Report on the Workshop

"Social Science Data Archives in Eastern Europe – Results, Potentials and Prospects of the Archival Development"

GESIS Branch Office Berlin, 22-24 February, 2002

The workshop on "Social Science Data Archives in Eastern Europe – Results, Potentials and Prospects of the Archival Development" was the concluding event of a project started in the Summer 2001. It was supported by the UNESCO MOST Programme and the German Social Science Infrastructure Services (GESIS) and was held in Berlin on 22-24 February, 2002. 28 participants from 16 countries discussed the Eastern European data archive issue for 3 days. The workshop brought together representatives of the existing or emerging data archives in **Estonia, Latvia, Russia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Romania and Slovakia** as well as researchers who are involved in data archiving initiatives in **Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Yugoslavia**. These experts presented country reports analyzing the state-of-the-art of the empirical social science research and evaluating the potential for the creation and further development of a data archive in their countries. Additionally, representatives from the **Swedish, Finish, Australian** and **German** Data Archive shared their experience in this respect.

Brigitte Hausstein (GESIS Branch Office Berlin/Central Archive Cologne) introduced the project and pointed out that this meeting was not intended to be merely a remake of the "New Archive Forum"[1] held at the annual conference of the International Federation of Data Organisations (IFDO) and the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) in Amsterdam 2001 but the formation of a new level of information and ultimately network building in the sphere of data archives in Eastern Europe. The workshop serves the establishment of new archives in those countries where such facilities are weak and, at the same time, it promotes the cooperation of already existing Eastern European data archives as well.

In his speech **Walter Hirche** (Vice President of the German UNESCO Commission and Member of the German Bundestag) welcomed the initiative of GESIS to hold this workshop.

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[1] Social Science Data Archives in Eastern Europe: Papers presented at the "New Archives Forum", IASSIST/IFDO Conference "A Data Odyssey – Collaborative working in the Social Science Cyberspace", Amsterdam, 14-19 May 2001. Edited by Brigitte Hausstein and Paul de Guchteneire. GESIS Branch Office Berlin/Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung an der Universität zu Köln 2001. Published at: http://www.gesis.org/en/data_service/eastern_europe/news/NAF2001.pdf

He emphasised its contribution to the furtherance of international co-operation and the sharing of knowledge which were also major mandatory concerns of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO) as means to contribute to peace and development. He expressed the hope that networking social science data archives in Europe would become a strong element of the still to be worked out regional strategy of UNESCO for scientific cooperation and the building up of knowledge societies.

Ekkehard Mochmann (President of the IFDO, Central Archive Cologne) gave some insights into the development of the international data movement. He stressed the important role of the data archive network organisations IFDO and CESSDA (Council of European Social Science Data Archives) in the process of the integration of the social research data base. He also expressed the hope for the inclusion of data archives in Eastern Europe in these activities and offered support by and membership in these organisations. Due to the disastrous weather conditions in Copenhagen, **Björn Henrichsen** (President of CESSDA, Norwegian Data Service, Bergen) got lost in the country side somewhere in Denmark and after having travelled 16 hours he decided to go back to Norway. Still, the spirit of CESSDA was represented by Ekkehard Mochmann, the former President of CESSDA.

The workshop was structured in three domains of potential sharing of experience and expertise: First domain included the country reports from Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The different approaches to the establishment of an archive (at a university, academy of sciences and at a commercial institute) related to the second. And third was about how to take advantage of the existing experience and adopt it to the circumstances in the respective countries.

The four country reports presented on the **first day** of the meeting showed clearly that despite the wealth of produced data there is still a lack of systematic and centralized archival and data services in Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Often data producers function as data archives and their own data users at the same time. Access channels are extremely variable and mostly depend on informal relations. In the discussion, the data sharing culture (embargo policy, copyright, data protection etc.), missing co-operation between the researchers, budget short cuts and brain drain were specified as the main obstacles for the free flow of data. All rapporteurs have shared the view that the inability to overcome the competition and the structure of the research funding in the countries are the main reasons for the lack of centralized data access. However it was also mentioned that there were attempts to overcome this unsatisfying situation, as the report presented by **Ljiliana Bacevic** (University of Belgrade, Centre for Political Studies and Public Opinion Research, Yugoslavia) impressively showed. She said that one of the results of a meeting of 14 leading social science research institutes in January 2002 was the establishment of a

consortium for creating a national database. Furthermore representatives from seven of these institutes agreed to provide available data sets for creating the national database.

The evaluation of the potential for the establishment of a data archive in Bulgaria and Lithuania was also very promising. **Yantsislav Yanakiev** (Sociological Research Centre of the Bulgarian Ministry of Defence, Sofia, Bulgaria), **Algis Krupavicius** (Kaunas University of Technology, Policy and Public Administration Institute, Lithuania) and **Vladas Gaidys** (Market and Opinion Research Center VILMORUS, Vilnius, Lithuania) pointed out that the future social science data archive in their countries had to be an inter-academic institution based on an agreement between universities and institutes of the Academy of Sciences as well as private agencies. First attempts in this direction have already been made in Bulgaria. In Lithuania results in this respect are expected in the next future. Whereas **Krzystof Zagorski** (Public Opinion Research Center CBOS, Warsaw, Poland) considered CBOS's "self declaration as a data archive" to be the only strategic option in the Poland.

The case studies from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine presented on the **second day of the workshop** illustrated different approaches to the creation of a data archive. **Jindrich Kreijci** introduced the Sociological Data Archive in the Czech Republic (SDA) as a department of the Institute of Sociology at the Academy of Sciences in Prague. He stressed that this organisational framework guarantees the permanent funding only for the regular activities of the archive and the SDA has to keep the operational costs on a low level. **Andu Rämmer** from the Estonian data archive (ESSDA) also mentioned that the financial support provided by the University of Tartu enabled it to offer merely basic services. First results of the data archive project launched in Russia were presented by **Ludmilla Khakulina** and **Larisa Kosova**. Supported by the FORD Foundation the private opinion research institute VCIOM established the basics of a national data archive. Up to now 40 data sets have been processed and included in a retrieval system. The next step is to invite other Russian research institutes to join this initiative. Among others a potential partner is the Institute of Sociology at the Academy of Sciences which has been maintaining a data bank of sociological research (DBSR) since 1985. This data bank was introduced by **Nina Rostegaeva**. An example of the cooperation of three different research institutes in Ukraine were given by **Olga Honscharenko** (Kiev International Institute of Sociology, KIIS) and **Andrij Gorbachik** (Kiev Taras Shevchenko University). Together with the department of Sociology of the National University of "Kiev Mahyla Academy" and supported by a Canadian Fund they set up a database which made the data sets of the Kiev International Institute of Sociology publicly available.

First results of the data archive project in Slovakia started in January 2002 was presented by **Katarina Strapcova** (Institute of Sociology at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava). Although the idea of the establishment of a Slovak data archive is relatively new she was

able to report on the progress concerning the compilation of a data catalogue. **Katarina Strapcova** stressed that the cooperation with the Czech data archive and also with the Central Archive in Cologne had been very useful in this respect. Finally, **Ausma Tabuna** (Latvian Social Science Data Archive, Riga, LZSDA) reported on the cooperation of the Latvian and Swedish data archive.

The discussion showed very clearly that in spite of different patterns in institutional structure all data archives are facing the same problems: the chronic lack of long-term financing and trained staff. Furthermore the missing data sharing culture and the limited use of the secondary analysis were considered to be the main obstacles for the further development of the data infrastructure services in the Eastern European countries.

The **third part of the workshop** was opened by the report presented by **Adrian Dusa** (Romanian Data Archive at the Institute for Quality of Life Research, Bucharest, RODA) and followed by the presentation of the Slovenian Data Archive at the University of Ljubliana (ADP) given by **Janez Stebe**. They were excellent examples of how to take advantage of existing experiences and adopting these to the circumstances in the respective country. **Adrian Dusa** introduced the use of the new Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) by the Romanian data archive. He encouraged all participants to start with the application of this method of meta data production (study, file and variable descriptions as well as codebooks) because it was easy to use and the software was available on the Internet for free. This also refers to the NESTAR system which facilitates the publication of DDI codebooks on the Internet. But he also pointed out some technical problems which had to be solved by the provider of the system. **Janez Stebe's** presentation also showed his preference concerning using DDI. All data sets provided by the ADP are described according to the DDI format and are available on the Internet.

Both presentations launched a lively discussion about DDI and raised the demand of training facilities. **Iris Alfredson** (Swedish Data Service, Göteborg, SSD) and **Sami Borg** (Finish Data Archive at the University of Tampere, FSD) mentioned that even their archives were about to introduced this kind of meta data production. In this connection **Ekkehard Mochmann** informed about a joined application for EU-support aiming at solving these problems within the western data archives.

On Sunday morning the last session of the workshop started with the paper presented by **Brigitte Hausstein**. Besides the introduction of the services provided by GESIS, the main focus of her presentation was laid on the suggestion to create the East European Data Archive Network. Further more, she informed about the proposal on the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union (EU) which will be accepted in April 2002. She pointed out that there will be some changes in comparison to former programs. This regards the application rules, the included countries and the instruments. Both representatives from EU

member and candidate states as well as international European interest organizations can apply for financial support within the new programme. According to the EU proposal, the activities carried out under the heading "Structuring the European Research Area" are intended to help establish a fabric of research infrastructures of the highest level in Europe and to promote their optimum use on a European scale. Integrated infrastructure initiatives shall combine in a single action several activities essential to reinforce and develop research infrastructures, in order to provide services at the European level. To this end, they shall combine networking activities with a support activity (such as relating to transnational access) or research activities needed to improve infrastructure performance, excluding, however, the financing of investment for new infrastructures, which can only be financed as specific support actions.[2] Therefore **Brigitte Hausstein** considered the establishment and operation of a cooperation network in the field of data archives in Eastern Europe as a precondition for an EU application. She argued that the inclusion of the east part of Europe was very important for the creation of an infrastructure on a European scale. She encouraged the participants of the workshop to set up this network in order to apply for financial support from the EU.

At the same time she stressed that this network was not intended to replace or substitute the already existing networks IFDO and CESSDA. It should act as an informal network designed to unite data archives which are at an early stage of their existence and share common problems as well as to make sure that the Eastern European data archives will catch up with the advanced western data archives. In this respect the Central Archive as the German member of this network could function as a coordinator of all activities concerning the network and the EU application.

The **final discussion** was determined by the suggestion made by **Brigitte Hausstein**. All participants agreed to set up the **East European Data Archive Network** (EDAN) and showed great interest in joining the EU application. Based on his experience **Ekkehard Mochmann** pointed out that EU grants are provided for a limited time span only and that the preparation of the EU proposal would be hard work for all involved. This proposal should include not only descriptions of needs but also of real products which can be offered after finishing the project. He encouraged all participants to prepare directories of their archive holdings and drafts of ideas relevant for the EU application. They should focus on the identification of the main priorities for successful future development of the data infrastructure in the countries. He also added that for those archives, which were not formal members of CESSDA the EDAN could serve as a good organisational framework to coordinate efforts for

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[2] Amended proposals for the Council Decisions concerning the specific programmes implementing the Sixth Framework Programme 2002-2006 of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2002-2006) concerning the specific programmes implementing the Sixth Framework Programme 2002-2006 of the European Atomic Energy Community for research and training activities (2002-2006) Commission of the European Communities Brussels, 30.1.2002, p 197. http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2002/com2002_0043en01.pdf

setting up the archive. He offered to ask for support of CESSDA and IFDO and suggested to include also UNESCO as sponsor in this network. This was highly appreciated by the participants.

There was also a common understanding of the fact that the Eastern European archives need special training in meta data production in the very next future. **Adrian Dusa** suggested not to wait for the results of the EU application but to organise a training seminar on DDI in Bucharest 2002. **Janez Stebe** proposed to compile a priority list of comparative research projects in which Eastern European countries were involved and to use it in the training seminar.

Brigitte Hausstein summarized the discussion and stressed that the creation of EDAN is the starting point for the preparation of the EU application. The application should be prepared step by step, coordinated by the GESIS Branch Office and carried out by a working group, which has to be set up after the first call for papers. The workshop provided a comprehensive view of the progress achieved in the field of establishing data archives in Eastern Europe but it has shown as well that there are data archives on different levels of development. The planned training seminar in Bucharest is only one way to improve the knowledge of the data archive specialists.

All participants agreed that this meeting was a very good opportunity for all data archive specialist to share experiences, and the lively discussion brought new ideas for the further development of their archives. On behalf of the participants of the workshop **Brigitte Hausstein** addressed words of appreciation to the UNESCO/MOST Programme, especially to **Paul de Guchteneire** who could not make it to be in Berlin prior to other engagements. Without the support of UNESCO this meeting would not have been possible.

The papers presented at the workshop will be published in the Internet in April 2002.

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