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SERISS (Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences) aims to exploit synergies, foster collaboration and develop shared standards between Europe's social science infrastructures in order to better equip these infrastructures to play a major role in addressing Europe's grand societal challenges and ensure that European policymaking is built on a solid base of the highest-quality socio-economic evidence.

The four year project (2015-19) is a collaboration between 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 AS) – and organisations representing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), European Values Study (EVS) and the WageIndicator Survey.

Work focuses on three key areas: Addressing key challenges for cross-national data collection, breaking down barriers between social science infrastructures and embracing the future of the social sciences.

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With the emergence of open science, big data, and new EU laws on data privacy and data protection, it can be difficult for social science research methods lecturers to keep up with it all. As part of the EU-funded SERISS project (H2020 grant number: 654221) and the CESSDA Training Working Group at GESIS, data specialists put on a train-the-trainer course for social science research methods lecturers, to provide them with the latest information and course materials for use in their classroom. The course content was designed for both undergraduate and post-graduate students.

The May 21, 2019 day-long event was called *Life Hacks for Quantitative Research Methods Lecturers – Data specialist training and course materials for your classroom*. In this 1-day train-the-trainer course, our experts gave lectures on various aspects of variable harmonization as a topic, identified the main points students should take away, and provide university research methods lecturers with handouts and exercises to use (or adapt for use) in their classrooms. The first half of the day focussed on theoretical aspects, including the new ethical and legal considerations post-General Data Protection Regulation, the concept of Open Science, and the FAIR principles. The second half of the workshop examined practical case studies in large-scale cross-national data harmonisation and documentation, the European Values Survey including introduction to free software that digitizes variable harmonisation and documentation work and the Variable Harmonization Hub website developed under SERISS.

Train the trainer talks were delivered by GESIS staff:

- Libby Bishop discussed ethical and legal issues for data.  
Anna Schwickerath explains how to make your data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.
- Kristi Winters discusses key concepts in variable harmonization.
- Kristi Winters reviews an example of variable harmonization documentation.
- Paula Schäfer reviews the variable harmonization software CharmStats with a case study from the European Values System.
- Kristi Winters reviews the website designed to hold and retrieve variable harmonization work, the Variable Harmonization Hub.

Our 6 in-person participants received digital copies of the lecture notes, handouts and related materials for their own use (under Creative Commons Attribution licenses). In addition, to widen the impact of this event, the course was recorded and turned into a video series published online. The Train the Trainer course packets are also available as .pdf downloads for classroom use from the SERISS website.

List of videos and their urls:

Video title	Video location online
Train the Trainer – Ethical and legal issues in managing and sharing data	<a href="https://youtu.be/R1pB8uiJvLc">https://youtu.be/R1pB8uiJvLc</a>
Train the Trainer - FAIR data management	<a href="https://youtu.be/b_6MsQS6rKc">https://youtu.be/b_6MsQS6rKc</a>
Train the Trainer - Concepts in data harmonisation	<a href="https://youtu.be/4di__r5QfiM">https://youtu.be/4di__r5QfiM</a>
Train the Trainer - Data harmonisation case study	<a href="https://youtu.be/PQrWOxcY7mk">https://youtu.be/PQrWOxcY7mk</a>
Train the Trainer - Variable Harmonization with CharmStats	<a href="https://youtu.be/NXrsI5jV7WY">https://youtu.be/NXrsI5jV7WY</a>
Train the Trainer - The Variable Harmonization Hub	<a href="https://youtu.be/ApoAMyYXM28">https://youtu.be/ApoAMyYXM28</a>