

The Czech Social Science Data Archive, a resource for social science survey data

The Czech Social Science Data Archive (CSDA) is a repository of survey data that constitutes the largest resource for secondary data analysis in the Czech Republic. Its data library covers various research domains, including sociology, political science, social work, economy and demography. On its website, <http://archiv.soc.cas.cz>, the CSDA provides open online access to survey data to academics, students and others interested in the study of Czech society.

The CSDA is a department of the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, one of the leading Czech research organizations in the domain of the social sciences. The main purpose of the CSDA is to aggregate data suitable for secondary analysis, store it and make it available to the public. The CSDA also provides technical and organizational support for Czech participation in large-scale survey research programs, e.g., the International Social Survey Program (ISSP), the European Social Survey (ESS), and the newly established Czech Household Panel Survey (CHPS). The archive is a member of the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA), which seeks to connect as many European archives as possible into a chain of data repositories that affords users from all over the world easy access to survey data from individual European countries.

The CSDA has recently been granted the internationally recognized Data Seal of Approval (DSA). With this certification, the CSDA has officially been recognized as a trustworthy survey data resource for international research and as a reliable data repository for the European Commission's Horizon 2020 projects. With the DSA, the Czech archive will be able to expand by storing more datasets in its library.

In general, DSA regulations establish guidelines for an archive's management of data and ensure that an archive provides usable data in a comprehensive manner. The certification assures data producers and funding providers that their data will be stored securely and always be ready for use. Data users profit from the DSA as well, because as the archive's library grows, users will have access to more data for their analyses and can be sure that the data is authentic and trustworthy.

The community of data archives certified by the DSA is composed of more than sixty survey data repositories in the world, among them the oldest and most prestigious European archives – the United Kingdom Data Archive and the German Data Archive for the Social Sciences (GESIS).

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