

## RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES – MATURITY EVALUATION 2019

### FINAL REPORT

Infrastructure: PASSDA – Production and Archive of Social Science Data (*Produção e Arquivo de Dados de Ciências Sociais*)

Date: 10/02/2020

<b>1. CONTEXT ANALYSIS</b>	X Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>PASSDA is a highly consolidated national Research Infrastructure, supported by networks and partnerships with various Research Units/Centres, Universities and International Consortia/RIs. Of special interest is the consolidation of pre-existing international reference partnerships (eg. ESS - European Social Survey; CESSDA - Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, Comparative Study of Electoral Systems), but also the extension of such networks through, for example, the European Values Study and the ESS-SUSTAIN-2 project. Through these partnerships, PASSDA has ensured the presence of Portuguese researchers both in the research teams as well as in the scientific and governing bodies of these European/International Infrastructures. In the case of the European Values Study, private funding was obtained to support the participation, thus reinforcing the international insertion.</p>	
<b>2. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL STRUCTURE</b>	X Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>The planned governance structure was implemented in February 2018 with the signing of the Consortium Protocol between the participating nodes/institutions. The Protocol establishes the articulation between the partners in order to fulfil each other's missions and responsibilities in pursuing the RI objectives. The RI regulates the collection and archiving components through the Board of Directors. The consolidation of the Consortium's structure is also visible through the detailed description of its governance structure. Concern about the PASSDA governance processes is also demonstrated through its participation in the governing bodies of some of the international infrastructures of which it is a part (e.g. General Assemblies; ESS Committees; Scoreboards).</p>	
<b>3. USER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION</b>	X Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>We highlight the constitution of the Advisory Board, composed of representatives from different sectors. There was a consolidation of previously implemented measures of articulation with stakeholders, in particular with non-academics, and including entities from both the public and the private sectors that contribute financially to PASSDA. Relevant actions were taken in the field of dissemination and access of data produced by this RI.</p>	

<b>4. HR POLICY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>PASSDA has recruited human resources with the necessary management profiles linked to the tasks and responsibilities inherent to the components of the RI. Although the number of full-time doctoral researchers and fellows (masters and graduates) is still low, the infrastructure has made a significant effort for dedicated full-time fellows to provide management, science communication, technical and scientific support for data collection, analysis and archiving, which has resulted in progress in their professionalization. The roles of full and part-time researchers and fellows, as well as that of the Consortium Director, are clearly spelled out. This HR policy should continue to be implemented, which requires adjusted/adequate funding.</p>	
<b>5. STRATEGIES FOR ACCESS, DATA USE AND MANAGEMENT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>The strategy for data use and management is defined and has been enhanced in the last years in terms of user attraction, access and data management. In terms of data management, we highlight the compliance with international procedures of the CESSDA-ERIC partner infrastructure. Continuity/development of actions to encourage user attraction and data management from the FAIR perspective is recommended.</p>	
<b>6. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>Very relevant scientific impact demonstrated by the numerous teaching, training and research activities supported by data collected by PASSDA and partner international consortia which are translated into the use of data in scientific production, including publications, and also in the context of international scientific cooperation.</p>	
<b>7. STRATEGIES FOR KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>Data gathered by PASSDA are available in national and international archives. The strategy for knowledge transfer and socio-economic impact is being implemented properly. The use of data in advanced education programs and presentation initiatives contributes to the training of human resources. The social impact is also demonstrated by the scientific dissemination to non-specialized audiences, including the media. It is recommended to have more PASSDA data in the public debate on societal challenges.</p>	
<b>8. RISK ANALYSIS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>The main risks (reduced cooperation from the scientific community to make databases available and financial constraints to ensure the participation in the international scientific structures/consortia) and some measures to overcome or mitigate them have been identified. To overcome these risks, some measures were implemented, namely: transforming the RI into a consortium of scientific institutions and the creation of governing bodies in which they actively participate; use of various internal media for the dissemination of new databases in APIS (<i>Arquivo</i></p>	

*Português de Informação Social*<sup>1</sup>) and RCCAP (*Repositórios Científicos de Acesso Aberto de Portugal*)<sup>2</sup>); working with potential funders to ensure Portugal's permanence in the European Values Study, in addition to the initial financial framework. Still, the risks have not been completely overcome. It is recommended that a consistent strategy be taken to mitigate the ongoing difficulties.

The promotion of the media and communication policy is demonstrated. The communication strategy should include raising awareness of the scientific community about data sharing and also the diversification of funding sources.

**9. SUSTAINABILITY AND ALIGNMENT WITH PUBLIC POLICIES AND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES**

X Very High ☐ High ☐ Average ☐ Low

The criterion under consideration is being addressed appropriately. The steps to be taken in this area were also demonstrated, which are reinforced by this Committee. (e.g. establishment of the consortium between institutions [with own investment]; implementation of a governance structure; adoption of a recruitment policy including management and Communication; attracting more users from the public and private sectors; creating closer links between users, both inside and outside the Academy; consolidating the Communication strategy about PASSDA relevance; further integration into International Infrastructures/Consortia).

**10. OVERALL CLASSIFICATION**

X Very High ☐ High ☐ Average ☐ Low

The RI has a very high degree of maturity. The criteria under consideration are mostly covered or implemented. However, there are some criteria where further progress is still needed, for which the Committee recommends a closer attention from the Coordination of PASSDA:

1. external communication, with emphasis on users of public Administration and the private sector;
2. internal communication with a view to overcome the difficulties of sharing and storing data;
3. consolidation of the communication strategy regarding PASSDA's relevance at both national and international levels;
4. consistent strategy to mitigate permanent difficulties/risks.

The Committee and FCT take note of the comments on the obstacles arising from public funding rules, which limit their use towards the production of the basic scientific resources for the functioning of PASSDA.

<sup>1</sup> Portuguese Archive of Social Information - <http://www.apis.ics.ulisboa.pt/>

<sup>2</sup> Portuguese Open Access Scientific Repositories - <https://www.rcaap.pt/>