

## SODHA MISSION STATEMENT

The **Social Sciences and Digital Humanities Archive** (SODHA) is a new service of the State Archives of Belgium which was launched in October 2020.

SODHA is a data archive, i.e. a repository specialized in the preservation and dissemination of research data. As such, SODHA commits to ensuring the **long-term preservation** of the research data received from its depositors and to providing **access** to said data as widely as possible.

SODHA follows **international standards** for data documentation, data preservation, and data accessibility, among others the **FAIR** data principles and the philosophy of **open science**.

The **target audience** of SODHA is the research community in all of the disciplines that constitute the vast domains of **social sciences** and the **digital humanities**.

SODHA was created at the end of an infrastructure development project financed by the [Belgian Science Policy Office](#) (BELSPO) after Belgium became a member of the [Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives](#) (CESSDA ERIC).

Belgium joined CESSDA ERIC when the country's three main funding agencies, BELSPO, the Flemish Government's [Department of Economy, Research and Innovation](#)<sup>1</sup>, and the Federation Wallonia-Brussels' [Directorate-General for Non-Compulsory Education and Scientific Research](#)<sup>2</sup>, jointly signed the [Statutes of CESSDA](#) in 2017.

As per article 3, section 5, paragraph (b) of the Statutes of CESSDA, member countries must "designate a Service Provider that will provide CESSDA ERIC services in their country and across Europe." SODHA is the Belgian **service provider** amid CESSDA.

SODHA is undergoing further developments in the course of the [Belgian Infrastructure for Social Sciences and Humanities Open Science project](#) (BISHOPS), also funded by BELSPO.

The purpose of the BISHOPS project is to fine-tune the existing infrastructure to the needs of researchers in digital humanities. To this end, SODHA draws on the outputs of the [Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities](#) (DARIAH ERIC).

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<sup>1</sup> *Departement Economie, Wetenschap & Innovatie* (EWI).

<sup>2</sup> *Direction générale de l'Enseignement non obligatoire et de la Recherche scientifique* (DGENORS), which, in the meantime, has become the *Direction générale de l'Enseignement supérieur, de l'Enseignement tout au long de la vie et de la Recherche scientifique* (DGESVR).

## Version history of this document

Date	Version number	Changes made
02-03-2021	1.0	First version
03-03-2021	1.1	Brackets removed from the full name of SODHA
28-04-2021	1.2	Erroneous reference to a passage of the CESSDA Statutes corrected + actual name of the document placed in the footer
06-05-2021	1.3	Font of the document changed from Arial to Calibri
07-06-2022	1.4	Update of hyperlinks
26-04-2023	1.5	Slight rephrasing of paragraph 6