WHAT IS SODHA?

The *Social Sciences and Digital Humanities Archive* is **a brand-new digital archive**, **freely available** for Belgian researchers active in the fields of social sciences and digital humanities. In light of the significant international trend around open science, SODHA anticipates on the Belgian demands concerning the safe preservation and access to research data of the social sciences and digital humanities. Our data deposits are based on the **FAIR-principles**: findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

To researchers active in social sciences and digital humanities, SODHA offers an overview of available (open) research data in Belgium, as well as multiple options for data retention and for opening up their valuable datasets.

SODHA is led by **data experts from the State Archives of Belgium** and financed by the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO). Data stored in SODHA are safely backed up and preserved. Research Groups DEMO (UCLouvain) and Interface Demography (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) offer support for the further development of the archive.

SODHA is the official Belgian representative in the **Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)**.

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WHY SODHA?

1. Ensure a safe deposit of your research data.

SODHA aims at long-term data storage. Uploading your data in SODHA prevents your valuable work of remaining unnoticed or getting lost. Therefore, SODHA can be of value when you are looking for sound data management. The repository has been developed to help you establish **a data management plan**. Such a carefully drafted plan is essential for efficient research and can be useful for future funding applications!

The main characteristics of your deposited datasets are clearly described in **the metadata** on SODHA. You are free to provide personal descriptions related to the metadata. SODHA stipulates limited mandatory fields, including your name, contact information, possible future publications related to the dataset and a short description of the data collection. Not 100 % sure about uploading the full dataset yet? SODHA also accepts 'uploads' of only metadata. This will help build an overview of data collection and expertise of Belgian researchers.

SODHA ensures a deposit according to **the FAIR principles for scientific data management and stewardship:** findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. Other researchers can easily find your datasets via the SODHA website or via search engines. You choose how accessible, interoperable and reusable your data will be.

2. Facilitate the potential reuse of your research data.

Each dataset available through SODHA receives a **Digital Object Identifier**, more commonly known as a DOI, which makes simple and transparent references to your dataset possible. SODHA allows targeted searches to specific datasets using DOIs. Furthermore, the use of DOI is a good way to validate your data collection efforts. You -as the owner of the dataset- can be cited in publications that build on your deposited dataset.

3. Ensure international visibility for your work and build a network beyond your university!

Clearly, the metadata are made public on our own website. In addition, they will soon obtain international visibility through the **CESSDA international data catalogue** - the biggest data catalogue for the social sciences in the world.

CESSDA stands for: **Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives**. CESSDA brings together 22 social science data archives across Europe, with the aim of promoting the results of social science research and supporting national and international research and cooperation.

Available on: www.datacatalogue.cessda.eu

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CHECKLIST FOR SHARING YOUR DATA

Certain types of research data are not (immediately) ready to be shared in open access. This checklist helps you identify data issues and choose the right access and use regime in SODHA.

✅ *No personally identifiable information*

Make sure your data do not contain information which may (in)directly identify living natural persons. SODHA, as a rule, does not allow datasets with respondents' real names, addresses and other contact information. Doublecheck that respondents cannot be identified using a combination of variables (e.g. Job title: Mayor; Zip code: 1234). Confidential data (e.g. collected with a non-disclosure agreement) should not be deposited. Make sure to only deposit anonymised or pseudonymised data.

✅ *Sensitive data?*

Does sharing your datasets mean that sensitive data about living persons are revealed? Under sensitive data should be understood: any data which reveal racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs or trade union memberships and data which concern the health or a person's sex life or sexual orientation. Also, genetic data or biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identify a natural person is classified as sensitive data. The SODHA team is currently working on a procedure for depositing sensitive data in the future. For now, sensitive data are not allowed in the SODHA repository.

✅ *Copyright and database rights?*

Check if your data or data format (e.g. audio-visual data) have specific copyright or database rights. If so, ask permission from all rightful owners.

✅ *Third-party data?*

Does your dataset comprise data supplied by a third party (e.g. government agency)? Check your data contract whether you have permission to share the data or excerpts of the data (e.g. general processed data tables). Consider restricting access to your data files to comply with the third party's restrictions.

✅ *Do you want to pursue commercial or economic valorisation with your data?*

If so, consider restricting access to your data files if you have obtained consent from the identifiable living natural persons involved in the data. If you did not obtain consent, you should pseudonymize your data. In addition, if your data contains sensitive information, consent is not sufficient to facilitate commercial reuse. In the latter case, you should deposit a pseudonymised version or you should only deposit metadata and follow an archiving procedure for you non-pseudonymised dataset. A later reuse request can be made by a user, but access to the dataset is then subject to a specific approval procedure.

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INTERESTED?

Check www.sodha.be or join one of our free webinars!
We also host on-demand coaching sessions.

Webinars on:
02/09/'21 at 10 am CEST
07/10/'21 at 10 am CEST
25/10/'21 at 10 am CEST

Registration with e-mail to: sodha@arch.be
Any further questions? Contact us!

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