



D3 – Report on evaluation of research and legal conditions in Albania



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Preface

South-Eastern European Data Services (SEEDS) is a Swiss-funded project aimed at helping to establish new data services for the social sciences in the countries of Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and the continuation of their integration in the national and international landscape for Croatia and Serbia. With the guidance of the long-established Swiss and Slovenian national data services (FORS and ADP), the project goal is to extend the capacities of selected partner institutions, and contribute in developing knowledge and tools related to data service infrastructures. SEEDS aims at bringing partner institutions into the fold of an international movement and network to provide long-term benefits not only to the partner institutions, but more importantly to the respective national research communities by making more data available for secondary analyses. In this respect, the four main objectives of SEEDS project are to:

- put partner research institutions on track to serve as national data services, serving their national research communities;
- build and expand archiving capacities, know-how, and technical infrastructure;
- promote the ideas of data sharing and secondary analyses in the partner countries; and
- prepare the new data services in South-Eastern European countries to become members of CESSDA – the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives.

This analysis is a mapping exercise of the existing capacities and scope for the establishment of a data archive in Albania. The same exercise simultaneously took place in Kosovo, Macedonia, and Montenegro. Moreover, the analysis will serve as a baseline survey for this project and as the foundation from which other SEEDS activities will be developed. The tasks carried out in the preparation process of the analysis included:

- development of a methodology for analysis of existing potentials for the establishment of social science data archives in the Western Balkan (WB) region;
- analysis of existing potentials and infrastructure for data archiving in the WB countries involved; and
- recommendations for making use of the existing potentials.

Acknowledgments

This report has been developed within the “South-Eastern European Data Services” (SEEDS) (www.seedsproject.ch) project. The participant organisations of the SEEDS project are:

Name	Short Name	Country
Centre for Monitoring and Research, Podgorica	CeMI	Montenegro
Centre for Political Courage, Pristina	CPC	Kosovo
Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Tirana	IDM	Albania
Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade	IES	Serbia
Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Skopje	ISPJR	Macedonia
Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences, Lausanne	FORS	Switzerland
University of Ljubljana, Social Science Data Archive, Ljubljana	UL	Slovenia

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Abbreviations

ARTI	Agency for Research, Technology and Information
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
R&D	Research and Development
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
EU	European Union
MES	Ministry of Education and Sports
ASA	Academy of Science of Albania
HEI	Higher Education and Science
MITIK	Ministry of Innovation and ICT
METE	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy
NAIS	National Agency for Information Society
UNESCO	According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
NSTTI	National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation
CSPTD	Council for Science Policy and Technological Development

Main Findings

The following is an assessment of the main findings related to the potentials for establishing a social science data service in Albania, as defined by desk research, respondents participating in the survey, and interviews conducted with main stakeholders:

- The conducted analysis shows that Albania does not, at present, have an established data service for the social sciences or any data archive that is used by the science research community. However, there is a public institution that operates under the competence of the Prime Minister, called the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI), whose aim is to build a modern science system and strengthen research and technology. This legal institution's mission is to evaluate, finance, monitor and manage programmes and projects in the fields of science, technology and innovation in Albania, and has the tools to provide the research community support in data services and data archiving.
- The legislative and policy framework in Albania provides an enabling environment for the establishment of a data archive and service.
- Government institutions consider that the establishment of a data archive would be very beneficial for further development of the scientific research work and would bring significant improvements in the sector.
- There are a great number of institutions engaged in social science research in Albania which produce a considerable amount of data each year. Therefore, the establishment of a data archive in the country would be fully justified.
- Researchers in Albania have claimed that access to both national and international research data would improve researchers' work as a whole. Hence, they affirm being in favour of the establishment of a data service in the country. Moreover they state that they would be supportive and would cooperate through sharing and using research data if/when a data service is created. However, as stated by respondents, this data service should provide security and guarantee data protection to researchers.
- According to the survey, the main barriers for conducting secondary analysis in Albania are mainly: lack of relevant data, inaccessibility to and poor documentation of data, which makes data unusable. Most of the researchers claim to store the collected data, but they do not have appropriate knowledge, equipment and international standards for data archiving. Additionally, even though they use a vast amount of qualitative and quantitative data, they still lack appropriate software for this kind of data analysis.

Introduction and methodology overview

The main goal of this report is to map the existing potentials for establishing a social science data service in Albania. This mapping will help to evaluate Albania's current situation regarding data archiving and its future perspective on the subject. Moreover, the report provides recommendations for the establishment of social science data services in Albania. In order to collect the most relevant information and give a better picture about the existing capabilities and areas to be improved for data archiving, the following three main categories of stakeholders were identified that could play important roles in establishing, maintaining, and using a data archive in Albania:

- Researchers
- Research infrastructures and data service institutions
- Research policy and funding bodies

These three categories address different potentials that play a significant role for establishing and maintaining a data archive. Taking into account the first category, researchers will provide and use data, as well as be a potential information resource for the archive. The second category, research infrastructures, could both provide technical infrastructure, such as services and data capacity, as well as more service oriented infrastructure, such as survey collection software. In addition, we need to emphasise that institutions that are associated with research in the social sciences were particularly focused on in this category, given the fact that these may eventually serve as a host for the data archive. The research policy and funding bodies approach aimed at evaluating support for the establishment of a data archive both in financial terms and within a research policy setting.

However, taking into consideration the differences between these three groups, a general survey that would cover all groups was not practical. Instead, separate instruments were designed to fit the specific characteristics of the groups -- a survey for researchers and semi-structured interviews for the other two categories .

Each instrument used in this report is presented briefly below, with the main areas of interest along with how the data collection was conducted.

1. The survey of researchers

The instrument designed to collect information in relation to *researchers*, regarding the production, preservation, and use of research data in the social sciences was an online survey questionnaire. The online survey was prepared using a common methodology shared with the partner teams from Kosovo, Macedonia, and Montenegro. The survey was translated from English to the Albanian language, with some adaptations. The questionnaire aimed at collecting information about the researchers' experience with documentation, re-use, and dissemination of research data, as well as providing information regarding the types of statistical/analytical software packages used. In addition, the researchers were asked if their institution had any policy regarding long-term preservation and/or documentation of data.

All the information gathered gives an insight into the research community and its experience with documentation, demand for data, trainings, and qualified support.

2. The interview guide for research infrastructure institutions and research policy and funding bodies

The designed instrument for *research infrastructure institutions* and *research policy and funding bodies* was a semi-structured interview. Interviews were conducted either face to face or via phone with representatives of research infrastructures and research institutions within the social sciences. These interviews included: the *Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation*, the *Ministry of Education and Sports*, the *University of Tirana*, and the *Academy of Science of Albania*. Respondents were asked to answer questions regarding technical infrastructure or research services. They were asked if their institution had any policy or competences for long-term preservation and documentation of data. The institutions were also asked if they had available technical capacities or data collecting services that could be valuable for the establishment of a data archive. The interview aimed as well at establishing contacts, to further understand the science policy and legal conditions, and to be able to get in touch with potential future collaborators who could support and finance the data archive. Findings from these analyses are presented in the following sections.

Part I: policy and legal frameworks

1. Basic features of scientific research in Albania

The science system in Albania consists of higher education, scientific research, knowledge and technology (innovation) development institutions. In this respect, it includes not only the public and non-public institutions of higher education and basic research, but also private enterprises that operate in the fields of research, development, and innovation.

Research is conducted by a number of institutions, such as: Higher education institutions, national research centres, several ministries, and last but not least, private institutions or non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Below is a list of research performers in Albania:

- a) **Higher education institutions** are university research institutions, engaged in education, scientific research, development and transfer of knowledge and technology.
- b) **Ministerial research institutes/agencies of development and technology transfer** have the mission of carrying out studies, developing projects, transferring knowledge and technologies, and supporting product and service delivery.
- c) **Industry-based governmental and privately owned R&D institutes, centres and foundations.** Although this category is still in its first stage of development in Albania, there are some promising perspectives for the future. Similar private units are also present in the form of institutes or NGOs with a clear profile of skills, particularly in the field of analysis of social and economic problems.
- d) **Other private entrepreneurs** are private organisations in the form of institutes or NGOs with a clear profile of know-how, mainly in conducting risk analysis of social and economic topics, and serving as a basis for policy-making. However, even though as a whole the research and development system has provided good support for policy-making, it should be emphasised that the development of private entrepreneurship involved in the development and research area has been in every case faster than that of public institutions.

The major change in the research system occurred through the amendment of the Law on the Academy of Sciences,¹ which integrated the former institutes of the Academy of Sciences into some of the major public universities. With the establishment of the new scientific research system, the Academy no longer conducts any research itself, but has more of a representative and advisory function with regard to science. Nevertheless, despite its limitations the Academy continues to be involved in the management of scientific publications and promotion of science through conferences or prize awarding. Following the reform in the Academy of Science, two groups were brought together inside

¹ Law No. 9655, dated 11. 12. 2006, *On Academy of Sciences*. Albania. *National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009–2015*. Ministry of Education and Science, June 2009

the Academy: social institutes on the one hand and natural-technical institutes on the other. In this way, new inter-university centres, institutes, and departments were created that contribute to the growing capacities of human resources of the science research infrastructure.

Capacities to manage both basic and applied research in Albania are limited and generally do not meet EU standards. There are different problems related to scientific infrastructures, and from a cost-efficiency point of view there is a need to align a national scientific infrastructure investment plan with investments being made at a regional (Western Balkans) level, in order to permit sharing of equipment and infrastructure.

The amendments to the Law No. 9832 on Higher Education in 2007 aimed at giving special attention to scientific research. The Department of Research and Technology has been identified in the law as a very important unit within the university. Each faculty has the right to coordinate its teaching process and its research.

2. Current policies related to science and higher education

Albania signed the Bologna Declaration in 2003 and since then several reforms have been made in the framework of the Bologna process and integration in European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Until now the higher education system of Albania and consequently its institutions, have been governed by the Law for Higher Education, approved by Parliament in May 2007 (and amended in July 2010). Since 2014, a group of experts on Higher Education and Science prepared a reform report, following which a number of study programs and private HEIs were closed or suspended.

In September 2015, Albania's parliament adopted a new Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research in Institutions of Higher Education, which resulted in a number of changes which were highly debated²:

1. A complete new research governance structure in the higher education system
2. A complete new structure of research financing
3. Academic evaluation based on scientific research
4. Increased financing in research
5. Financing on the basis of competition and applications

This new law streamlines the scientific research in universities, by focusing greatly on research teaching methods and other aspects of scientific research. This law foresees new mechanisms to contribute to the development and organisation of the higher education and science system. The highest professional body is the *Council of Higher Education and Scientific Research*, which is a counselling body on higher education and scientific research policies. The *National Center of Funding of Higher*

² http://ec.europa.eu/education/events/2015/wbp/presentation-wbp-4_en.pdf

Education is a public institution responsible for sharing public funds on higher education, scientific research, scholarships, etc. *The Agency of Research, Technology and Innovation* (ARTI) is a public institution and is responsible for sharing public funds for programmes of scientific research and doctoral studies, as well as for dissemination of the information and increased participation in international exchange and funding programmes for scientific research.

In accordance with the new law on Higher Education and Scientific Research, a national database for scientific research is administrated by the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation. This institution identifies the main areas of scientific research, technology and innovation, and evaluates at national level various programmes and projects in the above mentioned areas. This database includes:

- a list of PhD dissertations and their abstracts in one of five European Union languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Italian;
- a list of scientific contributions of academic staff of higher education institutions; and
- a list of scientific contributions from other research institutions.

ARTI administrates and publishes also the database of national and international projects on research and development. Each of the above mentioned institutions is subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Research and development in Albania is conducted according to some strategic documents, such as: the Government Program 2013-2017; the National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015, and other intersectoral strategies.

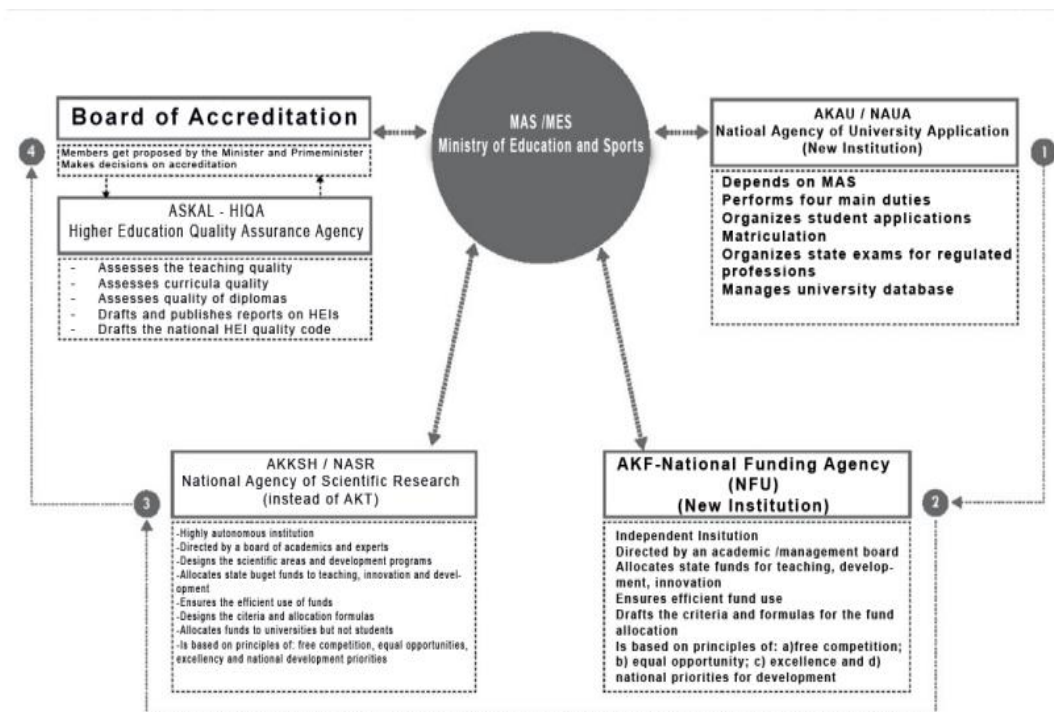


Figure 1: The new governance structure of higher education after the recent reform in 2015

3. Research funding

Public financing of scientific institutions is implemented by relevant ministries and public institutions through three mechanisms: 1) direct financing of research institutions by relevant ministries, 2) university R&D financing, and 3) competitive research project funding. In addition, substantial EU funds support Albanian membership in EU framework programs.

Overall, Albania has followed a centralised model in supporting research. The expenditure on the research system has been and still is almost exclusively financed by the public sector. However, in the past years there has been a boost on bilateral co-operation with the private sector. Until the reform on research in 2008, most of the R&D performed in Albania was concentrated in the centres and institutes under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MES), the Academy of Sciences of Albania (ASA), higher education institutions, and the government sector. In contrast, private sector R&D was and is still today very limited. This includes not only the activities of private institutions of higher education and basic research, but also companies active in research, development, and innovation.

Despite many developments, Albania still faces many challenges and is falling behind in many measures of R&D and innovation, be it to attract human capital or retreating brain-drain of highly-skilled workers.

Gross expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) in 2008 represented only 0.15 percent of Albania's GDP, which was funded almost exclusively by the public sector and by foreign sources. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), funding for academic research in 2009 amounted 0.075 percent of GDP, whereas the Ministry of Education and Science allocated another 0.18 percent of GDP for scientific research. The National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (NSTTI) foresaw tripling GERD from 0.2 to 0.6 percent of GDP over the period 2009-2015.

Nevertheless, even in case this objective would be fully achieved, Albania would still be far below the European 1.9 percent GERD average recorded in 2009. According to UNESCO, Albania has only 245 researchers per million of population, representing less than 10 percent of the EU average³

Moreover, "The same estimates indicate that there were a total of 578 scientists in Albania distributed between the Academy of Sciences (274) and other public research institutions (304). For 2008 and according to UNESCO, there were 1,721 headcount and 467 full time equivalent (FTE) researchers employed in Albania. The overall status of R&D infrastructure in Albania is poor. Despite

³ Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation, Country Papers Series: Albania", World Bank Technical Assistance Project, October 2013, p.12

improvements in recent years, technology and technical research equipment is still insufficient. Some ASA institutes have no new or upgraded scientific environments.”⁴

The main policy-making and advisory bodies for research funding in Albania include:

- a) Albanian Parliament, the Council of Ministers; the Ministry of Education and Sports;
- b) Ministry of Innovation and ICT; Council of Higher Education and Science;
- c) Academy of Science of Albania; Rectors’ Conference;
- d) National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation and other ministries.

Core agencies include:

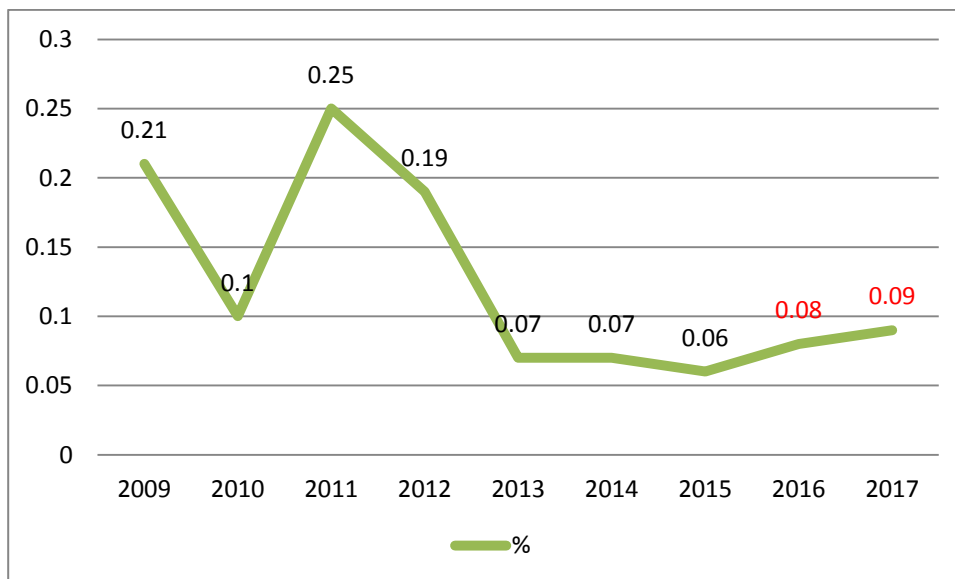
- The **Ministry of Education and Sports** (MES) is the main government body responsible for R&D policy design. It transferred the administration of national S&T programmes to the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI) in March 2010. It operates as a coordinating and funding body for national, bilateral, and international programs and projects, and cooperates with different institutions in the field of R&D and innovation. Its mission is to evaluate, finance, monitor, and manage programmes and projects in the fields of science, technology and innovation. ARTI also serves as a coordinating and guiding structure for sustainable technological and innovation development in the country. Among other activities, the agency funds projects supporting the development of SMEs and the renewal of technological equipment used by SMEs. The new law in 2015 foresees a new agency: *The National Agency for Research and Innovation*, which will have as the major objective to increase research on the national level. This agency identifies the main priority areas of research, technology and innovation, as well as monitors and finances the research projects presented by research and higher education institutions.
- **Ministry of Innovation and ICT** (MITIK) was established in 2009, with the key role of overseeing the new National Agency on Information Society (NAIS).
- **The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy** (METE) department on Competitiveness Policy and on Business Promotion plays an important role in designing policies to promote investment, exports, and SME development, focusing in particular on encouraging business innovation to raise competitiveness in regional and global markets.
- **Other ministries:** As indicated above, a number of line ministries with research institutions attached to them are stakeholders in the Albanian national innovation system.
- **The Rectors' Conference** represents Albanian higher education institutions and has an advisory role regarding research undertaken in their universities and programmes involving cooperation with the private sector.

⁴ Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation, Country Papers Series: Albania”, World Bank Technical Assistance Project, October 2013, p.13

- **National Agency for Information Society (NAIS)** coordinates government activities in the field of information and communication. It interacts with other ministries and government institutions as well as the private sector ICT companies.

A basic assumption is made that the Albanian Government will progressively increase national public funding for both the existing baseline funding provided under the higher education budget and the ‘small’ research projects currently managed by MES, but which could be transferred to the proposed ARA upon its creation. If the target of 0.6 per cent of GDP is to be reached this increase will need to be sustained.

Table 1: Funding for Scientific Research and Development from 2009



4. Legal framework

The legal framework in Albania has faced several changes and improvements in the past years. However, there is still need for ‘modernising’ the laws related to research, technological development, and innovation. Below we review the current legal situation in Albania in relation to the science system, research, technology, archiving, and other related topics.

Law on Science and Technological Development

The 1994 **Law on Science and Technological Development** established a Council for Science Policy and Technological Development (CSPTD) as the body that defines and proposes any Science and Technological Development Policy to be approved by the Council of Ministers, reviews it, and takes decisions on the national programmes. It sets out the objectives of S&Tscience and technology policies, including incentives for global integration of national R&D and measures to encourage privatisation.

Further, it defines the main functions of the Committee for Science and Technology, currently performed by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research 2015

The **Law on Higher Education and scientific research** (Official Gazette 164/2015 Article 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13) introduced greater flexibility and objectivity in university funding, while the Strategy of Higher Education sets out a number of ambitious goals for improving the performance of the university system. The institutes of higher education conduct applied scientific research, prepare reports and develop projects, as well as other activities defined in the statute of the Institute of Higher Education and in accordance with the specific objectives of the institution. The research and development activity performed by the Institutes of Higher Education aims also to improve the quality of education, to equip the students with methodological skills for research, provides continuous opportunities to supplement the program of study with advanced scientific and practical comprehension, improves the qualification of the academic staff of the Institutes of Higher Education, and generates concrete implementations of development and research in these institutions. Research activities are carried out based on plans, programmes and projects, approved in compliance with the procedures defined by this law or other bylaws.

Law on Archives

The **Law on Archives** (Official Gazette no. 9154, of date 06.11.2003) defines the basic rules concerning the organisation and function of the archival service in Albania, the institutions that perform this service, and also their legal obligations on creation, preservation, and the accessibility of the archival heritage, as part of the national heritage. According to Article No. 2, “Archives” are specialised governmental or non-governmental institutions that collect, manage, administer, preserve, and serve the archival heritage, protected and secured by the government. Archives are also called the structural entities and sub-entities of the institutions of central and local state institutions that register, preserve, manage (treat), and put in service records created by them. Article No. 4 and 5 specifically state: “Records of national historical records” are all the documents that are considered as having a permanent value and are declared as such by the General Directorate of Archives because of their juridical, administrative, historic, scientific and cultural importance to the heritage of the Albanian people. “Documents” are all the acts that are created by the public authorities while they exert their administrative functions; acts created by non-governmental institutions and also by private juridical and physical entities, if they are considered of national historic importance.

Law on Protection of Personal Data

The **Law No. 9887 dated 10.03.2008 On Protection of Personal Data** aims at defining the rules for the protection and legal processing of personal data in Albania. The law clearly states that the legal processing of personal data shall respect and guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons and in particular their right to privacy. Article No. 7 on *Processing of sensitive data*, says: “Processing of sensitive data shall be done only if: data are processed for scientific or statistical research”. In addition, Article No. 10, *Processing for scientific and statistical research* paragraph 1, 2 and 3 states:

“1) Personal data collected for any purpose may be further processed for scientific or statistical research purposes provided that the data is not processed in order to take measures or decisions related to an individual. 2) The transfer of sensitive data for scientific research shall take place only in case of an important public interest. Personal data shall be used exclusively by individuals who are bound by confidentiality. 3) When data processing is made in a manner that allows the identification of the data subject, the data should immediately be encrypted in order for the subjects to be no longer identifiable. Encrypted personal data shall be used exclusively by individuals bound by confidentiality.”

Law on the Academy of Sciences

According to the **Law on the Academy Of Sciences** (Official Gazette of the Republic Of Albania No 9655 of 11 December 2006), the duties of the academy are to: “a) cooperate with domestic and foreign education and research institutions, which have the physical capacity required to conduct research and studies in different scientific areas; b) propose new research and study fields, in accordance with the development needs of the country; c) offer the high state institutions the necessary advice on and expertise in issues of importance to the development of the country; d) publish periodicals and other works of high scientific level; e) host scientific and topical congresses and conferences at a national and international level; and f) host contests and grant award scientific prizes.” Financing is regulated following article No. 10 point 1: “The Academy shall be a budgetary institution, which shall receive its budget out of the: a) state budget; b) technical-scientific services provided to juridical and physical persons outside its system; and c) applications, projects, gifts, subsidies and sponsoring in accordance with the effective legal and subordinate legal acts.”

5. Interviews with research policy and funding institutions

The primary goal of this project stage was to acquire information regarding the existing environment and infrastructure for the establishment of a data archive in Albania, in order to make the best use of these assets in the future. During the period from September to December 2015, we conducted several interviews with different institutions that were considered relevant to the project. Official requests for interviews were sent to the following key-actors: Ministry of Education and Sports; Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation; University of Tirana; the Academy of Science of Albania; and the Albanian National Library. The issues discussed during these interviews were related to archiving needs, current policies and activities, possible institutional solutions, financing, as well as further plans and goals for the future data archive.

Among the contacted institution, the Albanian Academy of Science and the Albanian National Library did not reply to our request for a meeting. We would assume that the reason for this decline could either be that our expectations were not clearly communicated, or more probably at this point in time, some institutions simply lack interest, information, or capacities for cooperation. However, despite the lack of cooperation by these two institutions, we were able to conduct interviews with other crucial institutions that provided us with significant insights regarding the topics of our concern.

Initially we had an interview with the **Head of Unit for European Integration within the Ministry of Education and Sports**, where it was stated that the establishment of a data archive and service in Albania would be very beneficial not only to the researcher community and government institutions in general, but also the Ministry of Education and Sports in particular. The Head of Unit, Ms. Iliriana Topulli, stated that such a data archive would be very crucial for keeping track of the activities of research in the social sciences because it would provide additional input to the Ministry regarding the areas of research that are being conducted in the social sciences in Albania. Moreover, it would provide information about the need for human resources necessary for conducting research in Albania and more importantly it would provide more transparency in the research field in the country. Ms. Topulli believes that funds could be made available in part from the Ministry and that the Ministry is interested in supporting such a project in the future. In conclusion to the meeting, the Head of Unit expressed her interest in future cooperation, and she committed herself to sharing the information with other relevant departments within the MES and particularly with the Head of Unit responsible for Higher Education and Research within the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Another very important meeting was conducted with **Mr. Geron Kamberi, General Director of ARTI**. As mentioned above, the aim of this institution is to build a modern system of science in Albania and strengthen research and technology in the country. According to Mr. Kamberi, scientific research is one of the main pillars of the Law on Higher Education, but also an important criteria on which Albania will be assessed as a candidate country in the European Union, and as such ARTI's objective is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, mutual activities and partnership within and outside the country. In this respect the establishment of a national data service is in line with the agencies main duties and priorities. According to national strategy on research, there will be a separate department under ARTI that will be responsible for national research databases. This department will be specialized in statistics and data mining. When informed about the SEEDS project, Mr. Kamberi showed immediate interest and expressed his commitment to support the establishment of such a data service. The Head of ARTI also guaranteed that his agency would be part of our future training in Ljubljana and would gather all the information necessary for creating a data archive in compliance with the SEEDS project's demands.

In addition, the meeting held with the University of Tirana was also very positive, despite the fact that at this stage of the project the institution does not have the necessary capacities to establish a data service within its premises as previously thought. As argued by the Vice-rector of the University of Tirana, Mr. Ervin Demo, even though there is increasing funding for research in Albania, ensuring its continuity over time still remains a great challenge. Nevertheless, Mr. Demo expressed his support for the creation of a data archive for the social sciences in Albania and promised his cooperation for promoting the SEEDS initiative in the future.

In summary, the information gathered throughout the interviews shows that so far there is no policy in storing the data used for research in general, and this is clearly perceived as a significant deficiency. However, some of the interviewed people indicated that the new law on Higher Education has a special article for the issue of data gathering and will bring positive changes. The new law recognizes the

importance of data gathering in order to support findings in all publicly financed studies, and these data have to be stored in a national database or research inventory.

Part II: Report on survey on production, preservation and use of research data

1. Methodology

We used both quantitative and qualitative methods of research to provide a thorough analysis of the object of this study. Desk research was used in order to collect data from the published information regarding the science system in Albania, research policies and the legal frameworks.

Another instrument used for assessing the interest for the establishment of a research data archive in Albania, and for gathering information regarding preservation and the use of research data, was an online questionnaire. The survey was shared by email with approximately 400 individuals coming from different backgrounds that potentially produce and store data in Albania, including: social science institutes, universities, non-governmental organizations, the research department at the National Bank of Albania, etc. Aiming at accessing as many researchers operating in Albania as possible, we repeated twice the electronic invitation to participate in the survey. However, out of the total number of people who were contacted, 70 individuals responded to the survey.

In addition, we also invited participants to forward the questionnaire to their colleagues and relevant individuals. Due to the small number of respondents and fact that access to the survey was not restricted, the answers might in some cases not be representative of the whole category of individuals involved in social science research in the country.

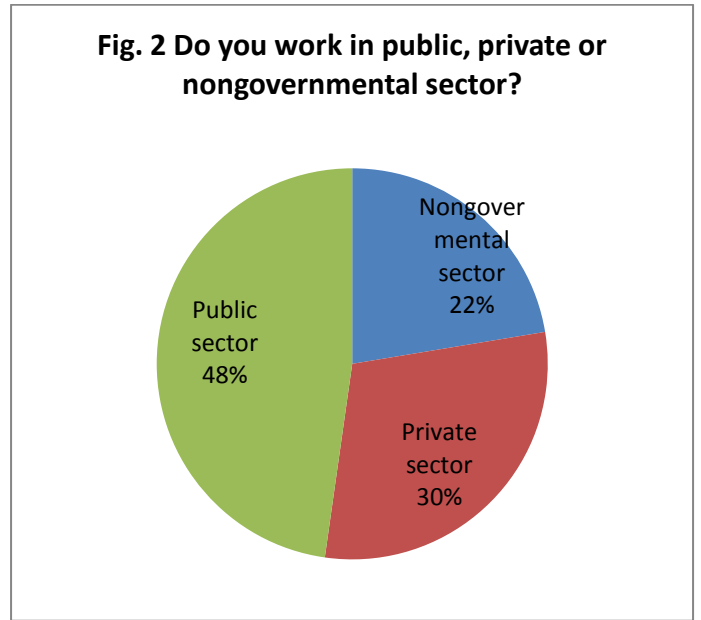
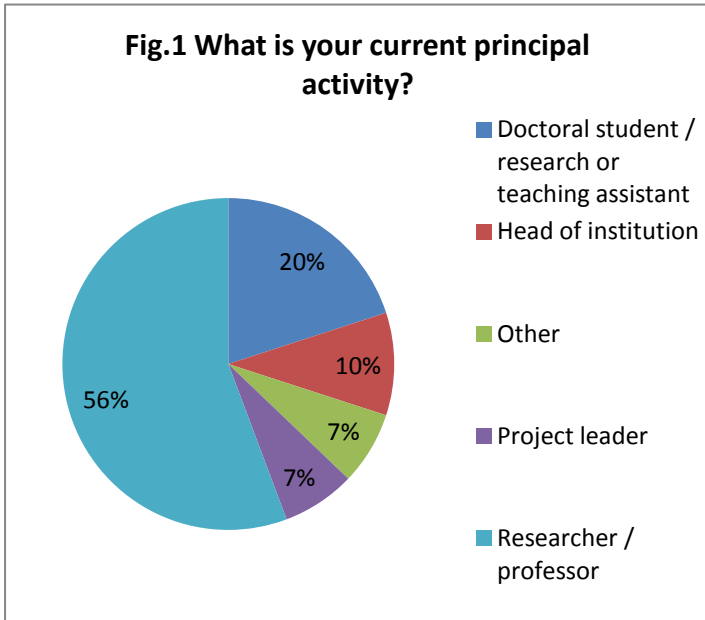
Moreover, interviews were conducted with key informers and representatives of important research institutions and individual researchers in order to have a deeper understanding of the issues. Some of the topics discussed with these two main categories included the current environment of the research system, the need for archiving of research data in the social sciences, institutional solutions, future plans and possible sources of funding related to collecting, processing, and archiving research data.

2. Survey participants

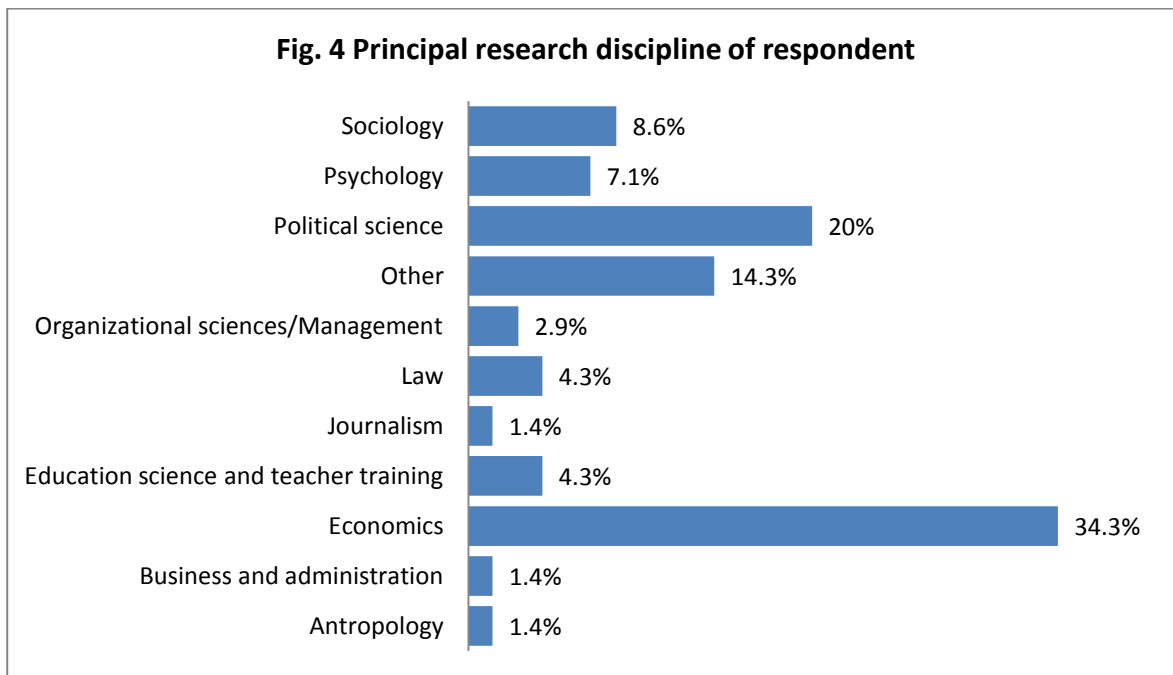
Even though it is not possible to assess the reasons for the low response rate, we can presume that it reflects the small number of individuals focused on conducting research in Albania, as well as a common apathy related to conducting online surveys. Even though the social sciences have shown an increasing trend in the last couple of years, it is important to note that it still fails to attract human capital, whether due to poor infrastructure, lack of financing, or other factors.

By analysing the figures below, we see that the main respondents of the survey are primarily researchers and professors (figure 1), as well as doctoral students who are constantly engaged in

research by default. These respondents are primarily engaged in the public sector (figure 2), whereas more than 50% of the respondents work in the private and nongovernmental sector.



From the total number of respondents, 37% were employed in a higher education institution, while 19% were employed in NGO/Think Tanks, and about 14% were either employed on some other institution or unemployed (1%).

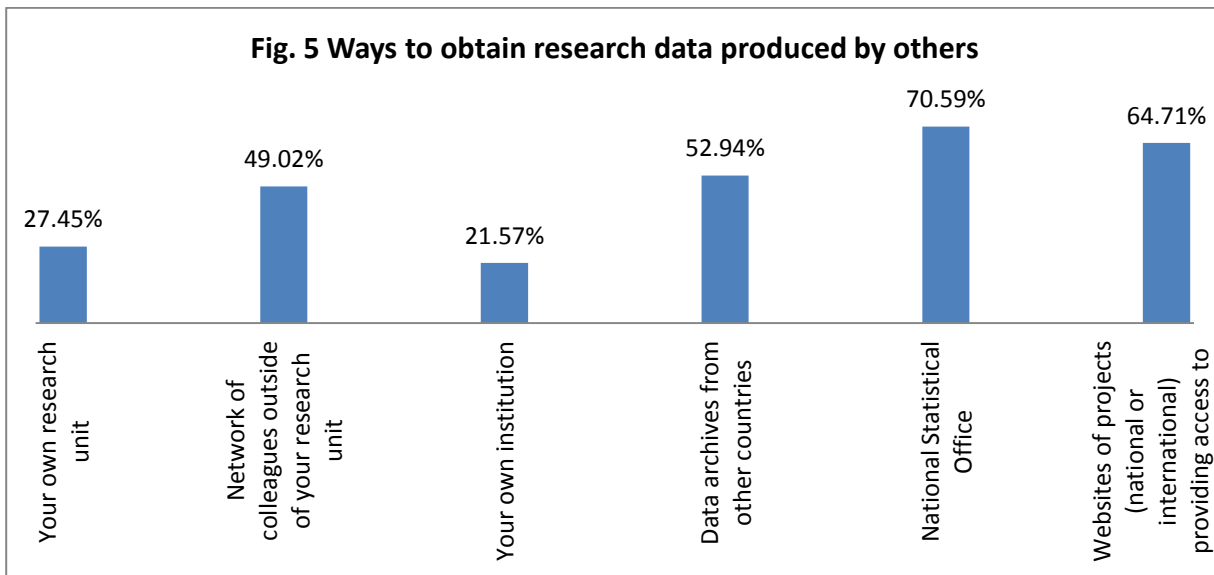


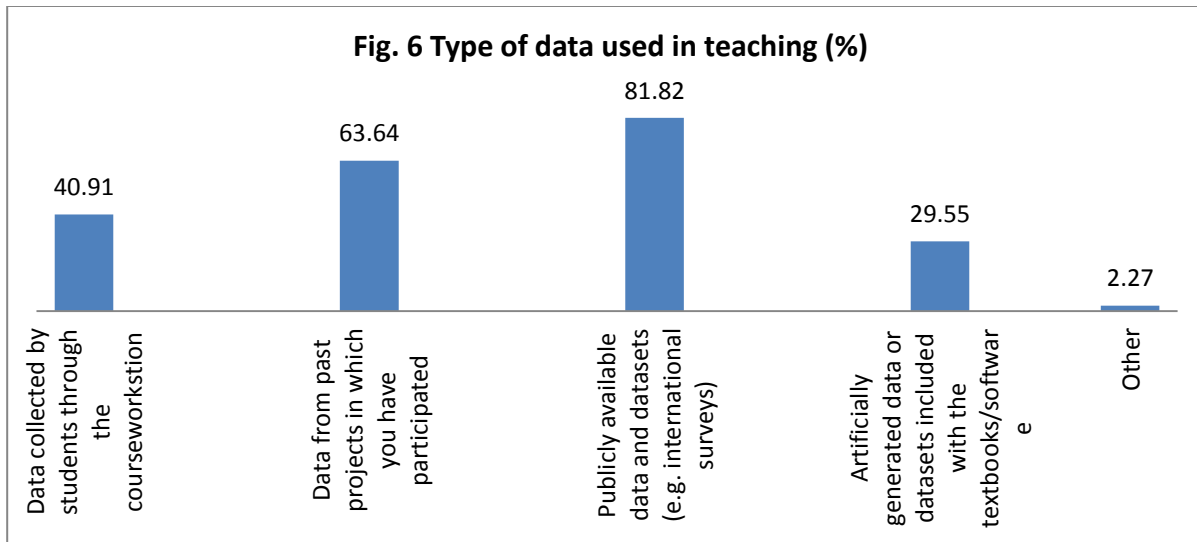
The respondents research disciplines, as shown in figure 4., were mostly economics (34.3%), followed by political science (20%), whereas disciplines such as sociology, psychology, law and education science account for 8.6%, 7.1%, 4.3% and 4.3% of the cases respectively. An equal percentage (1.4%) were in the disciplines of journalism, anthropology, and business and administration, while 14.3% had other research disciplines from the ones mentioned in the survey.

3. Access to data

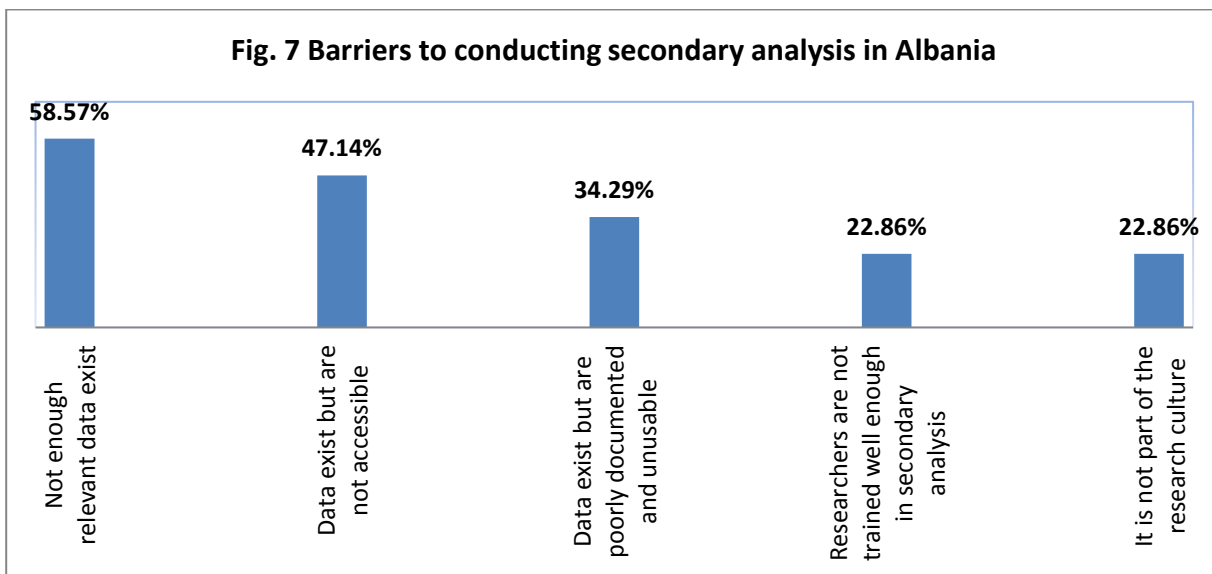
Given the fact that there is no previous study conducted in Albania with respect to data archiving, it is a great opportunity to understand what is the situation with regard to research settings in general and data archiving in particular in the country. As shown in the graphics below, most of the respondents stated that they use international data or data that were produced by themselves in their research.

At the same time it is interesting to see that in order to obtain data they ask their friends and co-researchers personally for help. This implies that the data are either not archived properly, or are not accessible.

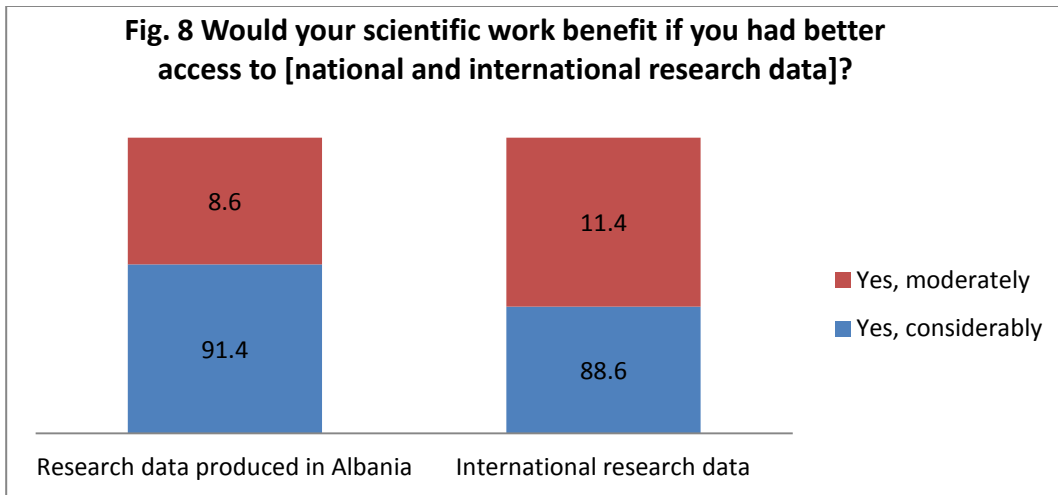




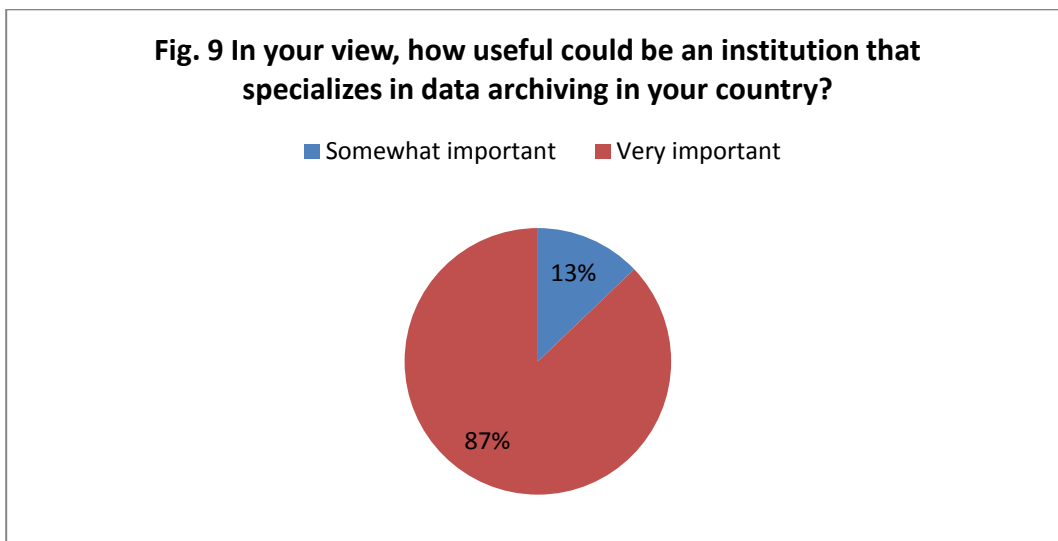
In relation to the question of what type of data are used in teaching, 81.82% of respondents confirmed that the most common type of data used in teaching is publicly available data and datasets or mainly data that they themselves have collected from different past projects (63.64%) (figure 6). Almost half of the respondents (40.91%) use data collected by students, and only 29.55% use artificially generated data or datasets. A very low percentage, about 2.27%, uses other sources of data in teaching.



As shown in figure 7, the main barriers for conducting secondary analysis in Albania are as following: a) lack of relevant data (58.57%), b) data exist but are not accessible (47%), c) even when data exist they are poorly documented and unusable (34%), d) researchers are not trained well enough to perform secondary analysis (23%) e) conducting secondary analysis is not part of the research culture in the country (23%).



As per figure 8, when asked respondents if their scientific work would benefit if they had better access to both national and international research data, around 90% claim that their work would benefit considerably from it.



The vast majority of respondents (87% of cases) stated that it is very important to have an institution that specialises in data archiving (figure 9). There were no respondents who claimed that there is no need for or advantage of data archiving.

4. Use of data

When asked about the number of researchers involved in a project, more respondents said that they do not work alone (figure 10). They use the help of at least one other researcher, but usually no more than five researchers work on the same project.

According to respondents (figure 11), when asked which method they apply when conducting research, the majority (37.21%) claimed to use mixed methods. 30.23% usually use surveys for their research

data collection, 11.63% use interviews, 9.30% use online surveys, and 6.98% use mixed qualitative methods. Less than 10% use focus groups and experimental designs.

Fig. 10 Number of researchers involved in the most recent project

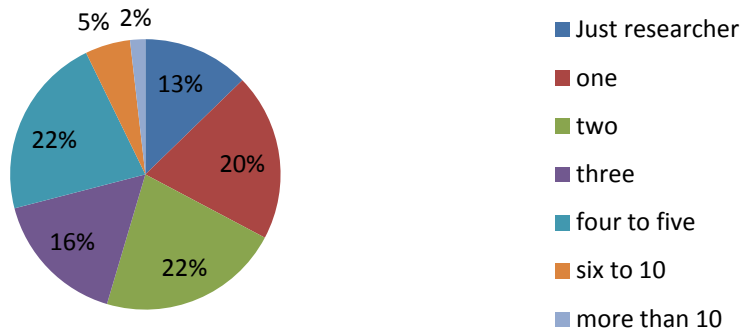
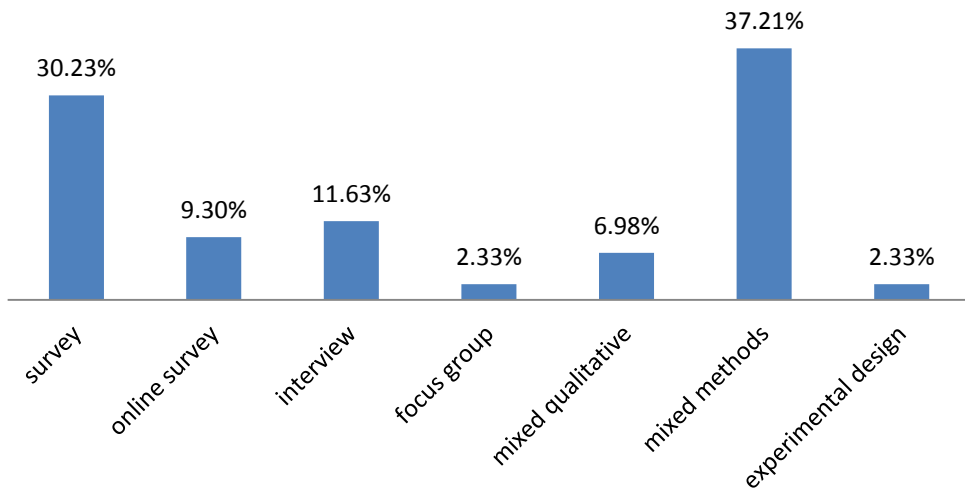
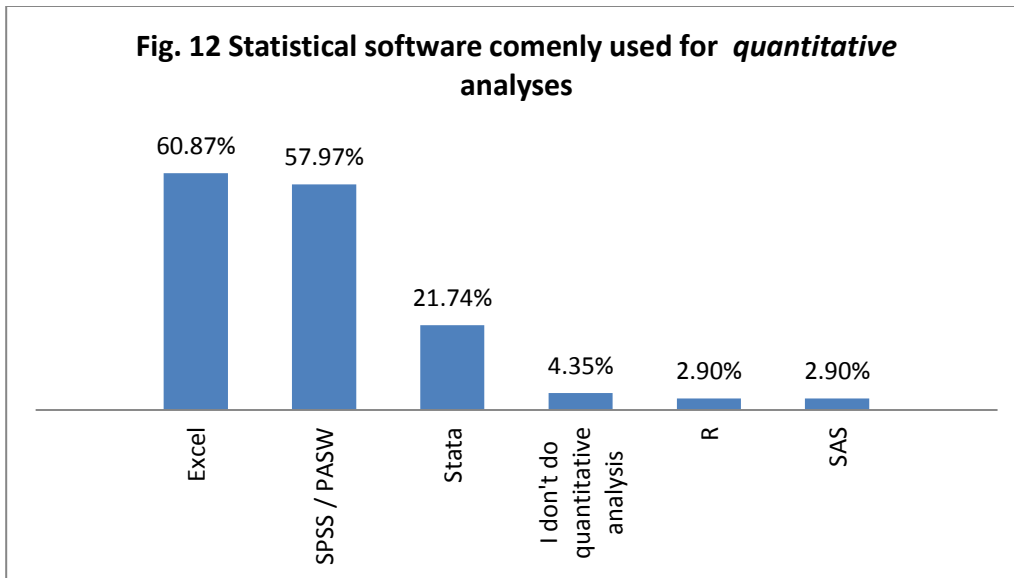
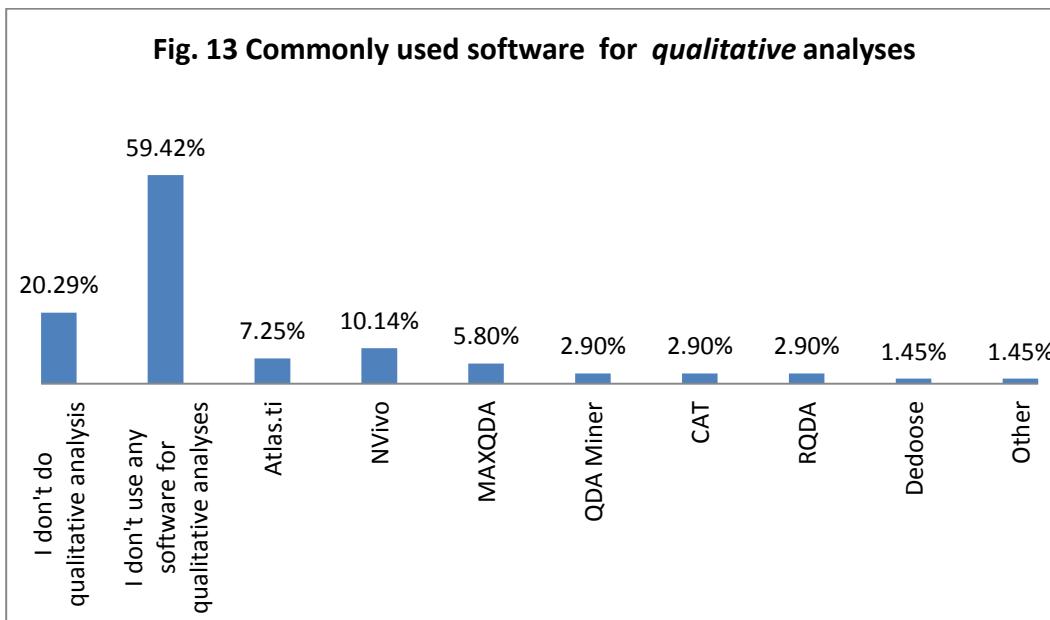


Fig. 11 Data collection method applied in the latest research





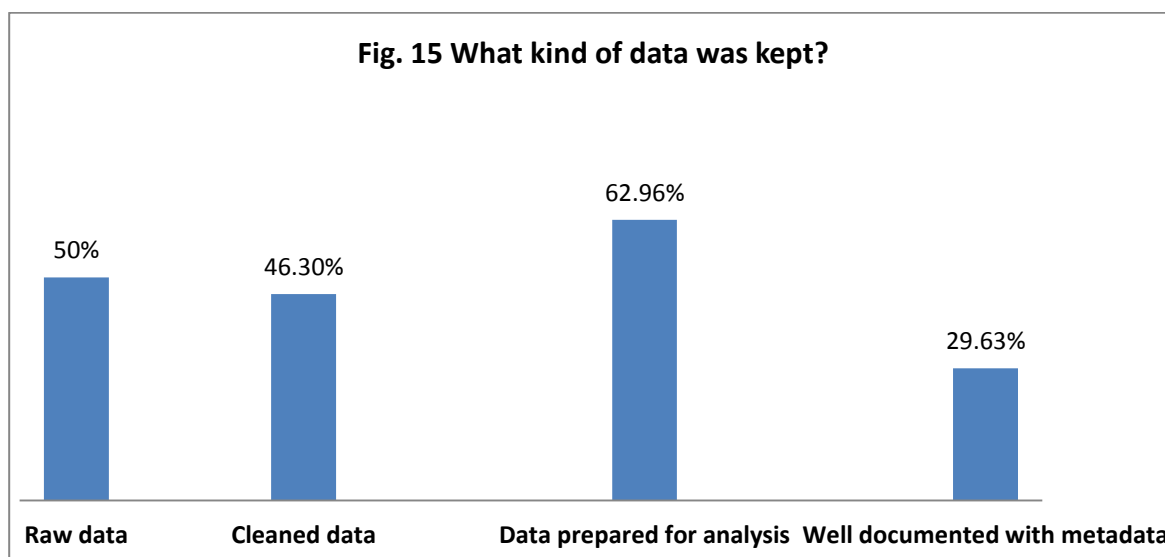
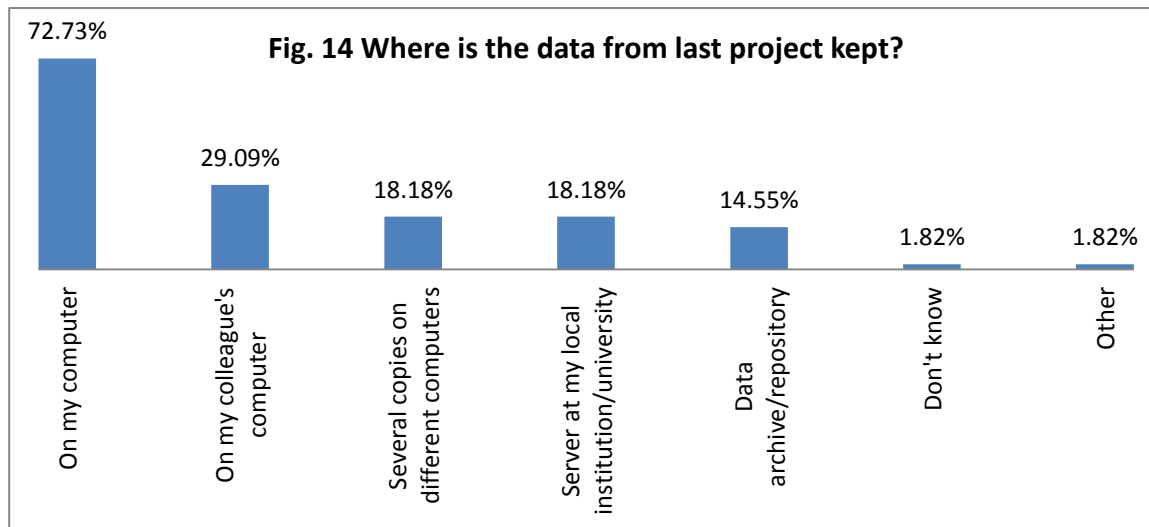
The most used statistical software used for quantitative analyses in Albania according to respondents (figure 12), are primarily Excel (60.87%) and SPSS/PASW (57.97%). Less than 30% use other statistical software such as Stata, R, and SAS, while 4.35% of respondents say they do not conduct any quantitative analysis.



According to the graphic above (figure 13) we can observe that there is a large number of researchers who do not use any software when conducting qualitative analyses (59.42%), while respondents who use software for qualitative data say they use mainly Nivo (10.14), Atlas.ti (7.25%), and MAXQDA (5.80%). Less than 12% use other software such as QDA Miner, CAT, RQDA, Dedoose, and others.

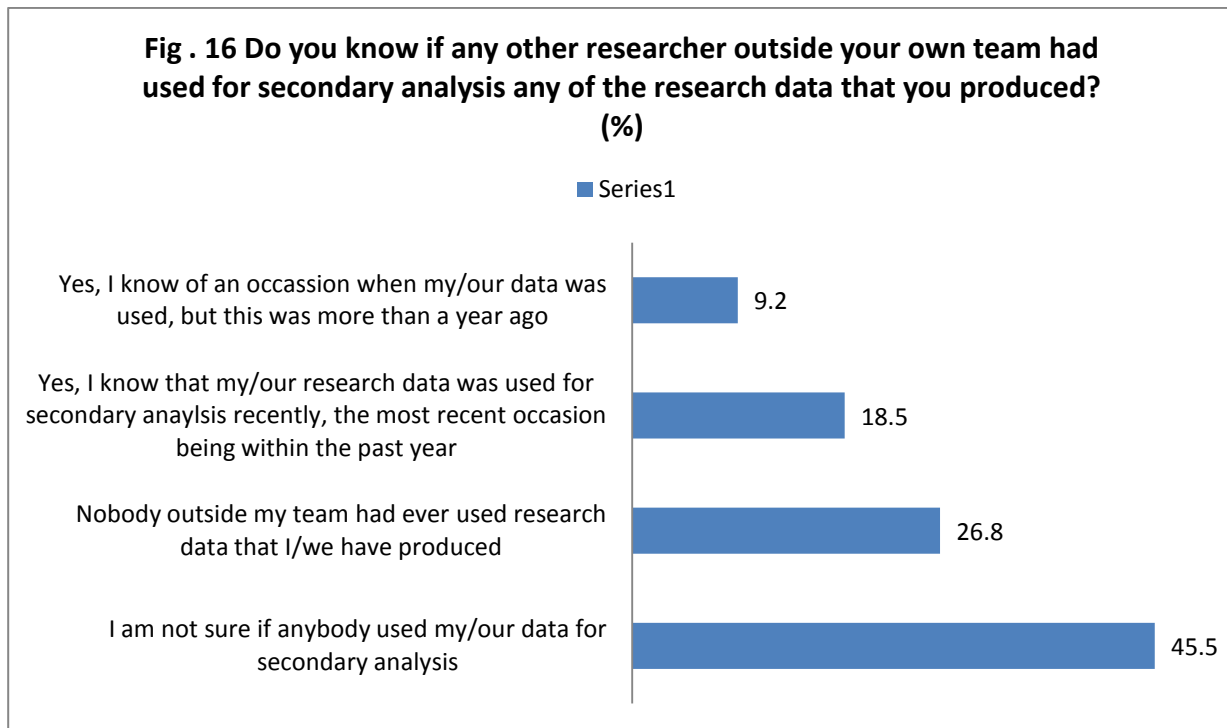
5. Archiving data

In relation to archiving, it can be seen that researchers, after completing their analyses and having written their papers or reports, mostly keep their prepared data on their own computers, not sharing them with the others or any archive. In 72.73% of the cases (figure 14) respondents confirmed that they keep their data on their own computer, and sometimes these data are not properly archived. These data therefore become very difficult to be understood and used by other researchers if needed in the future.

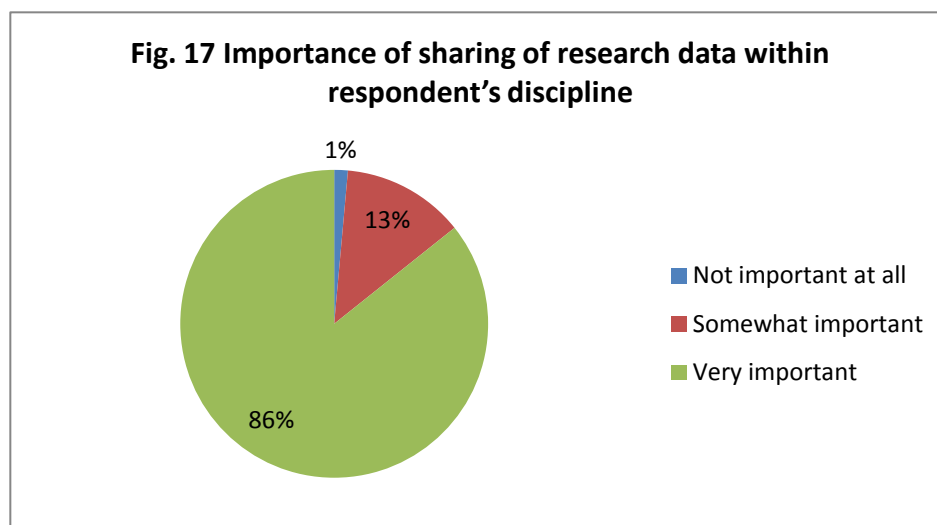


In addition, we see in figure 15 that only 50% keep raw data from their studies, which is most important when thinking about secondary analysis. This confirms that researchers on one hand, would like to have access to data produced by other researchers but do not know how to properly preserve their own data thus making data sharing difficult.

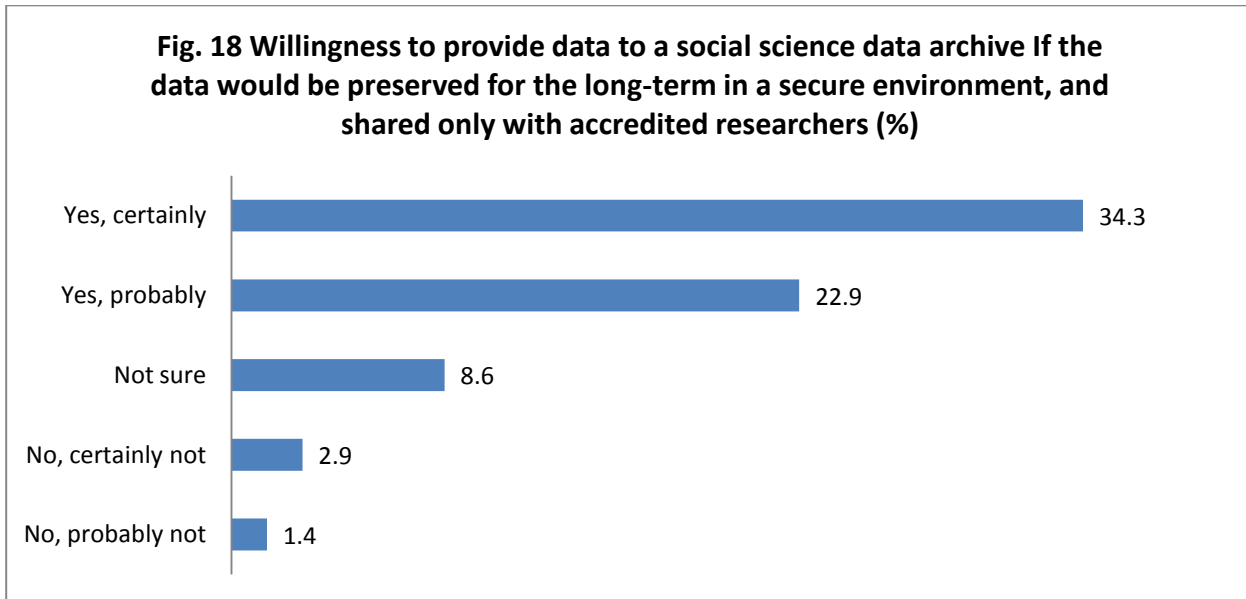
6. Sharing data



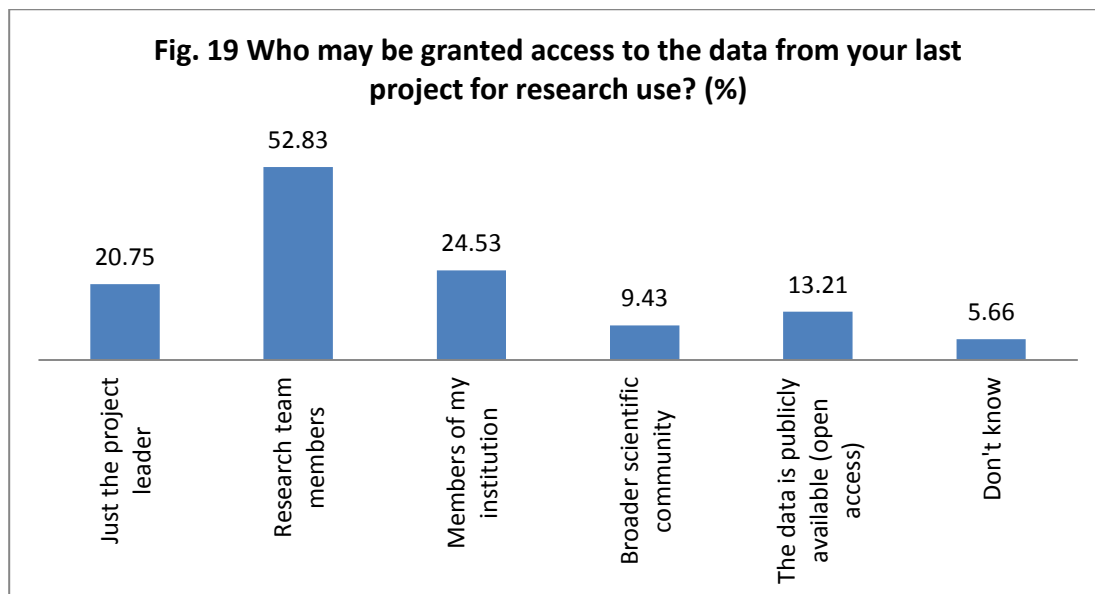
When asked if the data that they have produced during a research project was used by other researchers outside their team, around 45% of the cases, respondents declared that they were not sure if anybody used their data for secondary analysis and approximately 27% denied that their data had been used by other researchers (figure 16). However, only 18.5% acknowledged that the data they had produced were used for secondary analysis by other researchers within the past year, and 9.2% said that their data were used more than a year ago.



According to respondents, 86% believe that research data sharing within their discipline is very important or somewhat important (13%), while only 1% found data sharing not important (figure 17).



Moreover, when asked if they would be willing to provide data to a social science data archive (figure 18), around 34% of respondents displayed their readiness by replying ‘yes, certainly’. Other respondents argued that they would be willing to provide data to a data archive, but needed to be assured that these data would be kept in a secure environment and shared with responsible researchers. Less than 13% were reluctant or did not wish to provide data to a data archive.



In relation to data access for secondary analysis (figure 19), 52.83% of respondents stated that the data may be accessed by research team members, and 20.75% only by the project leader. Other members of the institution may be granted access (24.53%) and only 9.43% of these cases would be available to the

broader scientific community. When it comes to data being publicly available, 13.21% said that the data can be accessed by everyone.

Recommendations and future steps

This section contains a summary of recommendations as well as the next steps to be undertaken for the future of a social science data archive in Albania.

- A first recommendation would be to develop a national centralised secondary data archive. This national service would clearly define the relevant procedures, contracts, regulations, etc., for the appropriate development of a social science data archive. The data archive should provide information and support to researchers through workshops and training in archiving their data.
- In addition, it would be recommended to establish closer contacts with national authorities and institutions for research infrastructure in order to create an educational, scientific and technological strategy and ensure that data archiving is well recognized in relevant policy documents. Develop further cooperation with ARTI, since this institution has already built the basis for the data archiving infrastructure and is recognised as a key partner of the Ministry of Education and Sports in the development of an e-infrastructure data archive on national level.
- Another recommendation would be to create cooperation with any relevant higher education and research institutions in Albania in order to build a network of people who will work closely with researchers. Members of this network could provide local support to scientists, and facilitate data archiving and data sharing.
- Finally, we would recommend improving public understanding regarding the social sciences and promote the importance of data archiving for the social sciences through awareness raising campaigns (media, social media, info-day, etc.). This would increase the awareness of the role of innovation and new technologies for future developments in this research field in Albania.

Annexes

Annex 1. List of interviews held

Institution	Person interviewed	Date
Faculty of Social Science, University of Tirana	Elona Dhëmbo, University Lecturer	14.09.2015
Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana	Esmeralda Shehaj, University Lecturer	23.09.2015
ARTI	Geron Kamberi, General Director	20.10.2015
University of Tirana	Ervin Demo, Vice-Rector	03.09.2015
European Integration Unit, Ministry of Education and Sports	Iliriana Topulli, Head of Unit	18.11.2015

Annex 2. A: Questionnaires

Questionnaires Researchers' questionnaire

This survey forms part of an international project "South East European Data Services" - **SEEDS**, coordinated by Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences. The purpose of the project is to establish durable infrastructures for storage and secondary use of data generated in social science research. The project is a collaborative effort of eight countries, including partners who already have functional services for data archiving (Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia), together with regional partners, whose countries have yet to establish these services (Albania, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro).

Thank you for taking 10-15 minutes to complete the questionnaire. The information provided by you in this questionnaire will be used for research purposes only. It will not be used in any manner that would allow identification of your individual responses.

There are 38 questions in this survey

About you

First, we would like to get some information about you.

[]What is your current principal activity? *

If you choose 'Other:' please also specify your choice in the accompanying text field.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Undergraduate student
- Doctoral student / research or teaching assistant
- Researcher / professor
- Project leader
- Head of institution
- Other

Choose one answer only

[] With what type of institution are you currently principally affiliated? *

If you choose 'Other:' please also specify your choice in the accompanying text field.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Higher education institution
- University research institute
- Public research institute
- NGO/Think tank
- Currently not employed
- Other

Choose one answer only

[] Do you work in public, private or nongovernmental sector? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was NOT 'Public research institute' at question '2 [Q2]' (With what type of institution are you currently principally affiliated?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Public sector
- Private sector
- Nongovernmental sector

This question concerns your primary job.

[] What is your principal research discipline? *

If you choose 'Other:' please also specify your choice in the accompanying text field.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Economics
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Education science and teacher training
- Library and information sciences
- Political science
- Journalism
- Business and administration
- Law
- Organizational sciences/Management
- Public administration
- History
- Anthropology
- Other

Please select most appropriate of listed International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) fields.

[] What country are you working in? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Albania
- Kosovo
- Macedonia
- Montenegro

Your research

For this survey, the term "data" refers to **raw data**, that is, information collected in specific research projects that is recorded in machine readable format and used for analytic purposes. This could be survey data, interviews in sound files, video footage, notes, images, etc.

By "data", we do not mean analyses, descriptions, statistics, facts, or conclusions that appear in reports, papers, websites, or scientific publications.

[] In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.

*

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

Please count only research where you were involved at a substantive level with planning or organization of research, fieldwork management, cleaning or coding of research data.

[] Enter the number of datasets that you have produced or helped to produce during the past 5 years.

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Only an integer value may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

-

For example, one survey or series of interviews are both to produce one dataset. However, one research project might produce more than one dataset if several methods (e.g. focus groups and questionnaire) or distinct data collection efforts took place (e.g. employer survey and employee survey).

Your most recent research

The following questions are about your **most recent** research effort which **involved data collection**.

[] In which year was the fieldwork (or data collection phase) completed?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Your answer must be between 1960 and 2015

Only an integer value may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

-

[] Which data collection method was applied in this research?

(e.g. online questionnaire, structured interview, focus groups, experiment, ...)

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Please write your answer here:

If research involved data collection through application of several methods, list all of them, separated by ;

[] What was the approximate scope of raw data collected in this research?

(e.g. : 8000 respondents; or 15 focus groups; or 50 firms; or 700 case reports; or 500 newspaper articles; or 200 hrs of video footage)

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Please write your answer here:

[] How was this research financed?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Public funding through national science funding bodies (science ministry, science foundation...)
- Public funding from other sources (other ministries, state agencies, cities and municipalities...)
- International funding/project
- Private sector
- Own funding (institution you are working in paid from its own funds)
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[]

Apart from you, how many researchers were involved in this research project?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Only an integer value may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

-

Persons involved in field-roles during execution phase only (such as respondents in surveys) are not to be counted.

Data preservation

For this survey, the term "data" refers to **raw data**, that is, information collected in specific research projects that is recorded in matching readable format and used for analytic purposes. This could be survey data, interviews in sound files, video footage, notes, images, etc.

By "data", we do not mean analyses, descriptions, statistics, facts, or conclusions that appear in reports, papers, websites, or scientific publications.

[] After you completed your last research project, did you or your research team members keep/retain the data?

*

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

[] What kind of data was kept?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.) *and* Answer was 'Yes' at question '13 [Q12]' (After you completed your last research project, did you or your research team members keep/retain the data?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Raw data
- Cleaned data (coded, anonymised, ..)
- Data prepared for analysis (with transformations, created indexes, recoded)
- Well documented with metadata
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[]Have you used any special documentation/metadata standard for description of your research data?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.) *and* Answer was 'Well documented with metadata' at question '14 [Q13]' (What kind of data was kept?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- DDI
- DC
- ISO 11179
- Internal/institutional documentation standard
- Don't know
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[]Where is the data from your last project kept? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.) *and* Answer was 'Yes' at question '13 [Q12]' (After you completed your last research project, did you or your research team members keep/retain the data?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- On my computer
- On my colleague's computer
- Several copies on different computers and/or different media
- Server at my local institution/university
- Data archive/repository
- Don't know
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[] Who may be granted access to the data from your last project for research use? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.) *and* Answer was 'Yes' at question '13 [Q12]' (After you completed your last research project, did you or your research team members keep/retain the data?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Just the project leader
- Research team members
- Members of my institution
- Broader scientific community
- The data is publicly available (open access)
- Don't know
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[] In your opinion, what would be the ideal level of access to this research data? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

If you choose 'Other:' please also specify your choice in the accompanying text field.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Just the project leader
- Research team members
- Members of my institution
- Broader scientific community

- The data should be publicly available (open access)
- Don't know
- Other

Mark one option that you consider most suitable

[]If you knew that your data would be preserved for the long-term in a secure environment, and shared only with accredited researchers, would you be willing to provide your data to a social science data archive? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.) *and* Answer was NOT 'Data archive/repository' at question '16 [Q15]' (Where is the data from your last project kept?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes, certainly
- Yes, probably
- Not sure
- No, probably not
- No, certainly not

Choose one answer only

Data sharing and secondary analysis

Now we would like to ask you several questions regarding the sharing of data and secondary analysis.

By **sharing** we mean practices where researchers access and use data that they themselves did not produce.

Secondary analysis is defined as analysis of data that were produced by others, where one was not involved in the original research.

[]With respect to your own discipline, how important is the sharing of research data? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Very important

- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not important at all

Choose one answer only

[] Do you know if any other researcher outside your own team had used for secondary analysis any of the research data that you produced? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '6 [Q5]' (In the context of your research activity within the past 5 years, did you produce or help to produce any research data? This could be quantitative and/or qualitative data.)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Nobody outside my team had ever used research data that I/we have produced
- Yes, I know of an occasion when my/our data was used, but this was more than a year ago
- Yes, I know that my/our research data was used for secondary analysis recently, the most recent occasion being within the past year
- I am not sure if anybody used my/our data for secondary analysis

Choose one answer only

[]

When was the last time that you analysed quantitative data that were not produced by yourself or your research team.

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Year
- Month (1-12)

If you have never done such analysis, just enter **0** in the year field.

[]

When was the last time that you analysed qualitative data that were not produced by yourself or your research team?

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Year

- Month (1-12)

If you have never done such analysis, just enter **0** in the year field.

[] In general, what are the barriers to conducting secondary analysis in your country? *

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Not enough relevant data exist
- Data exist but are not accessible
- Data exist but are poorly documented and unusable
- Researchers are not trained well enough in secondary analysis
- It is not part of the research culture
- Don't know
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[] There are different ways to obtain research data produced by others. Please indicate all the sources that you ever used successfully to obtain such data. *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

----- Scenario 1 -----

Answer was NOT '0' at question '22 [r15q3]' (When was the last time that you analyzed quantitative data that were not produced by yourself or your research team. (Year))

----- or Scenario 2 -----

Answer was NOT '0' at question '23 [Q22]' (When was the last time that you analyzed qualitative data that were not produced by yourself or your research team? (Year))

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Your own research unit
- Network of colleagues outside of your research unit
- Your own institution
- Data archives from other countries
- National Statistical Office
- Websites of projects (national or international) providing access to data
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[]What statistical software do you commonly use for your quantitative analyses? *

Please choose **all** that apply:

- I don't do quantitative analysis
- Excel
- R
- SAS
- Stata
- SPSS / PASW
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[]What software do you commonly use for your qualitative analyses? *

Please choose **all** that apply:

- I don't do qualitative analysis
- I don't use any software for qualitative analyses
- Atlas.ti
- NVivo

- MAXQDA
- QDA Miner
- CAT
- RQDA
- Dedoose
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[]Would your scientific work benefit if you had better access to *

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes, considerably	Yes, moderately	No, not very much	No, not at all
research data produced in your country	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
international research data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[]

In your opinion, what is the prevalent attitude with respect to sharing one's own research data among...

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Not willing	very Not willing at all	Can't assess
colleagues from your field of science	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Not willing	very	Not willing at all	Can't assess
colleagues from your institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
your research team members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
you personally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Mark one assessment for each group mentioned and for yourself.

[]What are the main reasons for which you are not very willing to share your own research data with others?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Somewhat willing' or 'Not very willing' or 'Not willing at all' at question '29 [Q29]' (In your opinion, what is the prevalent attitude with respect to sharing one's own research data among... (you personally))

Please write your answer here:

[]Does your professional activity include teaching responsibilities? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

[]In the context of your teaching, how often do you analyze or discuss research data? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '31 [Q31]' (Does your professional activity include teaching responsibilities?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Rarely

- Never

Choose one answer only

[]Which type of data do you use in your teaching? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
Answer was 'Yes' at question '31 [Q31]' (Does your professional activity include teaching responsibilities?) *and* Answer was 'Rarely' or 'Sometimes' or 'Regularly' at question '32 [Q32]' (In the context of your teaching, how often do you analyze or discuss research data?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Data collected by students through the courseworkstion
- Data from past projects in which you have participated
- Publicly available data and datasets (e.g. international surveys)
- Artificially generated data or datasets included with the textbooks/software
- Other
- Other:

Mark all that apply

[]Would your teaching benefit if you had greater access to more national or international data? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
Answer was 'Yes' at question '31 [Q31]' (Does your professional activity include teaching responsibilities?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes, considerably
- Yes, moderately
- No, not very much
- No, not at all

Choose one answer only

[]In your view, how useful could be an institution that specializes in data archiving in your country? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Very important

- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

[] Please include any comments that you think would be helpful for understanding the social science research community in your country, or the likelihood of success of a national data infrastructure/archive at the service of researchers.

Please write your answer here:

[] If you are interested in archiving of and access to research data in your country, please leave us your contact information so that we can send you further information about our project.

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Name

- Institutional affiliation

- E-mail address

Your contact data will be kept confidential and used for contact purposes only. Data entered here won't be linked with answers that you have provided in this survey without your permission.

[] Can we associate your email address with information about recent data collections in which you participated? Only questions from sections "Your research" and "Your most recent research" will be linked. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

Annex 2. B: Questionnaires Guidelines for semi-structured interviews with government counterparts and potential

Research policy setting: interview with policy makers/funders

Invitation letter

- maximum one page
- introduce the project and yourself, explain what is data archive
- ask for meeting to talk about relevant issues on establishing data archive
- attach topics for discussion and questions (so that they can prepare themselves)

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Needs

B. Current policies and activities, plans for future

C. Possible institutional solutions

D. Financing

QUESTIONS

A. Have you met the need for archiving of research data in the social sciences?

- Do you rely on the results of research in social sciences when proposing/designing scientific policies and for other activities? If so, can you give some examples?
In this process was there a need for examining the raw data obtained in these studies?

- Have you ever used the online available source data or the results of research (eg Eurostat)? What data sources did you use?
- Have you met the requirements of the users / authors of the study (scientists and researchers) to archive research data in order to preserve and use them in future research?

B. Is there something in the scope of your current policy and actions with regard to data archiving in the social sciences? What are the plans for the future?

- What is the current science policy in relation to the archiving of research data?
- Are there any requirements related to research data when financing projects or other activities? (eg. if funding publishing scientific journals, criteria could include and requirement related to research data archiving)
- Is there a policy relating to open access to research results?
- If there is nothing currently:
 - Why is not there?
 - Can this be changed and how?

(assumption is that If there is need, and no current activities, there must be plans for the future)

C. What do you think how an institutional solution for data archiving should be established?

what kind of institution should carry this task? (scientific institute? faculty? university? library?) centralized, distributed?

D. What are the possible sources of funding for activities related to the collecting, processing, use and dissemination and permanent preservation of research data?

available or prospective (EU)

Annex 2. C: Questionnaires Data Services

SEEDS - South-Eastern European Data Services

“South East European Data Services” - SEEDS, coordinated by Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences is a project that aims to establish durable infrastructures for storage and secondary use of data generated in social science research. The project is a collaborative effort of eight countries, including partners who already have functional services for data archiving (Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia), together with regional partners, whose countries have yet to establish these services (Albania, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro).

We are particularly interested in existing work within [name of country] with respect to the long-term preservation of research data and the potential for a national social science data infrastructure.

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(For the interviewer: Please instruct and remind where relevant that the term "data" refers to raw data, that is, information collected in specific research projects that is recorded in machine readable format and used for analytic purposes. This could be survey data, interviews in sound files, video footage, notes, images, etc. By "data", we do not include analyses, descriptions, statistics, facts, or conclusions that appear in reports, papers, websites, or scientific publications.)

About your institution

1) Name of institution

2) Type of institution

a) University

b) Public research institute

c) Private research institute

d) Library

e) National/Regional archive

f) National Statistical Institute

g) Other (specify)

3) What is your institution's principal research discipline? (Only applicable if respondent answered b or c on Question 2)

4) What is your institution's principal research methodology focus? (Only applicable if respondent answer b or c on Question 2)

a) Quantitative methodology

- b) Qualitative methodology
- c) Mixed methodology
- d) Other (specify)
- e) Not applicable

5) What is the scope (discipline) of your data collection? (Only applicable if respondent answered d, e, or f on Question 2)

Existing infrastructure and data capacities

- 6) Does your institution store or disseminate data for use by researchers?
- a) Yes (go to question 8)

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- b) No (go to question 7)

7) What happens to the data produced at your institution? Are they at risk of being lost forever? (Skip to question 34 after answering this question.)

8) What discipline(s) are covered by the data you store or disseminate?

- a) Social sciences
- b) Humanities
- c) Other (specify) _____

Data preservation

9) How does your institution store research data for the long-term? Could you briefly describe this process?

10) How safe are the research data that are preserved at your institution? That is, are the data kept on servers that are protected? Are there backup or formal preservation systems? (Interviewer to explore which.)

11) Are the data treated in a way that assures that they can be accessed and used again in 20-50 years? (e.g., kept, with necessary documentation, in a non-proprietary machine readable format)

Data documentation and standards

12) Does your institution use any documentation standards for the research data that it preserves? (If yes:) Which standards does it use, e.g., DDI, Dublin Core, other?

13) Does your institution follow a particular standard for trusted digital repositories, such as OAIS or the Data Seal of Approval?

14) Does your institution participate in any international survey projects that aim to harmonise datasets from different countries for comparative purposes?

15) Does your institution make use of any thesaurus to translate and/or index your data? (If answer is yes, interviewer to ask for details).

Tools and technologies

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16) Does your institution have any experience with particular data service tools for the social sciences, such as NESSTAR, FEDORA or Dataverse? (If yes:) Could you briefly describe the purpose for which you use these and your experiences of using them?

Data discovery and dissemination

17) Does your institution allow access to the research data that it preserves?

(If no, skip to next section.)

18) Who is allowed to have access to the data? (Explore if respondent answers researchers, whether this includes researchers in their own organization only or also in other organizations)

19) What are the conditions that must be met to access these data?

20) Do you have some kind of authentication system that identifies who is eligible to access the data?

21) Are all of the data equally accessible? That is, are there some data that are more accessible than others?

22) Can the data be accessed from outside of the country? (Interviewer: If yes, probe to see whether the access is for national researchers who are abroad, or whether there are also foreign researchers who can access the data.)

23) By what means does your institution disseminate its research data? For example, are the data sent out on CDs, or are they available on screen, or can they be downloaded from a website?

24) Does your institution have a data catalogue that allows people to find the data that they are looking for? (If yes:) Is the catalogue visible outside of your institution, and what software is used to enable this?

Data policy and service funding

25) Does your institution have any policy or other documents regarding long-term preservation of research data? (If yes:) Could you briefly describe the policy or documents? (Also, ask if they could send it to us by e-mail.)

26) Does your institution use any legal agreements for storing, disseminating, and/or using research data? This might be in the form of deposit contracts or end-user licenses. (If yes :) Could you give a brief description of these legal agreements? (Also, ask if they could send them to us by e-mail.)

27) Do the intellectual property rights remain with the researcher/data producer, or are they transferred to your institution?

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28) Does your institution receive any external funding for archiving/data service activities? (If no:) How is the work of data preservation and dissemination paid for at your institution? (If yes, ask how much, whether the income is constant and whether it is dedicated to particular activities, e.g., preservation, dissemination, user support).

29) In your view, would your institution do more to preserve and disseminate research data if it had more resources?

Staff capacities

30) Does your institution have dedicated staff for the preservation and dissemination of research data? (If yes:) How many?

31) Do these staff members have specific training in data preservation and dissemination? (If yes:) Please explain.

32) What sort of additional training do you think would be needed for your staff to acquire sufficient knowledge about data service policies and practices?

33) What kind of statistical software package experience do they have?

a) SAS

b) SPSS

c) STATA

d) R

e) MathLab

f) Excel

g) Other (specify)

About a possible National Data Service for the social sciences

34) In general, to what extent are social science research data preserved for the long-term in [name of country]?

35) Could you estimate roughly how much research data produced in [name of country] are lost because they are not stored in a safe setting for the long term (in percentage)?

36) Do you think it would be useful or important to establish a national data service for the social sciences in [name of country]? Please explain why or why not.

37) (If yes to question 35) we are interested in your views about what a national social science data service might look like in [name of country]. Can you say what key functions such an institution should serve? How might it be structured and what kinds of relationships should it have to other institutions?

38) Are there any existing national data service infrastructures for other disciplines in [name of country] (for example, in the humanities, medicine, climate and environment, natural sciences, or technology)?

a) Humanities

b) Medicine

c) Climate and environment

d) Natural Science

e) Technology

f) Other (specify)

g) No