

4th IISP Scientific Conference, 8-9 December 2005



Session «Electronic archives of social sciences data — new opportunities for the users» Pre-
siding (from left to right): Erni Boiko, IASSIST
President; T.M. Maleva, IISP Director; Yu.A.
Levada, Director, ANO «Levada-center».
Speaking — A.Ye. Surinov, ROSSTAT Deputy
director.



SPEAKING::

Erni Boiko,
IASSIST President

I.G. Teleshova,
assistant dean,
economy department,
Moscow State
University

Ruslan Yemtsov,
the World Bank
senior economist

V.L. Rimskiy,
head of the sociology
department, INDEM
Foundation



The work of the session «Creation of public so-
ciological archive: results of the five-year work»
is conducted by academician T.I. Zaslavskaya
(RAS), to her right — L.B. Kosova, director of
the program «Russian Sociological Data Archive».



T.U. Stuken,
assistant professor,
Omsk State University



Peter Granda,
deputy director,
ICPSR



V.V. Stovba, A.A. Mitushin,
IISP coordinators



Session «From national archives — to the joint
infrastructure of social sciences», chairman —
L.A. Khakhulina, scientific supervisor of the
program «Russian Sociological Data Archive». To
the right — Brigitta Hauseshtain, Central Em-
pirical Data Archive (Cologne) and Peter Granda,
deputy director, ICPSR.



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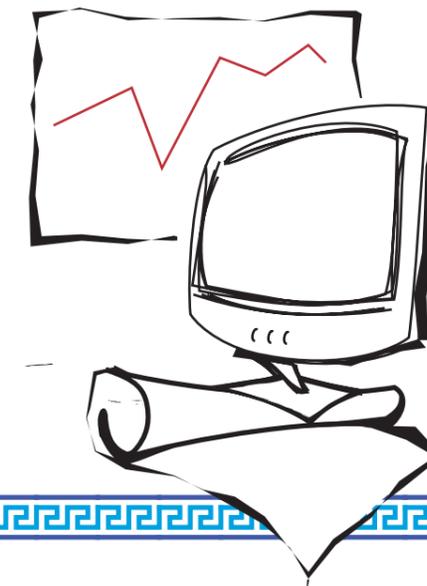
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RSDA - Russian Sociological Data Archive

Sophist

Information Bulletin



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News

June 26 — July 2, 2006. Russian Sociological Data Archive holds the First Methodological Seminar «Statistics without tears: regressive modelling with NESSTAR». The seminar is held with financial support of MacArthur Foundation. For details see: <http://www.socpol.ru/news/>.

Since March 2006 Russian Sociological Data Archive resumed presentations of its collections in the frames of the courses, organised by the Centre of Sociological Education IS RAS. This joint work allows us to present the archive to a wide circle of young lecturers from the Russian regions: during our co-operation 104 specialists familiarised themselves with the new information resource.

March 9, 2006: scheduled meeting of the Archive Board was held. A number of problems were discussed, among them issues, connected with the organisation of the consortium. The objective of the consortium — to form an informal organisational structure, which will unite organisations, interested in supporting the activities of Russian Sociological Data Archive. We suppose, that organisations which collect initial information on the basis of surveys of the population and are ready to deposit their research in Russian Sociological Data Archive: universities, interested in receiving sociological data as empirical teaching basis; organisations, interested in receiving information for academic research; organisations, interested in development of their research infrastructure, can become members of the consortium. Consultations will be continued.

February 15, 2006: Annual meeting of representatives from faculties of economy of regional universities was held. Moscow State University step forth as the organiser of meeting. Russian Sociological Data Archive demonstrated possibilities of its collections to be used as an empirical basis in academic courses for students in economics. The presentation was followed by a discussion.

December 8—9, 2005: 4th ISSP Scientific Conference «Social policy: challenges of the 21st century» was held. In the work of the Conference Russian Sociological Data Archive came forward with the panel «From national archives to the joint infrastructure of social sciences». Russian specialists and foreign experts took part in the work of the panel. The reports aroused active discussions. For the details see <http://www.socpol.ru/news/conf2005dec.shtml>.

Nesstar in RSDA

This year Russian Sociological Data Archive is starting to use a new software Nesstar (Networked Social Science Tool and Resource). The development of the Nesstar was launched in 1998 in the frames of the title research project. Its main objective was creation of the software which could allow to carry out secondary analysis of the data in Internet. The project has proved to be rather successful and its co-founders: UK Data Archives and Norwegian Social Science Data Services have come to a decision to set up a profit organization on the basis of this project.

Nesstar was created specially for the needs of electronic social sciences archives and it takes into account specific tasks they face. It consists of several components. Nesstar Publisher supports the work on creation of detailed and structured descriptions of research (metadata), conforming to the DDI (Data Documentation Initiative) specifications. It also allows to publish these descriptions in Internet. Access to the research, published in Internet is provided by Nesstar WebView. The storage proper and opportunity for statistic analysis in Internet is supported by Nesstar Server.

The unique character of Nesstar provides users with absolutely new opportunities for the data access. The software is installed on the data archive server. The research data placed in the archive for storage are converted into the formats of this program packet. On completion of this work remote users get an opportunity to carry out on-line data analysis: they can look through the questionnaires, make linear and table distributions, graphs, and also perform statistic analysis right on the site. Thus it is no longer necessary for the end user to previously load the data into his computer, the user does not have to own a packet for the statistic analysis.

The importance of such an opportunity can hardly be overestimated, especially in the regions, where they keenly feel shortage of trustworthy information and also lack of financial and administrative resources for the development or purchase of their own systems for data statistic analysis. The Nesstar potential in this situation will allow to raise the research work on a new level. Social sciences teaching will also get an impulse for development. Students and teachers will be able to use the sociological survey data on line both in class, while mastering skills for the secondary analysis, and in doing his homework of different complexity: from term papers to graduation papers and master dissertations.

Nesstar has proved itself as a convenient means of storage and access to the data. It is used by many leading archives in the world. The use of this software will make it possible for the Russian Sociological Data Archive to join the archive organizations, which employ advanced technologies, will raise its status as an innovative and dynamically developing organization. It is just another step on the way to the united infrastructure in social science, creation of which is the target of the international archive community.

International Social Survey Programme (ISSP): Opportunities for researchers

The target of the International Social Survey Programme is obtaining of the trustworthy sociological information, which would provide opportunities for the intercountry comparisons and also the analysis of the dynamics of the most significant social factors. The programme was launched in 1985 by six countries (Australia, Austria, Great Britain, Italy, USA, Germany), which carried out surveys of their population on the basis of a single methodology and comparable samples. The common file of the data became accessible to the users in all the countries, participating in the project.

The idea of the research proved to be quite fruitful and received further development. With each year the number of ISSP participants is growing: the dynamics is given in Pic.1. Russia joined the project in 1991. The topic of each next module of the research is chosen at the working meeting of the participating countries. The modules are repeated every 5-6 years. The results of field work is transferred to Cologne Archive, where they prepare a united file of the data and accompanying documentation. This information returns to each participating country and becomes accessible to the scientific community.

Below we present the data of the ISSP module «Family and changes in the gender roles», performed in 2002. The surveys were carried out according to representative samples in 35 countries. Among other questions the respondents were asked to say to what extent they agreed with the statement: «The husband's concern is to earn money, and the wife's — to keep house». The answers are given in Pic. 2.

According to the abundance degree of the traditional notions of the family roles the participating countries turned out to be extended between the two poles. On the one pole — Scandinavian countries and Netherlands. They proved to be to a greater degree affected by modernisation processes. Only 10 % of the population in these countries stick to conservative stereotypes. On the other pole we have Philippines, Taiwan, Latin-American countries and the former socialist countries. In Russia, for example, almost 60 % of the population share the traditional notion of family roles.

The number of those who do not have a definite opinion on this question differs from country to country too. For example, in Brazil the number of those, who could not definitely describe their attitude was minimal — about 7 %. The question divides the country into two approximately similar camps: almost 50 % of Brazilians share the traditional notions of the family roles, not less than 45 % share the opposite opinion. But in former socialist countries (Hungary, Latvia, Bulgaria, Slovakia), on the contrary, the share of those, who have not defined their position on

this matter, is great. In Hungary, for example, the number of those who do not share either of the positions comprises more than 30 %. Almost 30 % of the population in Latvia and Bulgaria cannot definitely form their attitude to the traditional distribution of the family roles either.

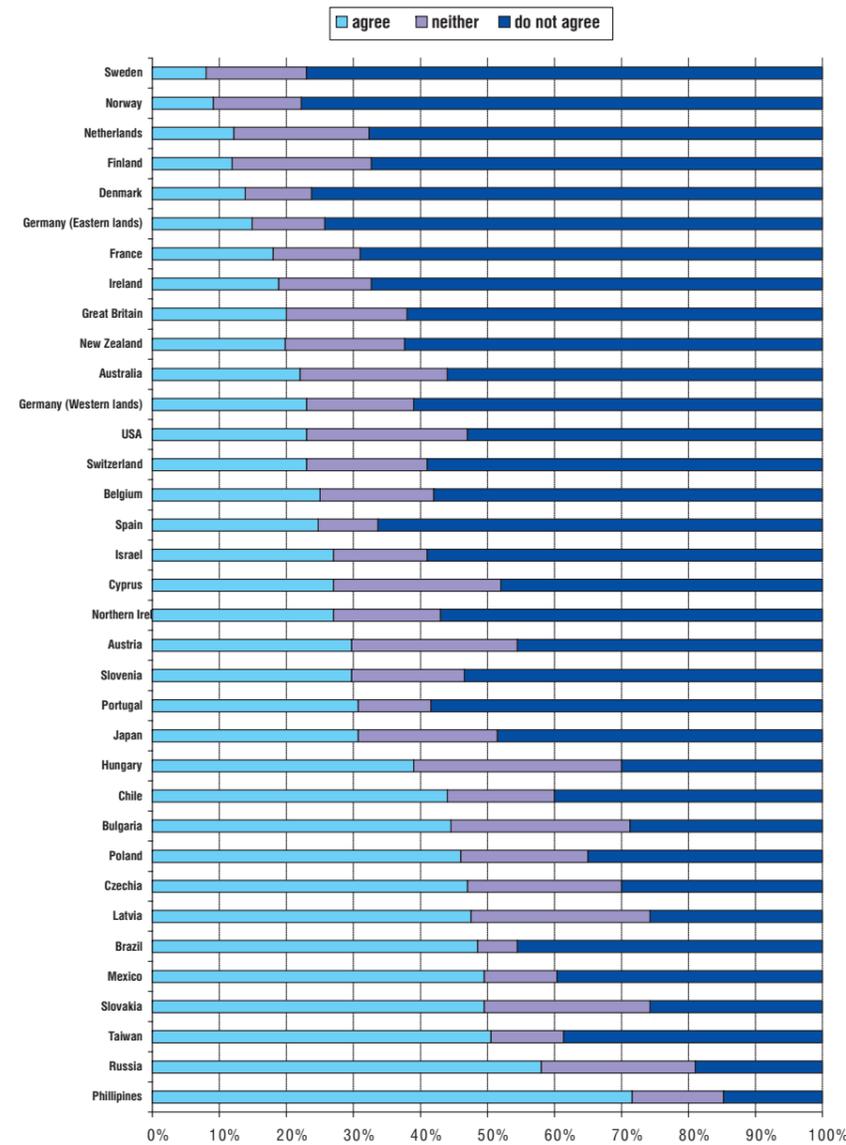
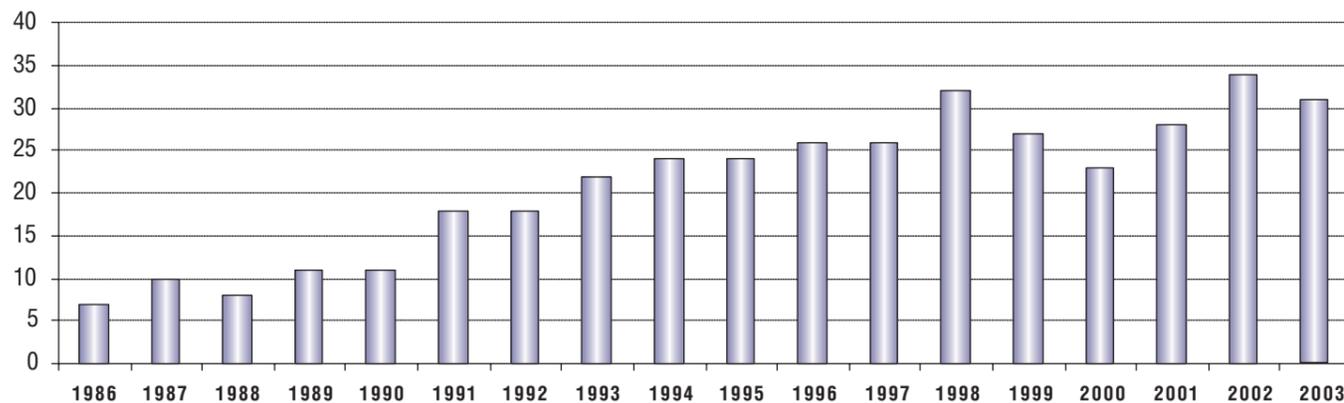
The ISSP modules, besides intercountry comparisons, allow to follow the dynamics of attitudes in time. Pic. 3 shows how the opinion of the participating countries' population changed within the two waves of the research (in 1988 and 2002), that is within 14 years. The number of those, who share the traditional attitudes has decreased in all the countries (in Ireland, Germany, Austria — by more than 20 %). Situation in Hungary attracts particular attention. Both quotas of those who share traditional attitudes and those who do not agree that keeping house is a woman's concern, has decreased. At the same time the number of those who cannot define their attitude to this matter has become almost twice as much.

The Russian Sociological Data Archive stores all the ISSP modules carried out from 1985 to 2003 (see Table 1). The data is provided for research and teaching purposes free of charge on request to the information system «Sophist». For details turn to <http://sofist.socpol.ru/>.

Table 1

| Topic | Year of survey |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Role of the government I | 1985 |
| 2. Structure of social ties | 1986 |
| 3. Social inequality I | 1987 |
| 4. Family and change in gender roles I | 1988 |
| 5. Attitude to work I | 1989 |
| 6. Role of the government II | 1990 |
| 7. Religion I | 1991 |
| 8. Social inequality II | 1992 |
| 9. Ecology I | 1993 |
| 10. Family and change in gender roles II | 1994 |
| 11. National identity I | 1995 |
| 12. Role of the government III | 1996 |
| 13. Attitude to work II | 1997 |
| 14. Religion II | 1998 |
| 15. Social inequality III | 1999 |
| 16. Ecology II | 2000 |
| 17. Structure of social ties II | 2001 |
| 18. Family and change in gender roles III | 2002 |
| 19. National identity II | 2003 |

Pic. 1. THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN ISSP



Pic. 2. THE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ATTITUDE «THE HUSBAND'S CONCERN IS TO EARN MONEY, THE WIFE'S — TO KEEP HOUSE», INTERCOUNTRY DIFFERENCES

Pic. 3. THE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ATTITUDE «THE HUSBAND'S CONCERN IS TO EARN MONEY, THE WIFE'S — TO KEEP HOUSE», DYNAMICS IN TIME

