

NORDi: NEW ERA FOR SHARING RESEARCH DATA

It will be easier to find, use and share research data. The user services of the future are in the making.

New data

Labour Force Survey
1st quarter 2016 (Statistics Norway)

Labour Force Survey
2nd quarter 2014–1st quarter 2016,
panel (Statistics Norway)

Tourism Survey 2015
2nd trimester (Innovation Norway)

Tourism Survey 2015
1st trimester (Innovation Norway)

Living Conditions Survey
European Union-SILC 2015
(Statistics Norway)

Local Elections Day 2014
(Uni Research Rokkan Centre/ISF)

Candidate Survey 2013
(NIFU)

Rental Market Survey 2015
(Statistics Norway)

Study Barometer 2015
(NOKUT)

Annual reports for universities
and colleges (NSD)

European Social Survey (ESS),
round 7

Data can be ordered or downloaded
from nsd.no

Follow NSD on Twitter @NSData
#nyedata

The aim of the NORDi (Norwegian Open Research Data Infrastructure) project is to improve and simplify access to research data on the basis of the Open Access principle. According to guidelines issued by the Research Council of Norway, all data that have been produced with the aid of public funding are to be shared and made accessible. For 40 years, NSD has been the national archive and node of access for Norwegian research data.

Sharing is ownership

“We intend to cooperate closely with the Norwegian research sector to build systems that are adapted to the current and future needs of users. This is a matter both of technology and of training in data-processing and personal privacy, i.e. creating a secure framework and culture of data-sharing. Our aim is that institutions and researchers will feel that they are the owners of the solutions that emerge, and that researchers and students will store, share and use more data. Data are the most important component of a knowledge-based understanding of society. This is what makes it so important to start the construction of an infrastructure with practically oriented content now”, says Vigdis Kvalheim, Associate Director at NSD.

NSD will collaborate with the UK Data Archive and ICPSR at the University of Michigan.

Sharing is culture

In the European Union, Norway and many other countries, the authorities have declared that open access is a fundamental principle and that data should be shared by researchers for the benefit of society. At the same time, a number of organisations, including the OECD, UNESCO and the European Union, have expressed unease that implementation of these aims is going slowly. A report from the Research Council of Norway identified a number of obstacles that Norwegian researchers felt were hindering the sharing process. These included a lack of time and infrastructure, and some anxiety that sharing would reduce their chances of publishing in the future.

“At present, only a small proportion of the data generated by research is stored and shared in professional and open data archives, and in this way made available for future research. This means that both research and society in general are losing out on an important resource. NORDi aims to face and resolve the challenges identified by the researcher via open, secure and transparent solutions”, says Kvalheim.

NORDi will build a user-driven infrastructure that will also include a system for citing datasets, and that emphasises support services for data-sharing, guidance services, training and development of standards.

Sharing is training

Some aspects of today’s archiving and dissemination solutions will be replaced by completely new and more forward-looking versions. NORDi will:

- provide the research sector with a “state-of-the-art” system for data-processing, storage and access
- offer institutions means of storing and sharing data, as well as solutions for implementing their own data-sharing policies
- provide training and raise levels of competence among researchers and students, make it easier to extend the use and re-utilisation of quantitative

and qualitative data (video, sound, text, social media, big data, environmental data, etc.)

- make the research process more transparent, in order to eliminate academic cheating and misconduct.

Sharing is infrastructure

The Research Council Of Norway has allocated NOK 26 million to the project, as part of its support for the “National Programme for Research Infrastructure”, which has a total budget of NOK 1.3 billion. The twenty-nine projects that passed through the needle’s eye are regarded as being of particular importance for the development of the national infrastructure.

MAJOR STEP FOR RESEARCH DATA

The European Union has identified landmarks for the research infrastructure of the future. Both the European Social Survey (ESS) and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) recently acquired the status of ESFRI Landmarks. Both are on the list of Europe’s most important research infrastructures on ESFRI’s roadmap 2016. “ESS, CESSDA and NSD thus occupy central positions in joint European efforts to develop an infrastructure for the exchange and use of research data. Our status as an ESFRI

Landmark is a major step forward for us”, says NSD Director Bjørn Henrichsen. Data from the he ESS international interview study is organised by NSD, the Norwegian “Service Provider” for CESSDA, which has its main office in Bergen.

ESFRI (the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) is a cooperative forum for European ministries of research, that has been tasked with coordinating and integrating Europe’s research infrastructure. All European Union member states and countries that are associate members of its research programme are taking part in ESFRI.

Ability to track and document its research activity (data archiving)

Institutions

Data Depositing Archiving Po

Data manage archiving too

Support for n data manage plan (RDMP)

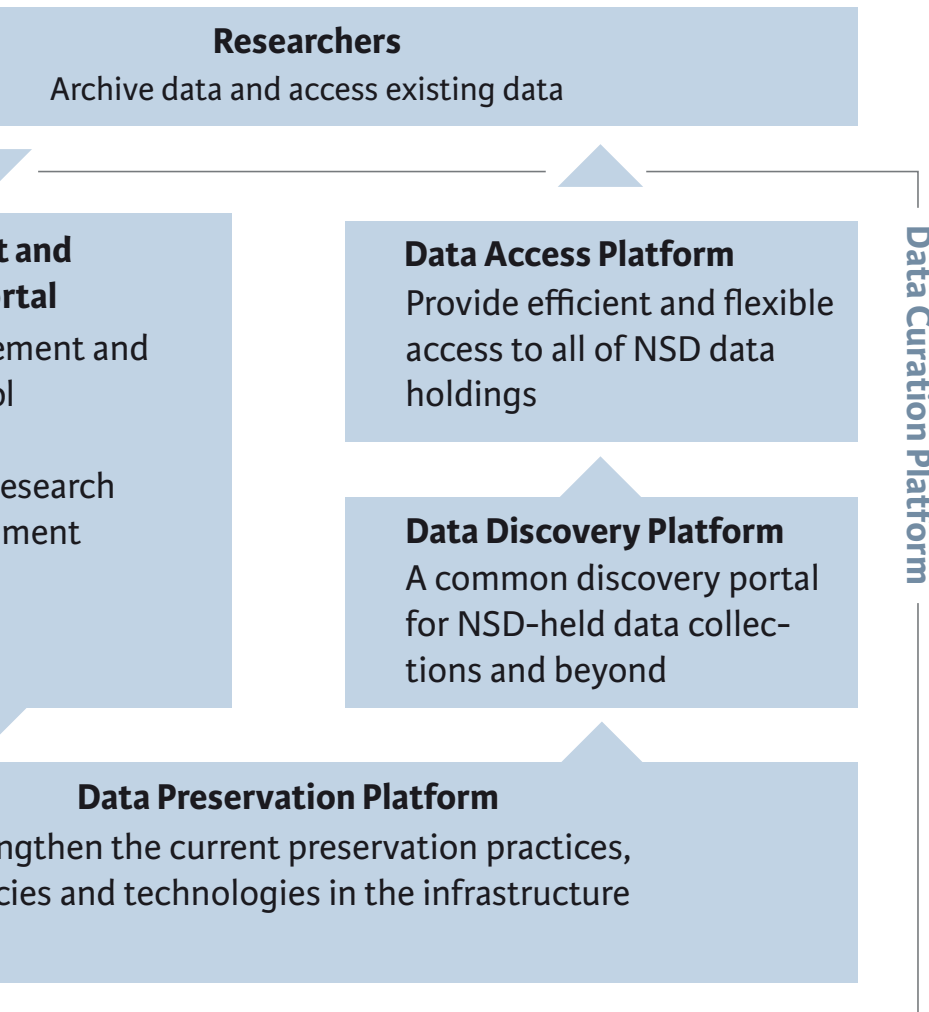
Strengthen polic

My NSD

ANNA MILFORD is a social economist and researcher at NIBIO (the Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomy Research). She has used data from the Survey of Consumer Expenditure (Statistics Norway), organised and disseminated by NSD

“I have used data from NSD in a project that aimed to find out how taxes and subsidies on various types of food might “nudge” patterns of consumption in an environmentally friendly direction. Together with my colleague Geir Wæhler Gustavsen, I used a dataset from the Survey of Consumer Expenditure that spanned the years from 1986 to 2012 to look at changes in patterns of consumption set against price changes during the same period. This enabled us to say something about the effect of changes in taxation. Our analysis showed that it is quite possible to estimate what levels of taxes and subsidies help to reduce CO² emissions related to the consumption of foodstuffs, while maintaining or even improving diet quality. This was the first time I had used data from NSD, though I had previously been helped by NSD’s privacy protection section in connection with obtaining approval for research projects.”





NSD CHANGES ITS NAME

“NSD is no longer called Norwegian Social Science Data Services. It is now known as NSD – Norwegian Centre for Research Data AS. In most connections, only the abbreviation NSD will be used. Its Norwegian designation is now NSD – Norsk senter for forskningsdata AS

NSD’s services cover more disciplines than only the social sciences. “NSD – Norwegian Centre for Research Data” is therefore a better reflection of what NSD is today. At the same time, the three-letter acronym is a well-known national and international brand-name that we wish to keep,” says NSD Director Bjørn Henrichsen.

ESS – A MAJOR DATA-PACKAGE READY FOR USE

In summer 2016, the complete set of data from the 7th round of the European Social Survey (ESS) will be made available to researchers and students. This cross-national survey has been carried out every two years since 2002, and has measured attitudes regarding a number of social questions in a total of 36 countries. Topics covered in Round 7 include health and immigration.

Thirteen thousand persons from 127 countries downloaded data from ESS in 2015. Today, ESS has 94,000 registered users. Ever since the early days of the survey, NSD in Bergen has been responsible for processing, disseminating and documenting the survey data. An in-depth description of the project will appear in the autumn 2016 issue of NSDnews.

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

NSD’s Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers is steadily increasing

NSD’s Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers comprises several thousand research journals, book series and publishers from many parts of the world.

The number of authorised journals and series rose from scarcely 14,000 in 2005 to 22,500 in 2015. Around 900 new journals and series were added in 2015. The Norwegian Register now includes more than 1500 authorised publishers.

In 2016, the Norwegian Register was adopted by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training.

“This marks yet another recognition of

Norwegian efforts in the field of registering academic publishing channels and accrediting research publications”, says NSD Associate Director Knut Kalgraff Skjåk.

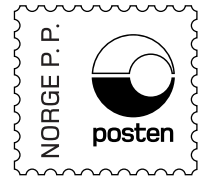
Besides the Norwegian Register, NSD runs and administers the European ERIH PLUS Register.

Academic publishing channels are authorised by NSD in accordance with formal criteria and are allocated to a specific level according to their academic ranking within their discipline. Important requirements include the level of research expertise of the editorial team, peer evaluation procedures

and the journals’ list of national or international authors.

A Nordic collaboration is now about to be launched, with the aim of establishing a common standard and list for all the countries involved. The joint effort will be coordinated by NSD.

The Norwegian Register is run by NSD on behalf of the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions. The Norwegian Register is used by Norwegian universities, colleges, the health sector and the research institute sector.



NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES CONTINUITY

EU's new privacy protection decree will benefit researchers



MARIANNE HØGETVEIT MYHREN is a senior adviser in NSD's Privacy Protection Section

The European Union has recently adopted a new privacy regulation that will give all European Union and EEA member states uniform privacy legislation from 2018 onwards. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will replace the European Union's 1995 Data Protection Directive. While a directive sets out minimum requirements with wide latitude for national adaptations, the GDPR will apply directly to all EU and EEA countries, without the need for national legislation. The GDPR also provides some scope for Member States to implement local rules on certain matters, but this will be much more limited than at present.

The aim of the new law is to harmonise privacy legislation throughout the European Union and the EEA, to make it easier to share data across national borders, and to update the legislation in order to make Europe fit for the digital age. It also aims to ensure a consistent and high level of data protection to provide legal certainty and trust by providing better access to and control over people's own personal information.

Researcher-friendly reform

The general impression given by the new Regulation is that it is researcher-friendly and that it protects the interests and needs of the research sector. Most of the important special provisions that allow personal data to be used for research purposes have been continued, clarified and strengthened, thus providing continuity and still good terms for the research sector.

The legal text explicitly states that personal information that has been acquired for other purposes may always be used for research purposes. This means that researchers can reuse data without being required to obtain new consents. This also implies a clear recognition of the research community as a producer and disseminator of knowledge.

The new decree may also lead to a relaxation of Norwegian privacy legislation. The definition of what comprises personal data includes a constraint that should take into account all the means that might reasonably be employed to link a piece of information

to an individual. This may result in fewer research projects being affected by the law than is the case at present in Norway.

Institutions made responsible

Even though research institutions have been given a unique position in the general provisions of the regulation, these provisions also entail greater responsibility for ensuring that the rights and privacy of participants in research projects are respected. Techniques such as anonymisation, pseudonymisation and encryption are being endorsed to provide such guarantees.

When the Regulation enters into application, the general notification requirement and the need to obtain licence from the Norwegian Data Protection Authority for a specific project will be revoked. Responsibility for compliance with the Regulation will be left to the institutions involved, and the data protection official system will become compulsory for the research sector throughout the EU/EEA.

This type of organisation is already widely used in the Norwegian research sector, in which NSD is the Data Protection Official for Research for about 140 research institutions.

The data protection officials will keep institutions informed and provide them with guidance, follow up their internal control systems, participate and provide advice regarding privacy impact assessments, and be capable of identifying projects that could involve serious risks of compromising personal privacy. Projects that are assessed as involving serious risks in this respect will still have to apply for advance approval from the Norwegian Data Protection Authority, which will continue to be a supervisory body and will also be given greater authority to impose sanctions.

In short, there is little reason to fear that the new Regulation will mean greater limitations on research in Norway. On the contrary, the harmonisation and equal practice of EU/EEA legislation should make it easier for researchers to gather and share data across national borders. However, the potential for countries to implement their own legislation in some areas may pose a challenge to harmonisation.

Editor-in-chief

Bjørn Henrichsen

Editor

Njord V. Svendsen

Design

Geir Goosen



NSD is the national archive for research data in Norway and one of the largest of its kind, providing data to researchers and students in Norway and abroad. It is also a resource centre assisting researchers with regard to data gathering, data analysis, and issues of methodology, privacy and research ethics.

Cold facts

Follow NSD on Twitter #NSData

1969:

If you were offered the chance to travel to the Moon in a spaceship, would you be interested in the prospect?

Yes: 19.5%