



CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide User Story

Ana Slavec, PhD in Statistics, used chapter 5 “protect” on **data protection** for her work with personal data.

📁 The Researcher

Ana Slavec - Consulting Statistician at InnoRenew CoE

In 2016, I obtained a PhD in Statistics from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana where I was a research assistant, first at the Centre for Social Informatics and later at the [Slovenian Social Science Data Archives](#). I am currently employed as a consulting statistician and postdoctoral researcher at the [InnoRenew CoE](#) Renewable Materials and Healthy Environments Research and Innovation Centre of Excellence, an independent research institute established in 2017, that focuses mainly on research in wood modification and restorative environmental and ergonomic design.



📁 My research project.

In [my postdoctoral project](#) I am studying the use of survey questionnaires used to study **human patterns of behaviour within the built environment to improve occupant well-being**.

The objective of the project is to identify the existing measurement instruments used by architects and building researchers to collect and understand the needs of building users in the design process and in post-occupancy evaluations, assess the validity and comprehensibility of existing instruments and then design and assess improved survey questionnaires.

In the first phase, the project includes a literature review of relevant works that use surveys or other social science research methods to study building users, a collection of examples of survey questions, and focus groups with architects and building researchers. In the second phase, **survey questions will be selected for evaluation with quantitative and qualitative questionnaire pre-testing methods**.

InnoRenew CoE is performing research on the **development of materials for a circular economy, which is one of the critical European and Global challenges**. By providing more accurate data on user behaviour and attitudes of building users, my postdoctoral project will contribute to making buildings more sustainable.

📁 My use of the CESSDA DMEG

I learned about CESSDA when working at the [Slovenian Social Science Data Archive](#). I came across the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide when I was preparing a data [management plan for my postdoctoral project](#) and used it to plan my use of data. I read several chapters but the most useful one was the one on **data protection** which is of crucial importance when working with personal data. In particular, I valued tips on how to process personal data, how to gain informed consent from research participants, including for data archiving and sharing, and best practices for data anonymisation. I think that the guide comprehensively covers all relevant topics for data management in social sciences but it could be improved by giving more guidance on the use of qualitative data that is less structured than quantitative surveys.

📁 Across disciplines

The research institute where I work is very interdisciplinary, so when researchers ask me for help with data management and data analysis, they come from a wide range of areas and use different kinds of data. I wish there was a similar guide for researchers in the natural sciences and engineering.

📁 EOSC in practice.

I have not used any services from the European Open Science Cloud Portal yet but I received a voucher to test them so I would be interested in attending a training.

