16 December 2024/Issue 3

Newsletter

Welcome to the CESSDAs Newsletter 2024!

Dear Colleagues,

2024 was a busy year for CESSDA. One of the most important work was the preparation of the material for the ESFRI landmark monitoring process. This provided a good opportunity to reflect upon CESSDA's past and future pathways in a rapidly changing research environment.

CESSDA's positive review is a joint effort of the reviewers, the work of its staff and Service Providers while taking in the consideration materials provided (the CESSDA strategy, the description of tools and services, the CESSDA KPIs and a realistic and honest SWOT).

CESSDA as a consortium is proud to report that in the preliminary report (status November 2024), the reviewers acknowledged CESSDA's established position in Europe and increasingly in the global context, and its significant role in shaping global standards for metadata interoperability and data-sharing practices. Other positive impacts mentioned were the geographic inclusiveness of its network and tailoring of services to meet the needs of all its partners, ensuring that high-quality data is accessible and usable across the region.

A recommendation for the future is to continue assessing and addressing the needs of its users, including researchers, research data managers, and policymakers. By collecting user stories, CESSDA can showcase and leverage best practices for accessing and finding the right data in exemplary projects.

On behalf of CESSDA I would like to thank the reviewers, the Chair and participants of the monitoring process and the colleagues from the Service Providers present at the hearing.

Finally, I would like to thank the former Chair of the CESSDA General Assembly Helena Laaksonen, Director of the Finnish Social Science Data Archive, for her dedication to CESSDA and continuous support to the Main Office. A hearty welcome to the new Chair, Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy from the Directorate General for Scientific Research and International Relations in the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), and the new vice-Chair Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, Director of the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (Sikt).

Best wishes,

Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch

In the Spotlight

Lithuania's research community join forces to become a member of CESSDA ERIC

On the 14th of November CESSDA's Director presented CESSDA ERIC and the European landscape at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities of the Kaunas University of Technology (KUT). The overall theme of the conference was how to strengthen Lithuania's potential in the Humanities and Social Sciences through LiDA, the Lithuanian Data Archive and its envisaged membership in CESSDA. The event also included the announcement of a national advisory board made up of representatives from other Lithuanian Universities from the social sciences and the humanities, and representatives from the cultural heritage, NGOs and opinion poll sector. This inclusive approach may have the potential to lay the base for a future Lithuanian SSHOC.

More information about LiDA: Lithuanian Data Archive for Social Sciences and Humanities is a virtual digital infrastructure for SSH data and research resources acquisition, long-term preservation and dissemination. It provides access to more than 600 data and research resources. All the data and research resources are documented in both Lithuanian and English according to international standards. Access to the resources is provided via its Dataverse repository. LiDA curates different types of resources and they are published into catalogues according to the type: Survey Data, Aggregated Data (including Historical Statistics), Encoded Data (including News Media Studies), and Textual Data. Also, LiDA holds collections of social sciences and humanities data deposited by Lithuanian science and higher education institutions and Lithuanian state institutions (Data of Other Institutions).

CESSDA in the European Landscape

20 years of E-RIHS

On September 24, 2024, the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science Implementation Phase project (E-RIHS) hosted a public event at Manifattura Tabacchi in Florence to commemorate its forthcoming conclusion and two decades of E-RIHS activities. Organised by the Institute for Heritage Science of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR ISPC) in collaboration with Fondazione CR Firenze, the event highlighted E-RIHS's transition to a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) based in Florence, a milestone achieved with support from Fondazione CR Firenze.

Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch, as current chair, presented the importance and activities of SSHOC (the SSH Open Cluster). E-RIHS is a member of the SSHOC Governing Board.

Learn more

News from the EOSC landscape

Joining and building the EOSC Federation

EOSC conducted a survey in July and August, sought to measure the interest of EOSC stakeholders in joining the build-up of the EOSC Federation as the first national or thematic nodes. To qualify, candidate EOSC Nodes have to be legal entities to establish agreements, commit to providing operational resources, and possess the capacity and expertise to ensure robust, secure services at a high Technology Readiness Level. The data and services provided have to adhere to FAIR principles, be accessible to registered EOSC users, and offer sufficient compute and storage capacity for multiple user groups. This EOSC questionnaire received **121 responses**, including

input from ERICs. By the time of writing a selection is currently being made by the Tripartite Group (consisting of representatives from the European Commission, EOSC Association, and EOSC Steering Board) to initiate the EOSC Federation's build-up phase following the launch of the EOSC EU Node in October.

Learn more

EOSC EU Node Technical Launch Event

The EOSC EU node was launched on the 10th of October by the European Commission. The building of the EOSC EU Node was provided through third-party managed services to support the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) initiative. This Node promotes the creation of a "Web of FAIR data and interoperable services," and serves as a foundation for the EOSC Federation's growth over an initial three-year period. It provides essential services for scientific research, such as single-sign-on, resource catalogs, and cloud-based tools, while also setting a blueprint for future EOSC Nodes to join the federation under a unified architecture and interoperability framework. The full Technical Launch Event can be viewed via the recorded Live Stream of the event.

Learn more

EOSC Symposium
The EOSC Symposium took place in Berlin from 21-23 October 2024, focusing on shaping the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation and marking the official launch of the first node of the EOSC EU Node. ERICs played a significant role in the program, highlighting the importance of their perspectives in the ongoing development of EOSC. Notable contributions came from ERIC Forum ExBo member Bonnie Wolf-Boenish (CESSDA ERIC), Natalie Haley (INSTRUCT-ERIC), Andreas Witt (CLARIN ERIC), Aastha Mathur (Euro-BioImaging ERIC) as well as Petr Holub, Irene Schlünder, and Jens Habermann from BBMRI-ERIC.
Find all the recordings of the sessions here.

CESSDA looks back at the BY-COVID project

The BY-COVID project, initiated in 2021, has united 53 partners across 19 countries to provide open and accessible data on SARS-CoV-2 and other infectious diseases. This interdisciplinary effort created essential resources such as the COVID-19 Data Platform and the Infectious Diseases Toolkit, aimed at enhancing Europe's preparedness for future pandemics. CESSDA participated in the project alongside several of its service providers from the Netherlands, Finland, Greece, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia. These partners developed tools to harvest metadata, making socioeconomic data more discoverable on platforms like the COVID-19 Data Portal. The project emphasised metadata harmonisation

and cross-domain collaboration, contributing significantly to Europe's ability to address future health challenges.

Learn more

ICRI 2024 in Brisbane

Australia, in cooperation with the European Commission, hosted the **International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI)**, the biggest forum for the global research infrastructure community in Brisbane from 2nd to 5th of December, 2024. The biannual event delivered by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, brought together policymakers, research performing leaders, research infrastructure operators and users from around the world. Key topics discussed ranged from digital research infrastructure, delivery of societal impact, with a focus on international best practices and examples of RI-enabled translation into policy, community, and industry applications to Indigenous knowledge, global collaboration and global challenges. While the program was excellent, it is noteworthy to mention the lack of social sciences and humanities with a few exceptions.

Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch, CESSDA's Director, attended this important high-level networking research infrastructure policy event. She participated in the ICRI's side event "Enabling global FAIR data: WorldFAIR investment recommendations for research infrastructures" hosted by CODATA. The session explored the challenges and opportunities of research infrastructures and how they can provide the necessary data engineering support to fully implement the FAIR principles.

The event was also an occasion to meet and network with colleagues from the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC), the Australian Data Archive (ADA) based at POLIS: The Centre for Social Policy Research, at the Australian National University (ANU), and many other colleagues from Australian and global research infrastructures.

The event closed with the Brisbane Statement on a Collaborative Global Research Infrastructure Ecosystem to address global challenges and the strengthening of international research infrastructure collaborations that can help to solve them.

Learn more

News from the EC Projects

FAIR-IMPACT

FAIR IMPACT 'National Roadshow series' event in Norway

CESSDA MO participated, with SIKT, in the organisation of the FAIR IMPACT 'National Roadshow series' event in Norway of September 16th, 2024 - Data Interoperability: From Discussion to Practices in Norway. CESSDA Service Providers' contribution to the work in FAIR IMPACT was highlighted in a presentation from SIKT on the interoperability issues across data from social and environmental sciences, and in a presentation of a use case conducted by UKDS on Change triggers impacting PID generation for sensitive data within the Social Sciences. The presentations have been published in Zenodo.

More information can be found on the website.

FAIRfest: Celebrating advancements of FAIR solutions in EOSC

This is the joint final event of two projects, FAIR-IMPACT and FAIRCORE4EOSC, and it will take place on the 20th and 21st of February 2025 in The Hague, The Netherlands. The event will be tied up with the 19th edition of the International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC25), and will be an opportunity to showcase the results that the projects delivered since their start in 2022.

More information and registration on the website.

OSTrails

OSTrails Pathways and Interoperability Framework tools evaluation

OSTrails Deliverable D2.1 Analysis of the OSTrails Interoperability Framework Tools Compliance was published in September 2024. CESSDA MO and TAU-FSD participated as authors and contributors. CESSDA suggested several of its tools for review in this analysis, which made sure that the standards set by CESSDA and SSHOC were taken into account in the assessment. This deliverable evaluates the compliance of 38 tools, including DMP platforms, SKGs, FAIR assessment tools, CRIS, and repositories,

with the OSTrails Pathways and Interoperability Framework, identifying key technologies and gaps, and aligning with emerging standards, based on a systematic per-tool analysis.

The CESSDA Data catalogue and the SSH Open Marketplace were two of the 8 SKGs assessed, the CESSDA Metadata Validator was one of the 8 FAIR Assessment tools included, and among other tools were also included the CESSDA European Language Social Science Thesaurus, the CESSDA Vocabulary Service, the CESSDA Metadata Aggregator and the SSH Vocabulary Commons (from SSHOC).

CESSDA in the Community

Group photo of CESSDA (Main Office and Service Providers) at the EOSC Symposium. From left to right: Irena Vipavc Brvar (ADP), Ingrid Dillo (DANS), Ilona Trtíková (ČSDA), Mari Kleemola (FSD), Alen Vodopijevec (CESSDA), Ulf Jakobsson (SND), Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch (CESSDA), Iris Alfredsson (SND), Eva Stensköld (SND), Herve L'Hours (UKDS) and Matthew Morris (CESSDA)

Dagstuhl Workshop – Aligning Technology Architectures with Cross-Domain Metadata Models

From October 6th to 11th 2024, **Alen Vodopijevec, CESSDA´s Head of IT represented CESSDA at the Dagstuhl Workshop**, 'Aligning Technology Architectures with Cross-Domain Metadata Models' hosted by the Leibniz Center for Informatics in Germany at the Schloss Dagstuhl. The annual event brought together international experts, including representatives from CESSDA member data archives (e.g., UKDS, Sikt, DANS, GESIS), esteemed organizations such as Harvard Dataverse and W3C (the World Wide Web Consortium), universities, and research institutions.

The workshop focused on advancing the DDI-CDI (Cross-Domain Integration) specification, emphasizing tools, syntax representation, and fostering collaboration with W3C. Highlights included:
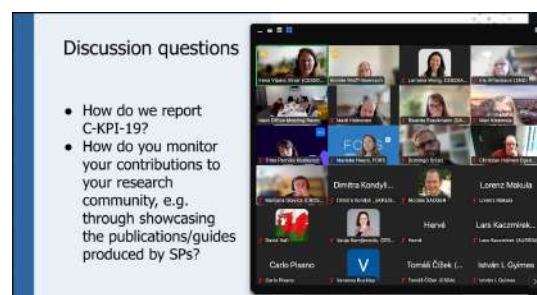
- Syntax representation: The development of ShEx, SHACL, and JSON Schema for RDF syntax validation, facilitating easier adoption within the FAIR community.

- W3C liaison: Progress in integrating DDI-CDI's capabilities, such as the variable cascade, with W3C standards like CSV on the Web and DataCube. This collaboration could lead to a formal joint working group.

- Tools development: New features for Harvard's Dataverse platform were outlined to enhance DDI-CDI support. Prototypes for metadata generation tools, including Croissant ML, were also developed.

- Qualitative data: A significant proposal was made to integrate qualitative and mixed-media data into the DDI-CDI model.

This gathering fostered interdisciplinary collaboration and solidified plans for upcoming projects, including a Hackathon organized by the DDI Developer's Group. It underscored the importance of international partnerships in advancing metadata standards to promote data interoperability and FAIR principles.
For more details, visit the [Dagstuhl Seminar Page](#).

CESSDA KPI (C-KPI) workshop

In the 2-day online workshop, about 30 participants from national service providers convened to discuss ways to refine the C-KPIs to amplify CESSDA's contribution to scientific excellence and policy development. Workshop participants reflected on the key recommendations from the draft ESFRI 2024 Landmark Monitoring Report and the evolving expectations from governments. The workshop sessions highlighted the importance of clarifying CESSDA's Handbook definitions, collecting impact/narrative stories, and incorporating new metrics to capture citations, user needs,

researcher engagement, policy influence, and strategic partnerships. Key takeaways include proposing modifications to the C-KPIs and agreeing with Service Providers (SPs) on the Handbook updates. In 2025, CESSDA Main Office and SPs will coordinate closely to collect user stories and KPIs to effectively articulate CESSDA's value to diverse stakeholders.

CESSDA and its SPs

A Quarter of a Century of FSD and Data Archving in Finland

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD) reflects on its evolution since its establishment in 1999. Over the years, FSD has become a pioneer in data archiving, adapting to shifts in research data management and openness. Notable milestones include the launch of the Aila Data Service in 2014 and achieving certifications for reliable digital data curation and preservation. The academic community's growing support for data openness has further propelled FSD's mission to promote responsible open science.

Learn more

Slovenian research community receives a Slovenian-language handbook on open science

The Slovenian Social Science Data Archives has published "SPOZNAJ FAIR", a Slovenian-language handbook on open science.

The handbook on open science in Slovenian, titled SPOZNAJ FAIR. Priročnik o odprti znanosti v Sloveniji (ed. Bezjak, 2024) was published in mid-September 2024. The Slovenian Social Science Data Archives led the activities for the preparation of the handbook, which is a product of collaboration of experts across eight public research organizations and libraries.

With nine thoughtfully curated chapters, this handbook is an invaluable resource for researchers, policy makers, and anyone interested in how Slovenia is embracing the open science movement. The introductory chapters present the development of the idea and principles of open science and the provisions on open science in Slovenia. Readers are

introduced to the strategic and legal basis for open science in Slovenia, the main national documents and the documents of public research organizations in Slovenia in the field of open science.

Learn more

FSD has been granted a CoreTrustSeal certificate for the years 2024–2027

The Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD) has received the prestigious CoreTrustSeal certification for the reliable curation and long-term preservation of digital data for 2024–2027, highlighting its commitment to reliable digital preservation and the promotion of data reuse. This international recognition affirms FSD's adherence to high standards in data curation, accessibility, and long-term preservation, ensuring its role as a trusted resource for researchers worldwide.

Learn more

FSD included in Finland's national roadmap for research infrastructures

The Finnish Social Science Data Archive and the CESSDA ERIC's Finnish Service Provider (FSD) has been included in Finland's national roadmap for research infrastructures for 2025–2028.

The Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee (FIRI Committee) within the Research Council of Finland granted roadmap status to a total of 21 national research infrastructures. The Roadmap guides investment and supports research, development, and innovation. Its aim is to keep infrastructures internationally competitive, responsive to scientific challenges, and capable of generating new knowledge and expertise while interacting with RDI actors. The previous roadmap was released in 2021, and FSD was included in it as well.

Learn more

SND Director Eva Stensköld Champions Open Science

As the year draws to a close Eva Stensköld, director of the [Swedish National Data Service (SND)](#), reflects on the progress made under her leadership. Since taking on the role earlier this year, Eva has been a driving force in advancing open science, enhancing research infrastructure, and fostering collaboration across Sweden and internationally.

Eva's vision for [SND](#) is rooted in the belief that open science and accessible research infrastructure are not only essential for the quality of research but also critical to ensuring fairness and inclusivity in academia. "It's about being an enabler," Eva emphasizes. "Creating good conditions for research allows both large institutions and smaller universities to benefit equally from robust support structures."

[Learn more](#)

Resources

[World Digital Preservation Day](#)

[Publication: Configuring, optimizing and enhancing Dataverse: The case of SoDaNet Repositories. The Greek Review of Social Research, 163, 221–242](#)

[Publication: Challenges and opportunities for the re-use of New Data Types (NDTs) in a changing landscape. The Greek Review of Social Research, 163, 193–219](#)

[Publication: Data reusability for migration research: a use case from SoDaNet Data Repository in New Methodological Approaches for Migration and Mobility Studies: From Traditional to Big Data. Haodong Qi (ed.). Frontiers Human Dynamics](#)

[Publication: Towards FAIRification of learning resources and catalogues—lessons learnt from research communities](#)

[Publication: Update of the Study on the readiness of research data and literature repositories to facilitate compliance with the Open Science Horizon Europe MGA requirements (1.0)](#)

[EDDI 24 conference - Presentations available on Zenodo Community](#)

[Recommendations for Open Access Book Policies](#)

[EOSC Symposium 2024: Outcomes and resources](#)
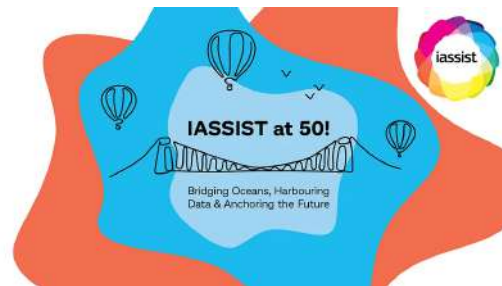
[The Knowledge Base: from the OPERAS project](#)

[Publication: Referencing software source code artifacts: identifiers for digital object](#)

Events and Trainings

Bristol, UK, June 3-6, 2025

50th Annual Conference of IASSIST

IASSIST is having its golden anniversary conference from June 3 to June 6, 2025, to engage in the past, present, and future of data services, including data management and technologies.

Learn more

The Hague, the Netherlands, 17-19 February 2025

19th International Digital Curation Conference

The [19th edition of the International Digital Curation Conference](#) (IDCC25) will take place in The Hague, the Netherlands between 17-19 February 2025.

The IDCC is an established annual event with a unique place in the digital curation community, reaching out to individuals, organisations and institutions across all disciplines and domains involved in curating data and providing an opportunity to get together with like-minded data practitioners to discuss policy and practice.

Learn More

Online, 15 January 2025

Launch event of the 2nd OSCARS Open Call for Open Science projects and services

The launch event date of the 2nd OSCARS Open Call for Open Science projects and services has been **postponed to January, 2025**.

Participants will learn more about the scope and content of the call, and will have the chance to raise any question about its scope, content, conditions, and the application process.

Learn more

Utrecht University, 14th July to 18th July 2025

Call for ESRA25 abstracts now open!

Hosted by Utrecht University, the 11th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) will take place from 14th July to 18th July 2025. The conference theme is "Promises and problems of new and alternative data sources and data formats for survey research. Methodological challenges and substantive conclusions."

Deadline for the [call for abstracts](#): **20th December 2024**.

Learn More

RDA 24th Plenary Meeting

The 24th Research Data Alliance (RDA) Plenary meeting will be held fully virtually from the 7-11 April, 2025, under the theme: 'Data for emerging technologies'.

It will be held fully virtually via a platform Whova covering all global time zones.

Learn more

Vacancies

CESSDA is looking for a new IT Officer

Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. If you have any news or stories that you would like us to consider for our next addition, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us here. We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,
The CESSDA Team