

Persistent Identifier Policy

CESSDA ERIC* provides large-scale, integrated and sustainable data services to the social sciences. It brings together 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.

The **CESSDA ERIC Persistent Identifier Policy** is intended to support the aims of locating, discovering, referencing, identifying and citing CESSDA Service Providers' data holdings. It serves as a basis for a common approach to the use of Persistent Identifier services across the CESSDA Service Providers (SP). The Policy contains requirements regarding the use of Persistent Identifiers (PID) to which the CESSDA SP must adhere. The Best Practice Guidelines aim to support the CESSDA SP to implement the use of global Persistent Identifiers and to assess the impact for their organisation.

General Principles

Best Practice Guidelines

Principle 1 – Identifying

Each CESSDA SP shall use globally unique and persistent identifiers to identify their data holdings, which are of interest to CESSDA.

Principle 2 – Locating

All data holdings of each CESSDA SP shall be findable by their global PID via the Internet.

Principle 3 – Resolving

CESSDA SP shall use global PID services that ensure 24/7 resolvability of PID.

Principle 4 – Referencing and Citation

PID need to be used to ensure referencing and citation of the data holdings of each CESSDA SP.

Principle 5 – Visibility

PID must be included in the resource-discovery metadata provided by CESSDA Service Providers for the CESSDA Data Catalogue.

Principle 6 – Flexibility

This Policy shall be reviewed at least every two years and adjusted according to the latest strategic and technological developments within and outside of CESSDA.

*CESSDA stands for Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives and ERIC stands for European Research Infrastructure Consortium.



Identifying

- Assign globally unique PID to data that are published
- Commit to maintain PID permanently
- Do not change assigned PID
- Embed PID in data file (e.g. as variable)
- Use PID service with clear and transparent policy & business models

Locating

- Resolve assigned PID to a landing page on the website of the CESSDA SP
- The landing page should include information on the data collection (e.g. origin, version, availability, accessibility etc.)
- The landing page should include information about relations to other data collections (& their PID)

Resolving

- Use trusted, reliable & well-known PID system
- Use PID that resolve to landing page on Internet
- Guarantee resolvability of PID by maintaining landing pages (even if data collection is not accessible any longer)

Referencing and Citation

- Provide information on how to cite data collections
- Include PID in recommended citation standard
- Assign PID (at least) on data collection level

Visibility

- Provide PID in resource-discovery & harvestable metadata
- Implement version control and assign a new PID to each new version of a data collection
- If a data collection is moved to different location, the PID should be maintained
- If a data collection is taken offline or is no longer accessible, a tombstone landing page should be maintained, including citation metadata & information about the data provider

Flexibility

- Introduction of PID for other entities than data collections (researchers creating/collecting the data and institutions)
- Work on interoperability between different PID systems and on connecting PID with LOD

