SND’s role in international cooperation

International cooperation takes different forms. It occurs on the individual and the institutional level and it takes place with very different levels of formalization. SND is very active in international cooperation in all forms and levels.

Institutional memberships

CESSDA - Council of European Social Science Data Archives

CESSDA is an umbrella organization for social science data archives across Europe. Beginning in 1976 the members have worked together to improve access to data for researchers and students. CESSDA generates research and developments projects with participation of the CESSDA partners. CESSDA arranges annual Expert Seminars and maintains a European collaborative data portal. The Expert Seminar’s purpose is to enable sharing of experiences, information and recent developments. SND staff attends every Expert Seminar and has hosted the seminar in 2010. (In 1993 the predecessor of SND, SSD, hosted the CESSDA Expert Seminar). SND will also host the CESSDA General Assembly in 2012. Data held at SND can be located through CESSDA’s data portal, where data from 11 different member archives are found. Currently CESSDA consists of 20 member organizations. SND (and its predecessor SSD) has been a member of CESSDA since 1981. The director of SND is president of CESSDA and has been member of CESSDA executive since 1999.

CESSDA-ERIC

The vision of the CESSDA-ERIC (CESSDA - European Research Infrastructure Consortium) is to increase the impact of CESSDA members efforts by providing full scale, integrated and sustainable research infrastructures that enable the research community to conduct high-quality research that in turn leads to effective responses to the major challenges facing society today. By joining the CESSDA ERIC Sweden will continue to have a major influence on how the European research infrastructure for social science data will develop in the future. The preparations for the CESSDA ERIC are far advanced. In April 2011 the Norwegian ministry of research took over the process with the aim of commencing activities in 2012.

IFDO - International Federation of Data Organization

IFDO is the worldwide equivalent to CESSDA and was established in 1977 as a response to advanced research needs of the international social science community. IFDO’s main domains are social sciences and humanities where it provides support for emerging national data services. There are an increasing number of countries with data organizations working in the social science and humanities fields. IFDO is therefore currently developing its strategy and role to strengthen the organization. SND holds the treasury of IFDO.

DDI Alliance

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an effort to create an international standard in XML for metadata describing social science data. The Alliance is a self-sustaining membership organization whose members have a voice in the development of the DDI specification. SND is a member of the DDI Alliance and is represented in the DDI Steering Committee, the DDI Experts Committee as well as the Alliance’s Controlled Vocabularies Work Group.
ICPSR - Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

ICPSR is an international consortium of about 700 academic institutions and research organizations. ICPSR provides leadership and training in data access, curation, and methods of analysis for the social science research community. It maintains a data archive of more than 500,000 files covering research in the social sciences. ICPSR hosts 16 specialized collections of data in education, aging, criminal justice, substance abuse, terrorism, and other fields. SND holds the Swedish national membership in ICPSR. Through the membership Swedish researchers get free access to the data in the ICPSR archive as well as a reduced fee for the ICPSR summer program.

The ICPSR summer program offers a wide variety of lectures and workshops. Each year SND offers 5-10 travelling scholarships for participation in the ICPSR summer school for participants from Sweden. The scholarship cover expenses for travel and housing, and it also includes the payment of the Summer Program fee.

CLARIN - Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure

CLARIN is committed to establish an integrated and interoperable research infrastructure of language resources and its technology. It aims at lifting the current fragmentation, offering a stable, persistent, accessible and extendable infrastructure. The purpose of the infrastructure is to offer persistent services that are secure and provide easy access to language processing resources. Språkbanken is the Swedish member of CLARIN. SND is in dialogue with CLARIN through the DASISH project (see below). SND and Språkbanken are working together on finding ways for Swedish participation the CLARIN ERIC.

DARIAH - Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities

The mission of DARIAH is to enhance and support digitally-enabled research across the humanities and arts. DARIAH aims to develop and maintain an infrastructure in support of information and technology based research practices. DARIAH will submit an application to the European Commission to establish an ERIC. Following a successful ERIC application, the DARIAH construction phase will begin in 2012. SND is an Associated Member of DARIAH since 2009.

DataCite

DataCite was established in 2009 as an organization which aims to establish easier access and citation of research data by using the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system for identifying content objects in the digital environment. SND has been a member of DataCite since 2010.

IASSIST - International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology

IASSIST is an international organization of professionals working with information technology and data services to support research and teaching in the social sciences. Its 300 members work in a variety of settings, including data archives, statistical agencies, research centers, libraries, academic departments, government departments, and non-profit organizations. SND staff usually participates in the annual IASSIST conferences, and a member of the SND staff currently holds the position as European Regional Secretary for IASSIST.
Conferences and workshops

EDDI

European DDI Users Group Meeting (EDDI) is an annual conference on the topic of DDI. SND will host the 2011 conference in December.

Dagstuhl workshops

Education, workshops and seminars about DDI arranged annually. SND usually participates in these events.

DDI Developers

A recurring workshop where developers discuss the standard and its applications. Usually arranged in connection with another conference. SND will host the workshop in association with the EDDI11 conference.

Social Science History Association (SSHA)

ASHA holds annual conferences covering a very broad range of topics within its title. SND usually participates.

European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC)

ESSHC is a biannual European conference series covering the same topics as SSHA (Popularly called Eurossha). SND usually participates in the family and demography section.

Nordic Epidemiology Conference (NordicEpi)

Epidemiology and Register-based Health Research is a bi-annual conference where SND has contributed.

Supporting Digital Humanities (SDH)

CLARIN and DARIAH are creating European research infrastructures for the humanities and related disciplines. The second SDH conference aims to bring together infrastructure providers and users from the communities involved with the two infrastructure initiatives. SND attended the conference in 2010 and plans to attend the conference in November 2011.

EU projects with SND participation

CESSDA PPP - CESSDA Preparatory Phase Project

The central task of the project was to prepare the CESSDA research infrastructure for a major upgrade in order to ensure that European social science and humanities (SSH) researchers have access to, and gain support for, data resources they require to conduct research of the highest quality, irrespective of the location of either researcher or data within the European research area.
SND participated in WP4 on Controlled Vocabularies and in WP3 on Defining the strategic, financial, governance and legal framework.

DwB - Data without Boundaries

The project aims to create an integrated model for accessing official data, a model where the best solutions for access are available irrespective of national boundaries and flexible enough to fit national arrangements.

In order to succeed, the project needs to prepare the essential relationships and build trust, common view and agreements on standards between the European Statistical System led by Eurostat, other stakeholders as the Central banks, the Data Archives European network (CESSDA) and the researchers who are the final users.

There are 27 partners from 12 European countries participating, both statistical offices and data archives. The roles of SND are to lead WP7 on Standards Development and to participate in WP1 Project Management.

DASISH - Data Service Infrastructure for the Social Sciences and Humanities

DASISH provides solutions to a number of common issues relevant for the five ESFRI projects in social science and humanities, being CESSDA, CLARIN, DARIAH, ESS and SHARE and therefore is supporting infrastructure construction. These five infrastructures are presently at different stages in the process of establishing ERICs. DASISH has identified four major areas namely data quality, data archiving, data access and legal and ethics. The activities in these four major areas are based on a thorough analysis of the underlying architectures. The outcome forms the basis for educational activities and for outreach to the communities that are to benefit from the work.

Through DASISH the participating infrastructures will not only obtain new solutions for specific problems and a consolidation of their infrastructure building, but will work out solutions facilitating interdisciplinary cross-walks of their researchers. This will be of mutual benefit for the five infrastructures and the communities they serve.

SND is the coordinator of DASISH and participates in five of the eight work packages of the project.

SERSCIDA

Support to Establishment of National/Regional Social Sciences Digital Data Archives in the Western Balkans (SERSCIDA). Since Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia are at the process of EU accession and confronted with challenges of harmonization of standards with the ones of EU, as well as exchange of good practices in scientific-research, this project will contribute to establishment of long-term international cooperation with existing social sciences data archives in EU countries that are members of CESSDA. SND will lead WP 3 on mapping existing potentials. SND will also contribute to all other work packages. A specific contribution from SND will be to provide current information on the workings of CESSDA, IFDO and the DDI Alliance.

Other cooperations

EQUALAN
EQUALAN is a European network of researchers and archivists committed to promoting and implementing a strategy for preserving and organizing qualitative and quantitative longitudinal data resources for sharing and re-use. SND participates in the network and has attended a workshop in October 2010.

**International comparative studies**

SND has cooperations with a number of international comparative studies. The cooperation can take the form of documentation, dissemination or other forms of cooperation. Examples of studies where SND provides service is the European Social Survey (ESS), International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) and Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation (FAUI).

**Opportunities for improvement**

SND’s history within the Social Sciences gives it a wide range of different cooperations within that area. SND has started becoming more active within the humanities, but needs to become more established. SND also needs to establish relationships within medicine where few cooperations currently exist. Both within the humanities and medicine SND needs to establish itself as a formal member of relevant existing organizations on the institutional level, as well as a participant in projects and as presenters at conferences.

A future EU call with relevance for SND is INFRA-2012-1.1.3. *Research infrastructures for archaeological datasets and related technologies*. SND participates as a partner in a consortium that will make a proposal for this call.

**Appendices:**

6. International cooperation from activities summary.
7. Budgets of EU projects