Survey Project Management Portal

SMaP was developed to address two ongoing and routine challenges of large data collection projects 1) communication (managing daily communication with teams all over Europe) and 2) information management (exchange of data, files and documentation among central and national teams).

Why do social researchers need SMaP?

Researchers in comparative surveys face a special challenge: managing international collaboration e.g. in questionnaire design, fieldwork steering, data integration, and analysis, when the multiple actors involved work in many different locations and countries. The traditional vehicles to communicate and share documents are e-mail and file sharing services. However, these are inherently messy, suffer from security concerns, and do little to help with monitoring processes and for preserving all important materials for later re-use and documentation.

How does SMaP solve the problem?

The solution was a digital platform to enable and manage the communications and collaboration needs of international survey teams. SMaP allows to more easily manage the challenges of communication and file transfer between the countries and the central teams.

On SMaP, teams follow standardized workflows supporting the exchange of data and documentation during fieldwork and data processing and communicate with other teams in an efficient way. It offers workspaces for every team that share several features. Two important communication features are:

1) the 'Activity Stream' that can be used for communication between central and national teams and organize workflows, exchange documents and discuss the daily work; and

2) the bespoke folder structure that helps organize and exchange files with other countries, including uploading a file in one folder once to make it accessible to all other teams and providing a structured repository at the end of the project.

How can researchers use SMaP?

The pilot myEVS was developed in collaboration with the European Values Study (EVS). However, it is anticipated that the tool will also be usable by other survey projects, for example the European Social Survey (ESS), or the Generations and Gender Programme.

Where to find out more about SMaP

If you are interested in learning more about SMaP and how it was customized for the EVS, please get in touch via e-mail to myevs.support@gesis.org.

www.SERISS.eu

Project Summary

Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS) aims to equip Europe's social science data infrastructures to play a major role in addressing the key societal challenges facing Europe today and ensure that national and European policymaking is built on a solid base of the highest quality socio-economic evidence. SERISS involves the three leading European Research Infrastructures in the social sciences – the European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE ERIC) and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA ERIC) – together with organizations representing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), European Values Study (EVS) and WageIndicator.

Undertaking collaborative research and creating tools to assist future data collection, SERISS has exploited potential synergies among these infrastructures and fostered inter-operability, harmonization and innovation in three key ways:

- Addressing key challenges for cross-national data collection including how best to represent the views and behavior of the population and how to achieve equivalence of meaning across countries via high-quality translation

- Breaking down barriers between infrastructures by developing common technological platforms and creating shared online tools and resources

- Embracing the future of the social sciences by exploring new forms of data and new modes of data collection

SERISS Tools

SERISS has developed a suite of online tools to support different stages of the data lifecycle from design to collection to analysis. The tools are designed to support higher quality and cost effective data collection and ensure that data are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). They are available to be used by national and international research infrastructures.

Find out more about SERISS Tools

- Questionnaire Design and Documentation Tool (QDDT)
  https://github.com/DASISH/qddt-client/wiki or contact surveytools@nsd.no

- Translation Management Tool (TMT)
  https://seriss.centerdata.nl/ or contact centerdata@uvt.nl

- Question Variable Database (QVDB)
  https://colectica.nsd.no/ or contact surveytools@nsd.no

- Fieldwork Management System (FMS)
  https://seriss.centerdata.nl/page2.php or contact centerdata@uvt.nl

- SMaP/myEVS
  https://www.gesis.org/en/research/applied-computer-science/labs/#c78056 or contact myevs.support@gesis.org.

- Surveycodings.org
  www.surveycodings.org

- Variable Harmonization HUB (VHH)
  https://harmonization.gesis.org/#!Home

www.SERISS.eu