

# Anonymization and privacy management in social science data archives: the Slovenian case

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Session 6H: 8-Embracing Open Science: Methodological and Epistemological Challenges in Research Infrastructures for the Social Sciences 1/2

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THE RC33 11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODOLOGY



# Content

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1. CESSDA: international context
2. Slovenian Social Science Data Archives
  - Data processing and archiving procedures
  - Quality assessment and classification of curation
  - Risk assessment for the disclosure of personal data
3. Cases: the MiCREATE and DEAGENCY projects
4. Conclusions and recommendations



# Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives

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In Europe, national social science data archives began to emerge in the 1970s.

“CESSDA ... brings together social science data archives across Europe, with the aim of promoting the results of social science research and supporting national and international research and cooperation.”

(<https://www.cessda.eu/About>)

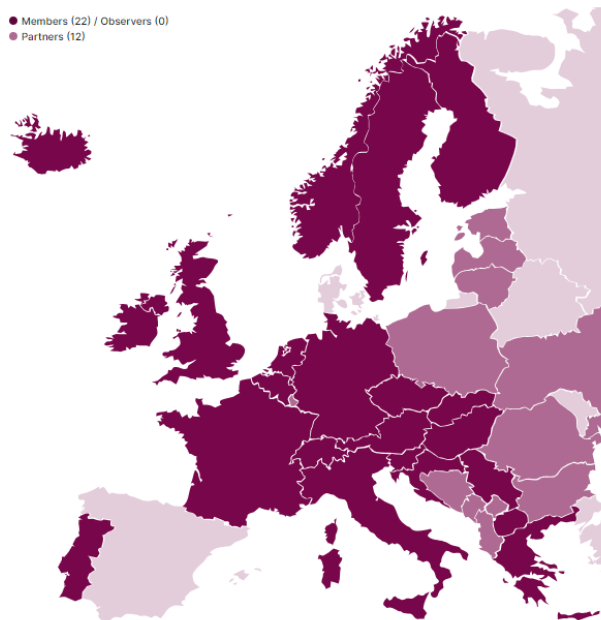
CESSDA Tools: aiming to make data FAIR

ELSST Thesaurus, Vocabulary Service,  
European Question Bank...

<https://www.cessda.eu/About/Consortium>

To find out more, use the map below or see the [list of members and partners](#).

● Members (22) / Observers (0)  
● Partners (12)



# Social science data findable in data catalogues



- Metadata of more than 34.000 data collections held by SPs
- Metadata in English and/or local languages
- Quanti and Quali-data, Mixed-modes data
- Crosssectional, Longitudinal
- New, recent & historical data

Data Catalogue ▾ Collection

English ▾ Search in selected language Search Reset

34,757 results found in 51ms Show 30 ▾ Relevance

1 < 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Show abstract  Show keywords

**Work and Leisure in South Wales, 1981-1982**  
Aubrey, P. A., University College of Swansea, Department of G  
Herbert, D. T., University College of Swansea, Department of G  
Abstract copyright UK Data Service and data collection copyright c

# Trainings for Data Management Planning

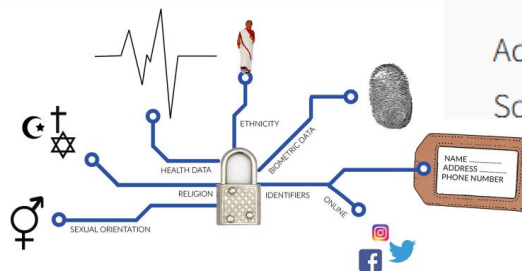


## Data Management Expert Guide

Online guide for social scientists helping them to publish their data and make them FAIR



CESSDA Training Team (2017 - 2022). *CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide*. Bergen, Norway: CESSDA ERIC. Retrieved from <https://dmeq.cessda.eu/>



## 5. Protect

- Ethics and data protection
- Ethical review process
- Processing personal data
  - Diversity in data protection
- Informed consent
- Anonymisation
- Copyright
  - Diversity in copyright
- Adapt your DMP: part 5
- Sources and further reading

# Slovenian Social Science Data Archives



→ ADP for Arhiv  
družboslovnih podatkov

Faculty of Social Sciences,  
University of Ljubljana

- Established: 1997
- 📍 Role: National data center for social sciences
- 🔒 Trustworthy repository: Core Trust Seal certificate (since 2018)
- 🌐 Membership: CESSDA ERIC Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives
- 📄 Collaboration: National and international projects
- 🌐 Website: [www.adp.fdv.uni-lj.si](http://www.adp.fdv.uni-lj.si)

<https://www.adp.fdv.uni-lj.si/>

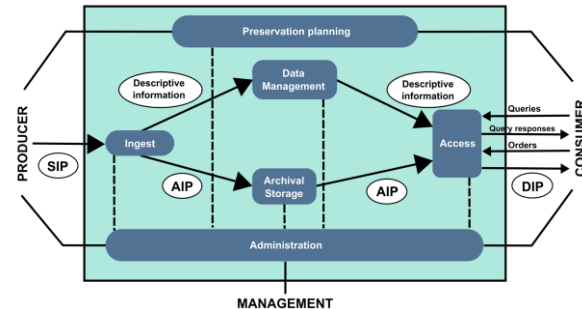
# ADP's mission

The mission of ADP is to ensure **long-term services** for the acquisition, preservation, and access to high-quality research data.

ADP preserves data relevant to **social science analyses**, with a focus on issues related to Slovenian society or significant for it, regardless of geographical boundaries.

(<https://www.adp.fdv.uni-lj.si/en/mission/>)

Open Archival Information System





# Data Publication in ADP

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In Slovenian ADP catalogue there are around 800 data publications.

... „publication in a data repository with **fully documented data**, which are provided with **bibliographic information** and a **persistent identifier** and **are subject to quality control.**“

(Glossary of Open Science in Slovenian, [Slovar odprte znanosti](#)).

„As open as possible as closed as necessary“ principle →

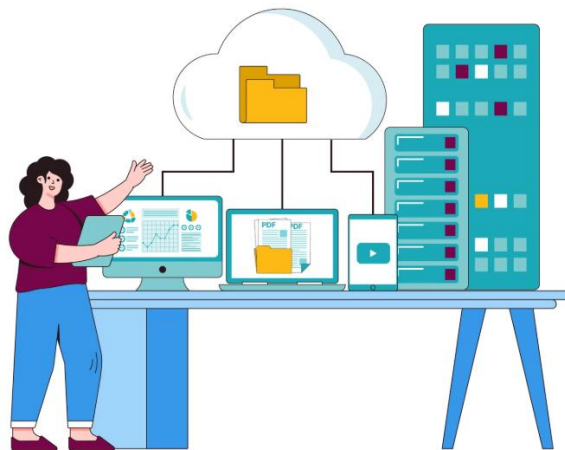
Different regimes of access:

1. Access without registration
2. Access with registration (Public Use Files)
3. Limited Access
  - Scientific Use Files
  - Secure Use Files

# Data processing and archiving procedures in ADP

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1. Pre-submission meeting – Review legal basis, data cleaning, documentation.
2. Metadata, Data and Documentation upload to DataVerse – Initial review by data archivist.
3. Detailed quality & eligibility check – Data archivist + acquisition manager.



# Quality assessment and classification of curation in ADP

1. *Research Assessment* by digital archivist and acquisition manager
  - Quality Assessment (Curation Assessment Tool) – Criteria:  
Quality of documentation, Reusability potential, Open access compliance, Legal & ethical standards...
2. Curation regime proposed to ADP's *Research Acquisition Committee*
  - *Long-term curation*: higher rated studies
  - *Short-term curation*: smaller, narrow projects
3. Final decision taken by *Research Acquisition Committee*





# Risk assessment for the disclosure of personal data

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ADP provides additional support to reduce a risk of disclosing personal data.

## Quantitative Data

- ✓ Check the frequency of sensitive variables (e.g., gender, ethnicity, number of children)
- ✓ Create cross-tabulations to assess risk of indirect identification

## Qualitative Data (mainly textual)

1. Check ~10% of material for direct/indirect identifiers
2. Coordinate additional data cleaning with authors if needed

# Project Features & Data Sensitivity

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## MiCREATE (2019–2022)

- Focus: migrant children's life experiences
- Led by ZRS Koper – Institute for Social Studies (Slovenia)
- 15 partners from 12 countries
- Methods: interviews, surveys, focus groups
- Highly sensitive personal data; full anonymisation often impossible due to narrative content



Menu



### Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe

The overall objective of the project is to stimulate inclusion of diverse groups of migrant children by adopting child-centered approach to migrant children integration on educational and policy level. Stemming from the need to revisit the existing integration policies, the research project aims at comprehensive examination of contemporary integration processes of migrant children in order to empower them. The project is problem-driven and exploratory at the same time. Its exploratory part mainly concerns child-centered approach to understanding integration challenges, migrant needs and their well-being. However, the findings of the open-ended exploratory research will be used in an explicitly problem-driven way – with an aim to stimulate migrant inclusion, to empower migrants and build their skills already within the (participatory) research.

<https://www.micreate.eu/>

# Project Features & Data Sensitivity

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## MiCREATE (2019–2022)

- Initial DMP drafted by using CESSDA DMEG, ADP provided consultations
- Planned central deposit at ADP, later shifted to national data archives due to **language diversity & risk complexity** (data collected out of EU)
- Slovenian partner submitted 3 studies to ADP, each with different protection level

Individual risk assessments for 3 datasets:

1. *MICREE* – Full anonymisation not possible → SUF (restricted access only for scientific use)
2. *MICRES* – Well anonymised; minor edits only
3. *MICREO* – Additional checks on demographic & school data → some open-ended responses removed

# MICREATE DATA PUBLICATIONS

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- Sedmak, M., Gornik, B., Medarić, Z., Dežan, L., Zadel, M. and Bajt, V. (2022). *MiCREATE – Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, 2019: Interviews with experts* [Data file]. Ljubljana: University of Ljubljana, Slovenian Social Science Data Archives. ADP - IDNo: MICREE19. [https://doi.org/10.17898/ADP\\_MICREE19\\_V1](https://doi.org/10.17898/ADP_MICREE19_V1)
- Sedmak, M., Gornik, B., Medarić, Z., Dežan, L. and Zadel, M. (2022). *MiCREATE – Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, 2021: Survey among pupils and students* [Data file]. Ljubljana: University of Ljubljana, Slovenian Social Science Data Archives. ADP - IDNo: MICREO21. [https://doi.org/10.17898/ADP\\_MICREO21\\_V1](https://doi.org/10.17898/ADP_MICREO21_V1)
- Sedmak, M., Gornik, B., Medarić, Z., Dežan, L. and Zadel, M. (2022). *MiCREATE - Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, 2019: Interviews with primary and secondary school employees* [Data file]. Ljubljana: University of Ljubljana, Slovenian Social Science Data Archives. ADP - IDNo: MICRES19. [https://doi.org/10.17898/ADP\\_MICRES19\\_V1](https://doi.org/10.17898/ADP_MICRES19_V1)

# MICREATE DATA PUBLICATIONS

Data Catalogue ▼ Collection ☰

English ▼ micreate

Show filters

7 results found in 127ms

Show 30 ▼ Relevance ▼

1 ◀ ▶

Show abstract  Show keywords

**MiCREATE – Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, 2019**  
 Sedmak, Mateja (Science and Research Centre Koper); Gornik, Barbara (Science and Research Centre Koper); Medarić, Zorana (Science and Research Centre Koper); (3 more)  
 The **MiCreate** project (Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe) is an international

Child-centred approach [Childhood \(ELSST\)](#) [CHILDHOOD \(ELSST\)](#) [Education \(ELSST\)](#)  
[EDUCATION \(ELSST\)](#) [EDUCATIONAL INTEGRATION \(ELSST\)](#) [Inclusion](#) (8 more)

Study description available in: EN SL [Access data](#)

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**MiCREATE - Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe. Interviews with Teachers at Viennese Schools (SUF edition)**  
 Wolter, Stella (University of Vienna); Liepold, Mira (University of Vienna); Tatzber, Rosa (University of Vienna); (1 more)

## MiCREATE – Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, 2021

Sedmak, Mateja (Science and Research Centre Koper); Gornik, Barbara (Science and Research Centre Koper); Medarić, Zorana (Science and Research Centre Koper); (2 more)

The **MiCreate** project (Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe) is an international

Child-centred approach [CHILDREN \(ELSST\)](#) [Education \(ELSST\)](#) [EDUCATION \(ELSST\)](#)  
[Integration \(ELSST\)](#) [INTEGRATION \(ELSST\)](#) [Integration policies](#) (4 more)

Study description available in: EN SL [Access data](#)

## MiCREATE – Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, 2019

Sedmak, Mateja (Science and Research Centre Koper); Gornik, Barbara (Science and Research Centre Koper); Medarić, Zorana (Science and Research Centre Koper); (2 more)

The **MiCreate** project (Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe) is an international

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[EDUCATION \(ELSST\)](#) [EDUCATIONAL INTEGRATION \(ELSST\)](#) [Inclusion](#) (7 more)

Study description available in: EN SL [Access data](#)

## MiCREATE - Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe. Survey with pupils at Viennese schools (SUF edition)

Wolter, Stella (University of Vienna); Liepold, Mira (University of Vienna); Tatzber, Rosa (University of Vienna); (1 more)

The data was collected as part of the H2020 project **MiCREATE** - Migrant Children and Communities in a

[Children \(ELSST\)](#) [Cultural pluralism \(ELSST\)](#) [Education \(ELSST\)](#) [Integration \(ELSST\)](#)  
[Schools \(ELSST\)](#) [Youth \(ELSST\)](#)

# Project Features & Data Sensitivity

## DEAGENCY (2023–2028)

- Ongoing ERC project in Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Slovakia, Hungary
- Led by University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts
- Focus: role of the dead in the lives of the living
- Methods: interviews, videos, photos, diaries
- Strong identity protection needed due to personal and sensitive nature of data

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### News

Learn more about DEAGENCY events, conferences, lectures and other activities

<https://erc-deagency.eu/>



# Project Features & Data Sensitivity

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## DEAGENCY (2023–2028)

- ADP consulted during proposal writing,
- Planned protection measures & archiving in line with open science
- Consultations during research data life-cycle
  
- Challenge: data repositories in selected countries do not provide service for sensitive data
- Decision taken: all research data to be archived at ADP
- Additional activity: external experts invited to assess qualitative data in different languages



## Conclusions and Recommendations

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- **Early data management planning** – Involve data experts in project proposal or early planning phase for alignment of objectives, ethics, and open access.
- **Domain specific repositories** – choose domain specific repositories, usually they provide expert support or can help you to find right solutions
- **Expert risk assessment** – search for help at the ethics committee, DPOs, domain specific repositories, essential for vulnerable groups or complex methods (e.g., ethnography).

# Thank you

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