitative data, as both qualitative and quantitative research methods produce valuable and highly applicable research data.

ISSK-BAS will encourage collecting data driven from nationwide and local surveys. National surveys are the prime target of the archive, although local surveys are also of interest.

Who is it for?

The services will be useful for university researchers, lecturers and students, secondary school teachers and students, researchers from other public institutions (scientific institutes, government agencies, etc.), researchers from private institutions (private research agencies, NGOs, business associations, newspapers), policy makers, journalists, and the general public.

ISSK-BAS has a large network of archives in Europe to provide it with support via possible future membership of CESSDA ERIC.

More information

See <http://issk-bas.org> or contact Prof. DSc. Romyana Stoilova (RStoilova@bas.bg) and Prof. DSc. Emilia Chengelova (chengelova@gmail.com).