Support for Establishment of National/Regional Social Sciences Data Archives

D6.2—Dissemination Meeting Report

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The SERSCIDA participants are: Participant organisation name	*Short Name*	*Country*
University of Sarajevo, Human Rights Centre	HRC Sarajevo	BA
Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences	FORS	CH
University of Gothenburg, Swedish National Data Service	UGOT	SE
University of Essex, United Kingdom Data Archive	UESSEX	UK
University of Ljubljana, Social Science Data Archive	UL	SI
Institute of Economic Sciences Belgrade	IEN	RS
University of Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	FFZG	HR

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dissemination Meeting was the closing event of the SERSCIDA project. It brought together experts in the field of data archiving, as well as policy makers, university and non-governmental representatives from 7 countries. A total of 67 participants took part in presenting their work and discussing the future of data archiving in the Western Balkans.

The Meeting was opened by representatives of relevant ministries from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, followed by presentations of the SERSCIDA project achievements, perspectives for the establishment of the 3 Data Archives-Services in the Western Balkans. The key note speaker from UKDA set the tone for the two round tables that followed, with 10 presenters discussing policy implications of data archiving and data services impact on social science research, open access data and sharing benefits for research community.

The key conclusions were that all participants will continue to lobby for the establishment of the Data Archives-Services, using the products and outputs of the SERSCIDA project and emphasising the benefits of data archiving as a value in money, trust and verification.

We will steer policies towards the institutionalisation of a Data Archive by emphasising the:

- well known benefits for researchers (and empowerment of future ones),
- value for funding and regulatory bodies,
- role in achieving strategic objectives of science policies and open access both on national and EU levels,
- encouraging the quality of scientific work and production, and
- data depositing as a criteria for project approval for funding.

2. MEETING PROGRAMME AND OBJECTIVES

The Meeting Programme included a general session in the morning on SERSCIDA developments, a key note speaker and then afternoon two Round Table sessions on two most important issues for us –policy development/funding and researcher community.

Data Archives/Services and Policy Level Issues

Discussion on policy implications of data archiving: funding of data services as long term determination of governments to preserve data originated from publicly funded research, strategic issues in funding social science research, why we need strong policies in data management as starting point for strengthening social science landscape in the region.

Data Archives/Services and Research Community

Discussion on data services impact on social science research, open access data and sharing benefits for research community. How data services may strengthen position of researchers in fundraising, reinterpretation of previously collected data and development of social science and humanities research

2.1. Meeting objectives

The objectives of the Dissemination Meeting were:

- to spread the project results and debate future steps with relevant stakeholders and the policy-makers (relevant ministries) in particular,
- to sum up what has been achieved during the project and to review the policy related activities with emphasis on continuation of the policy dialog and possibilities of achieving the policy support for continuation of activities in establishing data archives and nurturing the open access idea in countries involved,
- to address the connections that exist between SERSCIDA and similar other projects and networks that exists both in the neighbouring countries but as well in EU and abroad, and
- to have the agreement or commitment of relevant stakeholders (data users, data producers, and policy and decision makers) to continue efforts in establishing and maintaining digital data archives in the region with open access oriented policies.

2.2 Expected and actual results

The final result expected of this Meeting was to have the agreement or commitment of relevant stakeholders (data users, data producers, and policy and decision makers) to continue efforts in establishing and maintaining digital data archives in the region with open access oriented policies.

The commitment of relevant policy makers, university representatives and potential funders for the support of three Data Archives-Services in Western Balkans has been secured. This commitment and support was evident from the high level of participation of policy makers from all three countries, as well as government institutions who will not have a direct funding role for the Data Archives-Services but will be able to benefit from their establishment and cooperation – such as the national statistic institutions. Government representatives who have the role in funding Data Archives-Services were present and expressed their support and interest (even those who were not able to come, such as the Croatian National Science Foundation, expressed this support and interest in earlier bilateral meetings).

Additional commitment was secured – that of the institutions that will be the hosts for the future Data Archives-Services in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia – that is to maintain close cooperation and join efforts in securing resources and support in making the Data Archives-Services functional in these three Western Balkan countries. Equally significant commitment from CESSDA member countries was expressed in wanting to continue to support these three countries and their teams in the process of Data Archives-Services establishment, application to CESSDA membership and participation in other relevant networks and associations.

3.1 Morning Session

Moderator: Saša Madacki, Director, University of Sarajevo, Human Rights Centre

Dina Masnik-Ćulahović, Advisor, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Masnik-Ćulahović congratulated to small team of HRC that has done a great job and expressed satisfaction that realization of this project brings tangible and useful results. She gave an overview of the position of BiH within EU framework programs with special emphasis on difficulties in cooperation following the fact that BiH still does not have status of EU candidate country.

She informed participants that BiH currently negotiates with EU to become an associate member of Horizon 2020 framework and that agreement is expected to be sign in June this

year. This will allow Bosnian researchers to participate in Horizon 2020 projects without restrictions.

Finally, she confirms that Ministry of Civil Affairs will continue to support realization of EU projects as it did in case of SERSCIDA.

Dr Jovan Bazić, Minister Assistant, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia

Dr Bazić on behalf of Ministry congratulated to all people that took participation in SERSCIDA project, especially because WB countries has been trailing in development of social sciences relative to other European countries. He pointed out that social sciences still fail to give the answers on many important questions in the region, like how technological development affects society, how to increase social responsibility and mitigate social conflicts, how to define position of government within society and many others. The answers to all that questions could be achieved only by building capacities in social sciences and establishment data archives is considered as an important step in that direction.

Finally, he underlined that Ministry has recognized importance of SERSCIDA project and that it will continue to support establishment of national data archive in social sciences in Serbia, as well as other similar regional projects in the future.

3.1.2 Session I: Achievements of SERSCIDA Project

Dr Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia: *Building capacities for establishment of social science digital data archives*

The main objective of Dr Bradić-Martinović's presentation was to make participants familiar with activities realized within SERSCIDA project work packages, which followed Belgrade Conference held in March 2013. She particularly focused on Work Package 4 that includes two types of activities: trainings, which aim to increase capacities of WB teams in process of data archives establishment, and working visits,

which aim to include relevant national stakeholders and provide the broad picture of position of data archives within society and institutions.

She gave a detailed overview on various issues that were discussed in trainings at UKDA (June 2013) and ADP (September 2013), as well as particular benefits from working visits to ADP (October 2013), UKDA (October 2013) and SND (November 2013). Additionally, she informed audience on other activities of SERSCIDA teams out of those specifies by the project, as participation at IASSIST Conference (May 2013) and CESSDA Trust (October and November 2013).

Marijana Glavica, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb: *Establishment of prototype social science digital data archives*

Ms Glavica addressed her presentation to the Work package 5 of SERSCIDA project and explained that prototype of social science digital data archives in Croatia, BiH and Serbia was developed in such manner to provide basis for any future activities on establishment of social science digital data archives in the region. She underlined three deliverables produced in this phase of the project:

- Document and materials related to social sciences data archives, which includes Charter documents and Policy and procedure documents which are in line with OAIS reference model and practice of CESSDA;

- Prototypes of websites of WB data archives/services, with emphasis on similarity in their design and functionality;

- Prototype of databases, which are developed separately in line with local context, but with intentions to harmonize systems and practices so that data and information can easily flow across national borders.

Saša Madacki, University of Sarajevo, Human Rights Centre: *Future of data archives*

Mr Madacki concluded the presentations of WB SERSCIDA teams in the morning session, by giving an overview of guidelines for future work of WB data archives after establishment, as follows:

- Taking care of the needs of the next generations of social science researchers;
- Development of culture of data sharing;
- Data quality assurance based on cleaning, validation and anonymisation of raw data;
- Proper timing of data distribution;
- Advising the clients and proactive dissemination of data;
- Work according to strict rules, with special focus on maintaining the data integrity.

Keynote Speaker: Louise Corti, Associate Director, UK Data Archive

Ms Courti acknowledged personal impression with achievements of the project, but also warned that establishment of data archives is rather beginning than finish of the journey. Based on the experiences in UK Data Archive, she evoked some of the issues that WB data archives will probably encounter after establishment, especially in the field of legal framework.

In addition, she pointed to financial issues as a main obstacle for sustainable development of data archives and gave a couple of useful arguments that UKDA used in policy dialogue with key governmental institutions to argue needs for its continuous work, like presenting the case studies of satisfied data users or realization of the study addresses issues of cost-benefit analysis, which justify cost effectiveness of UKDA funding as it found that ratio between value added and operating cost is around 5.4.

3.2 Afternoon Session: Round Table 1

Moderators:

Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

Marijana Glavica, Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities of the University of Zagreb

Lejla Somun-Krupalija, Human Rights Centre of the University of Sarajevo

Urban Krajcar, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia *Open Access Policy - Slovenia*

The presentation provided an overview of the science and technology landscape and the governance of research and innovation in Slovenia. The emphasis was on sharing the Slovene experience of developing and implementing Open Access policies. Slovenia is primarily guided by the EU Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information. Although Slovenia has not completely fulfilled all of its EU obligations, it has taken considerable and important steps to develop a Research Infrastructure Development Plan 2011-2020 as well as Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia 2011-2020, both of which treat Open Access policies. An Open Access research project was implemented and one of the results is the Open Access internet resource: openaccess.si that is a national information portal, established in 2011 with the aim to: to make open access to data more recognised and popular and is targeting publishers, researchers, libraries. This was a project of all major stakeholders (universities, institutes) supported by: EIFL, Ministry of Science, and the National Research Agency. The Slovenian plan is to complete the National Action Plan for Open Access (by the end of 2014), define Open Access mandates (funders, institutions) and create and support National Open Access helpdesks (research librarians).

Martin Stringfellow, Office of National Statistics, United Kingdom *The value of a Data Archive*

The purpose of Data Archives or Services is to be useful for data producers and data users. This was a

presentation of the data users view and benefit of having a Data Archive and modes of working with one.

The Office of National Statistics is UK Government's largest producer of statistics and is the internationally recognised national statistics institution for the UK, as well as the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority. It is responsible for promoting and safeguarding official statistics within UK, independent of Ministers and reports through the UK Statistics Authority to Parliament and Devolved Administrations.

The value of Data Archives for national statistics institutions is in money, trust and in verification. Data Archives are valuable money value for the depositors and to the society, as conducting secondary research through Data Archives reduces public spending on research. This has been additionally proven through research conducted by Charles Beagrie Ltd and The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies (CSES) on *Economic Impact Evaluation of the Economic and Social Data Service*. Data Archives are valuable in trust to academia and to the government as they have the capacity to preserve and share data that no other institution does.

Tomaž Smrekar, Statistical office of Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia, *»Hidden« research infrastructure: data from official statistics*

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia has more than 30 years of practice with using administrative data for official statistics besides conducting surveys. We are heavy user of four infrastructural administrative registers (people, business, territory, dwellings). All of them have uniform identification numbers. All survey and administrative data are available for research through SURS.

As we use a lot of sensitive data we put emphasis on information security, personal data protection and statistical confidentiality. Access to data for researchers has been possible even before 2003 with limited transparency and unequal access possibilities but in 2003, as an response to pressure from research community for population census data, we establishes transparent internal and external rules and procedures. Researchers can get data on CD/DVD or access data in „safe room" or with remote access facility which was financed by ministry for

research. To upgrade our service for researchers we begun cooperation with data archive ADP in 2002 in different fields of cooperation: preparation of data and metadata, provision of access to data, training of researchers and promotion of data for research.

Teo Matković, Croatia *The long march towards the data archive? Or how to sell-out to the government?*

 Ten years ago the Data Archive was a completely unknown concept in Croatia. The data were compiled, used by researchers, sometimes shared; results were published, often only descriptively and data disappeared or became illegible with time – and this was an accepted situation of the scientific society of that time. However, some steps were taken from then till now. The integration into international research and projects started; access to studies abroad and return from postgraduate studies to Croatia increased; and researchers were exposed to the practice of data sharing and data archives. My experience with UKDA lead a number of us to start an interdisciplinary initiative to establish a Data Archive in 2005. Although this project dwindled off due to the economic crisis, we were successful in the SERSCIDA project with our EU and Western Balkan partners. Parallel to these processes a significant institutional infrastructure had developed in the science and education systems (agencies, National Science Foundation, etc.) and models of funding and valuing scientific research went through a transformation. A new series of documents in the field of science and higher education emphasise the role of research infrastructures and open access.

Although SERSCIDA has greatly increased the chance of the establishment of a Data Archive in Croatia, much work is still left in the field of its actual establishment process and funding.

We will steer policies towards the institutionalisation of a Data Archive by emphasising the:

- well known benefits for researchers (and empowerment of future ones),
- value for funding and regulatory bodies,
- role in achieving strategic objectives of science policies and open access both on national and EU levels,
- encouraging the quality of scientific work and production, and
- data depositing as a criteria for project approval for funding.

Daniela Andrén, Örebro University School of Business & Swedish Social Insurance Agency

Empirical research is strongly dependent on data. The data used in published articles and reports are extracted from different data sources, which have their advantages and disadvantages. When researchers do not design, collect, document and manage the data themselves, they are dependent on information related to all these aspects. Having good documentation of data design and variables' definition is "a must" for assuring the correctness of the results' interpretation.

Unfortunately, the policy interventions until now seem to be less focused on aspects regarding the documentation and archiving of research data, than increasing the access to research data, safeguarding the privacy of individuals and protecting confidentiality, proprietary results or national security. Therefore, good examples experienced by the empirical researchers should be taken in consideration in the design of new policies aimed to easier the researchers' access to the big and complex research databases. My presentation offers a good example of data-users' support that policy makers could take in consideration when designing new policies.

3.3 Afternoon Session: Round Table 2

Moderators:

Alen Vodopijevec, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia

Aleksandar Zdravković, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

Ines Elezović, Department for Quality Assurance in Education, National Centre for External Evaluation of Education, Croatia: *Information and dataflow in between legal regulation and institutional self-regulation*

Ms Elezović delivered the presentation on challenges to implementation of open access policy to data in governmental and public institutions in Croatia. She described how heavy load of responsibility for data availability put open access on shaky grounds in regard to present human and technical resources, with particular focus on the field of education. After pointing out some system shortcomings that create obstacles for wider secondary use of previously gathered data, like deficiency of vertical (national towards local or vice versa) or horizontal (communities partnership) transmission or sharing of research data, she discussed the possibilities for further development of data archives in social sciences that will consider needs of researchers.

Živa Broder, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, The Public Opinion and Mass Communication Research Centre:
European Social Survey (ESS): from data gathering to data use

Ms Broder began presentation by describing results achieved during previous 45 years in the field of social surveys implemented in Slovenia, which among others include 74 Slovenian Public Opinion Surveys and 6 European Social Surveys. Then went on describe the increasing significance of ESS in academic publishing, illustrated by growing trend of academic publications based on ESS in recent years, and gave more details on most analyzed topics comprised by ESS. She finished her presentation by describing ESS methodological overview, categories of ESS data available and related data documentation.

Dr Hasan Hanić, Belgrade Banking Academy, Serbia:
Benefits for research community

Dr Hanić started presentation with examples of various difficulties that researchers in social sciences encountered in the past, based on his reach experience in more than 30 years long career of researcher and lecturer of statistics. He provided a couple of illustrations how lack of data archives and

modern technology for data processing in the past not only narrowed the possibilities for research, but also put significant methodological limitations and restrictions to data analysis. He concluded the presentation with discussion on various benefits that digitalization of data archives brings about to researcher community in social sciences.

Bojana Tasić, The Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences (FORS): *Archive prototype*

Ms Tasić addressed her presentation to workflow described using OAIS model, which is included in Report on prototype database, one of SERSCIDA Work package 5 deliverables. She presented basic scheme of OAIS model, with detailed explanations for every single element in the model. She started with describing functional entities, which comprise ingest, data management, archival storage, preservation planning, administration and access. Then presentation continued with description of actors and their roles within model, as well as tools for actors' communication. She ended presentation with depiction of information packages and their workflow throughout the functional entities.

Irena Vipavc Brvar, University of Ljubljana, Slovene Social Science Data Archive (ADP): *Nesstar: preparing, viewing, analyzing, downloading*

Presentation started with an overview of Nesstar (software system for data publishing and online analysis), its characteristics and abilities, extent of international usage and important users. Then she went on description of particular tools within Nesstar system:
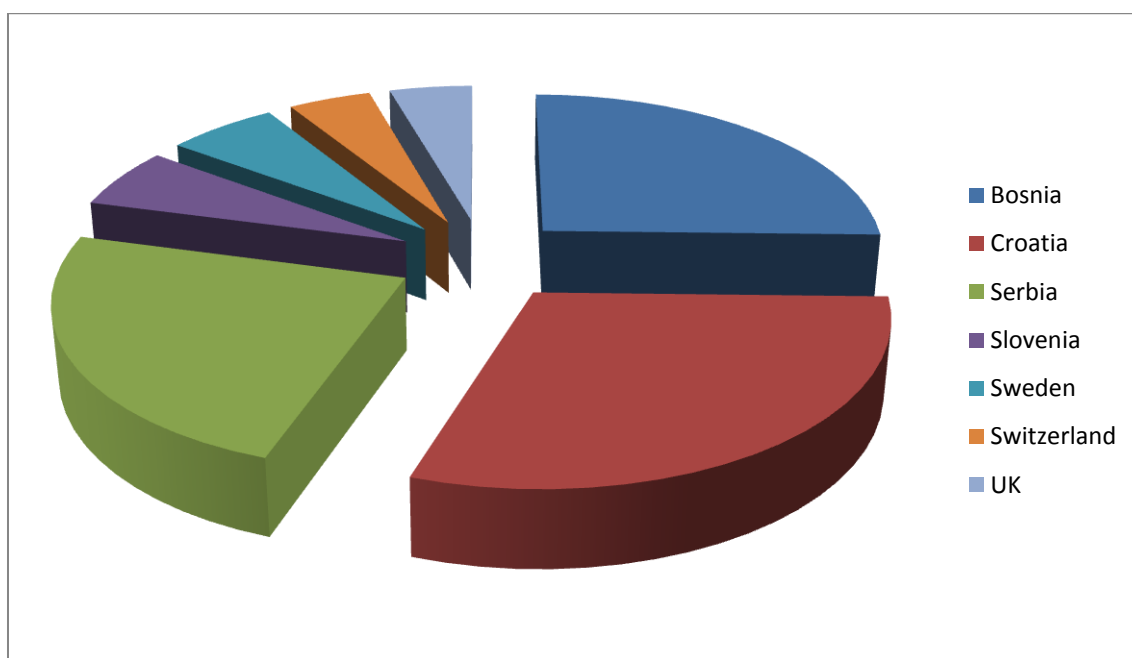
- Nesstar Publisher, tool for publishing data from a variety of sources, which allows easy editing/creation and export of DDI documented datasets with XML experience needed.
- Nesstar Server, tool that includes an SQL-based metadata management system, a data storage system, powerful statistical engine and flexible access control system;
- Nesstar WebView, customisable and configurable layer that presents the search, browse, display, analysis and retrieval options to the user.

The presentation was concluded by illustrating possibilities of Nesstar, using one of the datasets deposited at BiH data archive.
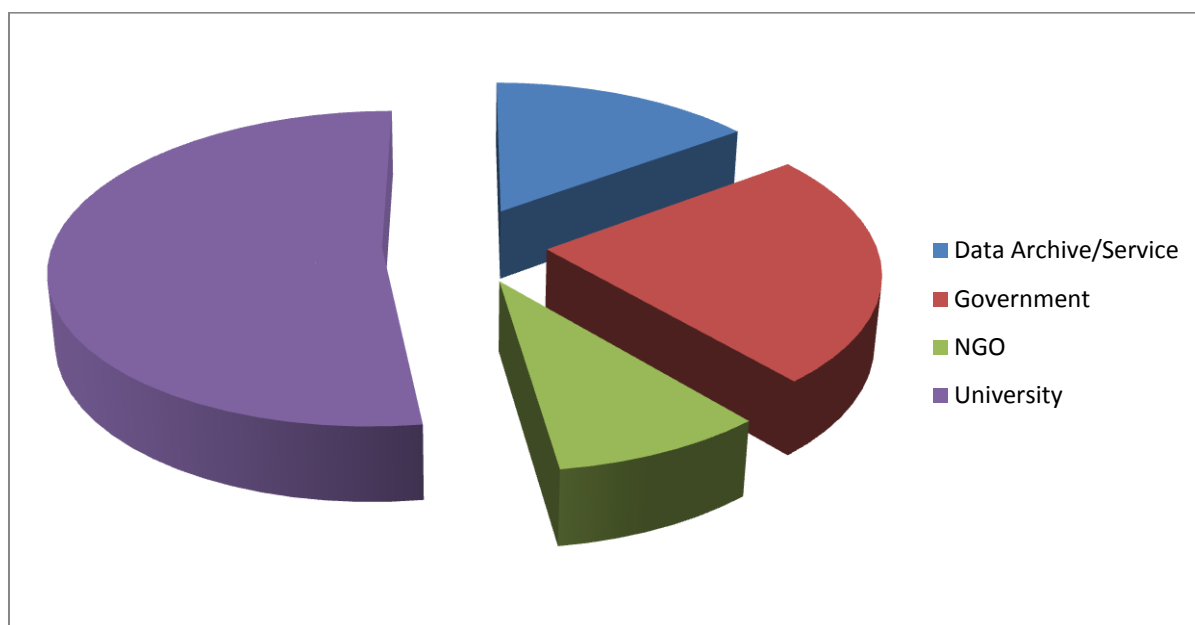
4. PARTICIPANTS

The Dissemination Meeting was attended by 67 participants from 7 European countries. The participants represented government institutions with mandates in the field of education, science, statistics, employment and finances. Universities were represented by participants from social science fields of study, as well as IT sciences, coming from faculties, institutes and libraries. Data archive-service representatives came from CESSDA countries and non-governmental organisations were represented by those that actively conduct research. Annex II provides a list of all participants while the following graphs show the representation of participants per country of origin and institutional background.

Graph 1. SERSCIDA Dissemination Meeting participants by country

Graph 2. SERSCIDA Dissemination Meeting participants by institutional background

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Dissemination Meeting conclusions can be presented in two major groups: one that is a statement of the success of SERSCIDA objectives and tasks – that is the basis for the other group of conclusions that consists of the next steps required for the actual functioning and establishment of the Data Archives- Services.

Statements on SERSCIDA successes:

- SERSCIDA has brought together four CESSDA Service Providers institutions and three Western Balkan institutions interested and committed to establishing data archives in social sciences in their countries. Knowledge and experience have been shared not only between the CESSDA partners and Western Balkan institutions, but through their expanding network of key stakeholders in the field of data archiving.

- From the beginning of the SERSCIDA project, it has been met with much appreciation and interest both by policy makers (government institutions) as well as future data producers and users (statistics, universities and researchers). This was already shown in high participation at the SERSCIDA International Conference in Belgrade in 2013, the 4 National Round Tables and now at the Dissemination Meeting in Sarajevo in 2014. The results of commonly prepared analysis on the potentials of data archives in Western Balkans were presented to the large audience, coming from WBC countries. The audience

was diverse; it consisted of policy executives, major research institutions' representatives and researchers, and existing scientific information service providers such as computer centres, research libraries etc.

- SERSCIDA partners from the WBC acquired human resources skills and knowledge that enable them to act as the future leaders of newly established organisations.

- The three data services are equipped to meet the operational obligations for CESSDA service providers. Internal organisational and technical workflows were established following the OAIS standard and requirements of long-term digital preservation. In joint efforts of WBC partners and CESSDA countries developed key documents covering legal and technical aspects important for maintaining data service like the scope and nature of services, staff and management, technical procedures and rules, the capacities, limitations and placement of the data services within their national contexts etc. They were based on the best practice within CESSDA member institutions, and resulted in a nearly complete blueprint for the new data services in the Western Balkan countries.

<u>Establishment of Data Archives-Services requires:</u>

- continuing support by existing policy making partners who have participated in the SERSCIDA project,

- lobbying other relevant policy makers and funders by proclaiming:
    - Benefits of data archives to governmental institutions that produce data (like in case of National Centre for External Evaluation of Education, Croatia);
    - Emphasising the value of data archiving both in financial terms, issues of trust and verification of data;
    - Open Access EU requirements but equally benefits to researchers, students and society at large;

- getting on board relevant government institutions who can be data producers who will use the data archives in the future (like statistical institutions, employment and health agencies, etc.);

- close cooperation between the 3 Western Balkan countries in efforts to secure resources for Data Archives-Services functioning; and

- continued support by CESSDA member countries in the future work of the Data Archives-Services in the Western Balkan countries.

Annex I – Dissemination Meeting Programme

SERSCIDA
Dissemination Meeting
Hotel Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Thursday, 29th May, 2014

MORNING PROGRAMME

9:30 – 10:30		Registration			
10:30 – 11:00		Opening Ceremony Welcome Address by Representative of University of Sarajevo			
10:30 – 11:00	Dissemination I	**Dina Masnik-Ćulahović**, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina	**Jovan Bazić,** Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia		**Closing Remarks** Moderator: Saša Madacki
11:00 – 11:45		Session I: Achievements of SERSCIDA Project			
		Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade	**Marijana Glavica,** Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb	**Saša Madacki,** University of Sarajevo-Human Rights Centre	**Closing Remarks** Moderator: Saša Madacki
11:45 – 12:30		Keynote Speaker: **Louise Corti**, United Kingdom Data Archive			

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

12:30 – 1:30	Lunch		
1:30 – 4:40	Round Table Discussions		
		PARALEL SESSIONS	
1:30 – 2:30	Dissemination II	**Data Archives/Services and Policy Level Issues** Discussion on policy implications of data archiving: funding of data services as long term determination of governments to preserve data originated from publicly funded research, strategic issues in funding social science research, why we need strong policies in data management as starting point for strengthening social science landscape in the region. Panellists: - Urban Krajcar, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia - Martin Stringfellow, Office of National Statistics, United Kingdom - Tomaž Smrekar, Statistical office of Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia - Teo Matković, Croatia - Daniela Andrén, Örebro University, Sweden Moderators: Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović, Marijana Glavica and Lejla Somun-Krupalija	**Data Archives/Services and Research Community** Discussion on data services impact on social science research, open access data and sharing benefits for research community. How data services may strengthen position of researchers in fundraising, reinterpretation of previously collected data and development of social science and humanities research Panellists: - Ines Elezović, National Centre for External Evaluation of Education - Živa Broder, Public Opinion and Mass Communication Research Centre, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia - Hasan Hanić, Belgrade Banking Academy, Serbia - Bojana Tasić, FORS, Switzerland - Irena Vipavc Brvar, ADP, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia Moderators: Alen Vodopijevec and Aleksandar Zdravković
2:30 – 3:00		Coffee Break	
3:00 – 4:00		**Data Archives/Services and Policy Level Issues** →continued	**Data Archives/Services and Research Community** →continued
5:00 – 6:00		**Reception**	
6:00 – 7:30		Conference Dinner	

SERSCIDA
Završna konferencija
Hotel Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
četvrtak, 29. maj, 2014.g

SERSCIDA
Dissemination Meeting
Hotel Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Thursday, May 29th, 2014

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Annex III – Meeting Photos