Existing infrastructures for data services in Western Balkans

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Purpose and questions

dual purpose

- get to know existing experiences with long-term preservation of research data and potential infrastructure
- inform about the project and recognise future collaborators

questions

- does the institution have the infrastructure for data storage?
- do they develop policies and competences for long-term preservation and documentation of the data?
- whether there are technical capacity / computer services for the collection and dissemination of data?
- what is the perception of a possible national data archives?
Surveyed Institutions

- research institutions (faculties and institutes)
  - disciplines: demography, economy, information sciences, criminology, culture and communications, media studies, education, political sciences, history, psychology, sociology
  - quantitative and qualitative data
  - data from external sources (especially economics)

- research infrastructure institutions (libraries, computing centres), national statistical offices, state archives
Instrument and procedure

- initially - semi-structured interview with representatives of relevant institutions (for WP4)
  - face-to-face or phone
  - September to November 2012

- continued exploring and reaching new people and institutions
Identified experience - BiH

- Human Rights Centre of the University of Sarajevo
  - *initiated the SERSCIDA project*
  - *16 years of research and archiving experience*

- Agency for statistics of B&H
  - *centralised data compilation for whole B&H*
Identified experiences - Croatia

- University Computing Centre of the University of Zagreb (Srce)
  - “Public Data Collections” service is intended for storing different data collections that are of the public interest and which scope requires considerable data resources
  - authentication and authorization of infrastructures (AAI@EduHr) - part of eduGAIN service
Identified experiences - Serbia

- Institute of Social Sciences
  - 10 years ago initiative for establishing national data archive; today involved in international project with objective of establishment of digital archive at the institutional level

- Institute for Social Research
  - preserves all the data produced together on one computer; data are available to all researchers at the Institute within two years from the completion of the research, and afterwards they are fully publicly available
What happens with the data?

- data are stored on the local computers and media of researchers
- some institutions store data on their local servers

great risk of data being lost forever!
Policies, competences, data documentation, technical capacities

- mostly non-existent

- Srce (Croatia)
  - Rulebook on Terms of Use of Data Services
  - basic metadata (DC), no documentation
  - software for collecting and access to data
Possible models of national data archives - BiH

- satellite model
  - data can be collected in Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo
- Human Rights Centre University of Sarajevo in Sarajevo, key role in data acquisition, processing, support for researchers seeking data sets, training for researchers
- National and University Library of Republic of Srpska in Banja Luka, key role IT infrastructure and maintenance
- Information and Documentation Centre in Sarajevo, key role back-up and safe room for sensitive data depository and access for researchers
Possible models of national data archives - Croatia

- continue, develop and enhance data services already established at Srce computing centre
  - add user services and support to already established technical infrastructure

- cooperation with relevant higher education and research institutions - forming a network of people who will work closely with researchers and giving local support to scientists, facilitate data preservation and sharing
Possible models of national data archives - Serbia

- organization of the archive within the National Library of Serbia, given their extensive experience in the field of archiving
- an scientific institution to be a central point for archiving the data collected by all other institutions, funded by budget for science, with additional proposal to introduce a minimum price for the service to support sustainability
- archive could be created at the University of Belgrade, but the center would operate independently or in computer center of the University of Belgrade.