The Question Variable Database (QVDB) - a portal and documentation tool for the ESS

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SERISS Task 4.2

Outline

What is it?

- Technical components and content

Examples from the QVDB

- DDI3.2 variable harmonisation

- Data production / documentation

- Short Live demonstration

A system for storage and retrieval of questions and variables (structured in DDI3.2 XML)

Server and Web

Colectica Repository is a centralized storage system for managing data resources
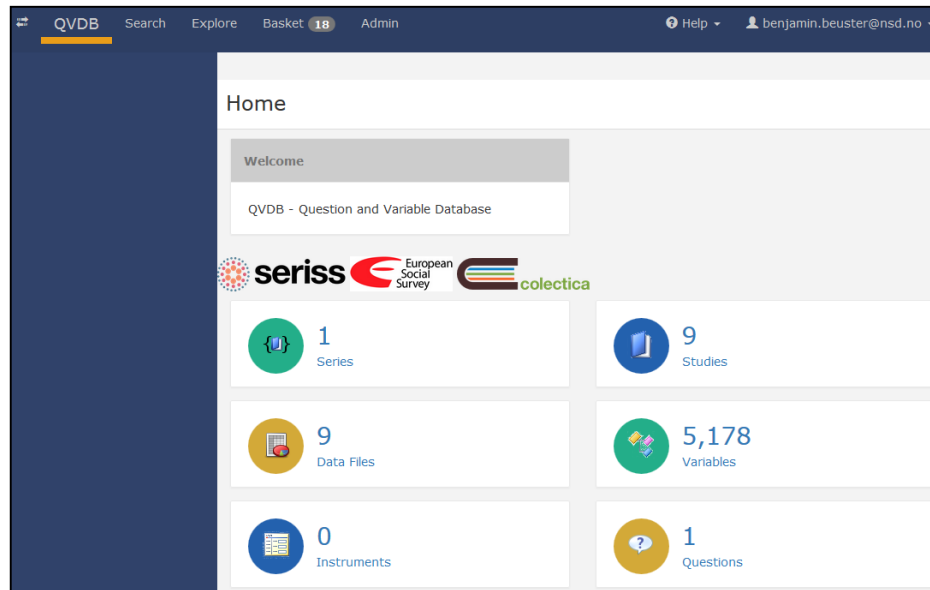
In the Portal you can browse and search for datasets and metadata on the Web

Import of
variables
DDI-C
&
questions
DDI-3.2
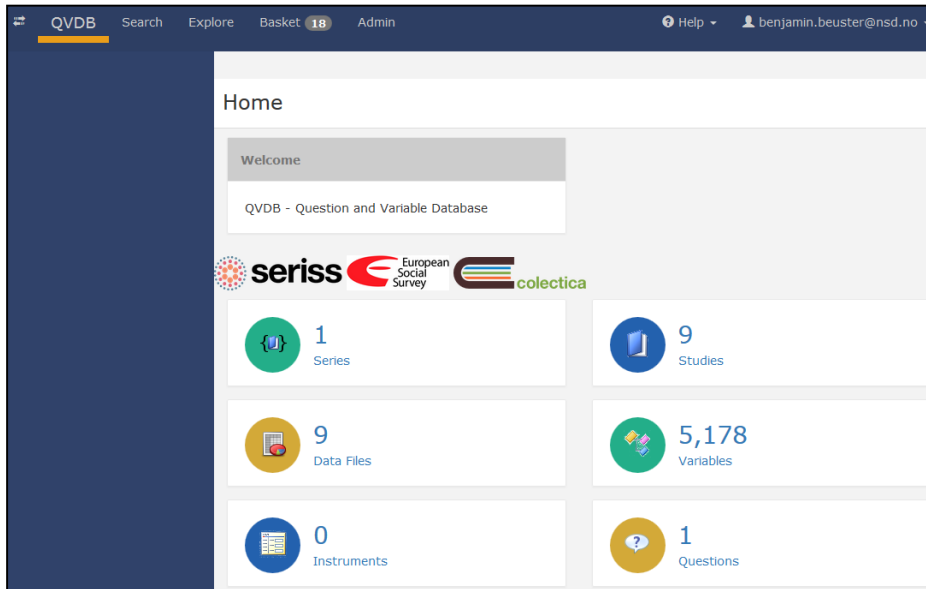
Primary goal: Serve the ESS (and other surveys) in their business processes

![SERISS - Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences]

CESSDA EURO Question Bank

Secondary goal: Exchange metadata so that metadata collected at one stage of the survey life cycle can be reused in another stage of the survey life cycle

Variable harmonization – feature to support cross-national and longitudinal studies

- Describes how variables (that measure similar information) from different points in time correspond to each other

- ESS: Variables that measure the same information across rounds have equal variables names

- Use three levels structure of ConceptualVariable, RepresentedVariable and Variable (DDI3.2)

⬡ **marital**	Legal marital status

⟳ **marital**	Legal marital status

⟳ **ESS2 - marital**	Legal marital status

⟳ **ESS1 - marital**	Legal marital status

⟳ **maritala**	Legal marital status

⟳ **ESS3 - maritala**	Legal marital status

⟳ **ESS4 - maritala**	Legal marital status

⟳ **maritalb**	Legal marital status, post coded

⟳ **ESS5 - maritalb**	Legal marital status, post coded

⟳ **ESS8 - maritalb**	Legal marital status, post coded

⟳ **ESS7 - maritalb**	Legal marital status, post coded

⟳ **ESS6 - maritalb**	Legal marital status, post coded

SYNERGIES FOR EUROPE'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

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⬡ marital	Legal marital status

⤏ marital	Legal marital status

→ | ESS2 - marital | Legal marital status |
|---|---|

→ | ESS1 - marital | Legal marital status |
|---|---|

⤏ maritala	Legal marital status

→ | ESS3 - maritala | Legal marital status |
|---|---|

→ | ESS4 - maritala | Legal marital status |
|---|---|

⤏ maritalb	Legal marital status, post coded

→ | ESS5 - maritalb | Legal marital status, post coded |
|---|---|

→ | ESS8 - maritalb | Legal marital status, post coded |
|---|---|

→ | ESS7 - maritalb | Legal marital status, post coded |
|---|---|

→ | ESS6 - maritalb | Legal marital status, post coded |
|---|---|

Variable

Column in the data file

seriss

SYNERGIES FOR EUROPE'S
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES
IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

marital	Legal marital status
→ marital	Legal marital status
ESS2 - marital	Legal marital status
ESS1 - marital	Legal marital status
→ maritala	Legal marital status
ESS3 - maritala	Legal marital status
ESS4 - maritala	Legal marital status
→ maritalb	Legal marital status, post coded
ESS5 - maritalb	Legal marital status, post coded
ESS8 - maritalb	Legal marital status, post coded
ESS7 - maritalb	Legal marital status, post coded
ESS6 - maritalb	Legal marital status, post coded

Represented Variable

Describes how the variable is measured

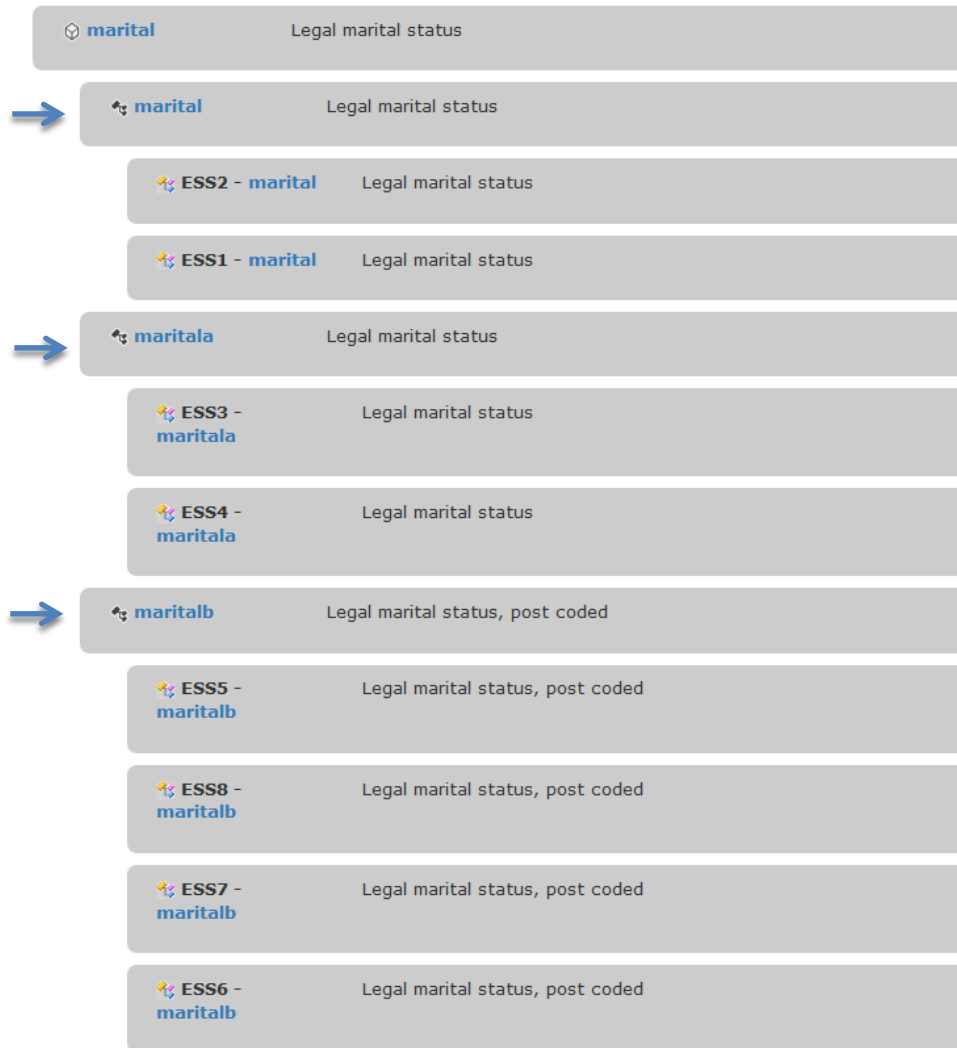May change accross rounds

marital   Legal marital status

marital   Legal marital status

ESS2 - marital   Legal marital status

ESS1 - marital   Legal marital status

maritala   Legal marital status

ESS3 - maritala   Legal marital status

ESS4 - maritala   Legal marital status

maritalb   Legal marital status, post coded

ESS5 - maritalb   Legal marital status, post coded

ESS8 - maritalb   Legal marital status, post coded

ESS7 - maritalb   Legal marital status, post coded

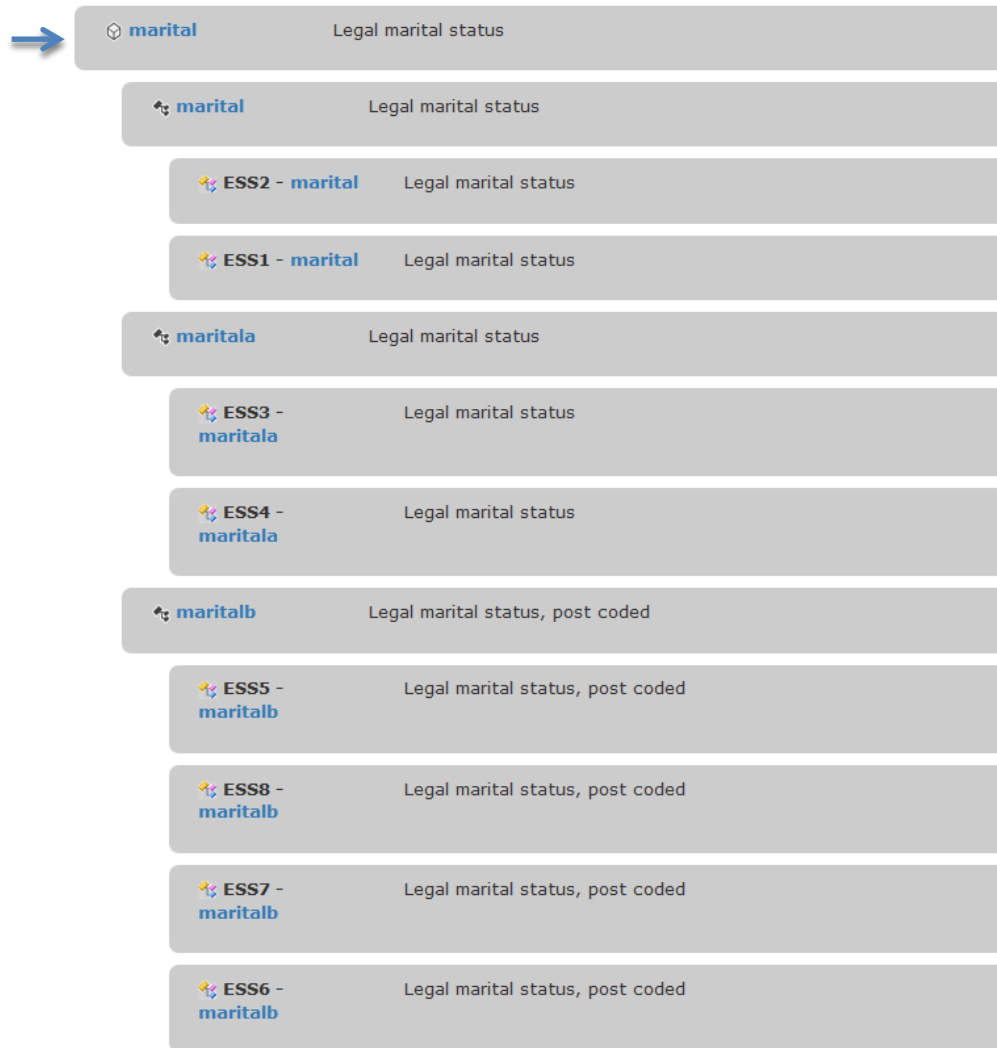ESS6 - maritalb   Legal marital status, post coded

Conceptual Variable

Most generic way to describe a variable

	ESS1	ESS2	ESS3	ESS4	ESS5	ESS6	ESS7	ESS8
Married	1	1	1	1				
Legally married					1	1	1	1
Separated	2	2						
In a legally registered civil union					2	2	2	2
In a civil partnership			2	2				
Divorced	3	3	5	5				
Legally separated					3	3	3	3
Separated (still legally married)			3	3				
Widowed	4	4	6	6				
Legally divorced/civil union dissolved					4	4	4	4
Separated (still in a civil partnership)			4	4				
Never married	5	5						
Widowed/civil partner died					5	5	5	5
None of these (NEVER married or in legally registered civil union)					6	6	6	6

Code Comparison

	ESS1	ESS2	ESS3	ESS4	ESS5	ESS6	ESS7	ESS8
Married	1	1	1	1				
Legally married					1	1	1	1
Separated	2	2						
In a legally registered civil union					2	2	2	2
In a civil partnership			2	2				
Divorced	3	3	5	5				
Legally separated					3	3	3	3
Separated (still legally married)			3	3				
Widowed	4	4	6	6				
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None of these (NEVER married or in legally registered civil union)					6	6	6	6

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		% of valid	% of total					
	ESS1	ESS2	ESS3	ESS4	ESS5	ESS6	ESS7	ESS8
Married	54.64 %	53.23 %	51.28 %	53.25 %				
Legally married					50.40 %	51.00 %	49.94 %	49.90 %
Separated	1.47 %	1.59 %						
In a legally registered civil union					0.87 %	0.55 %	0.87 %	1.02 %
In a civil partnership			2.14 %	1.29 %				
Divorced	6.51 %	7.13 %	7.91 %	7.89 %				
Legally separated					0.75 %	0.54 %	0.57 %	1.49 %
Separated (still legally married)			1.31 %	1.29 %				
Widowed	9.08 %	9.72 %	10.34 %	10.58 %				
Legally divorced/civil union dissolved					9.09 %	9.35 %	10.18 %	8.99 %
Separated (still in a civil partnership)			0.14 %	0.07 %				

Statistics

QVDB in the data production / documentation

- Maintain codelists and variables
- Document data files
- Produce data protocols
- Produce data Set up-files

https://colectica.nsd.no/

Thank you for your attention

Special thanks to:

Knut Kalgraff Skjåk and Hilde Orten (NSD)
&
Jeremy Iverson and Dan Smith (Colectica)

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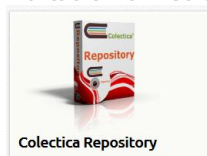
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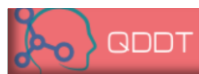
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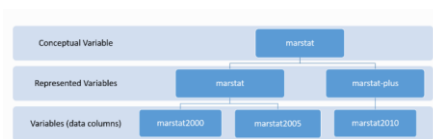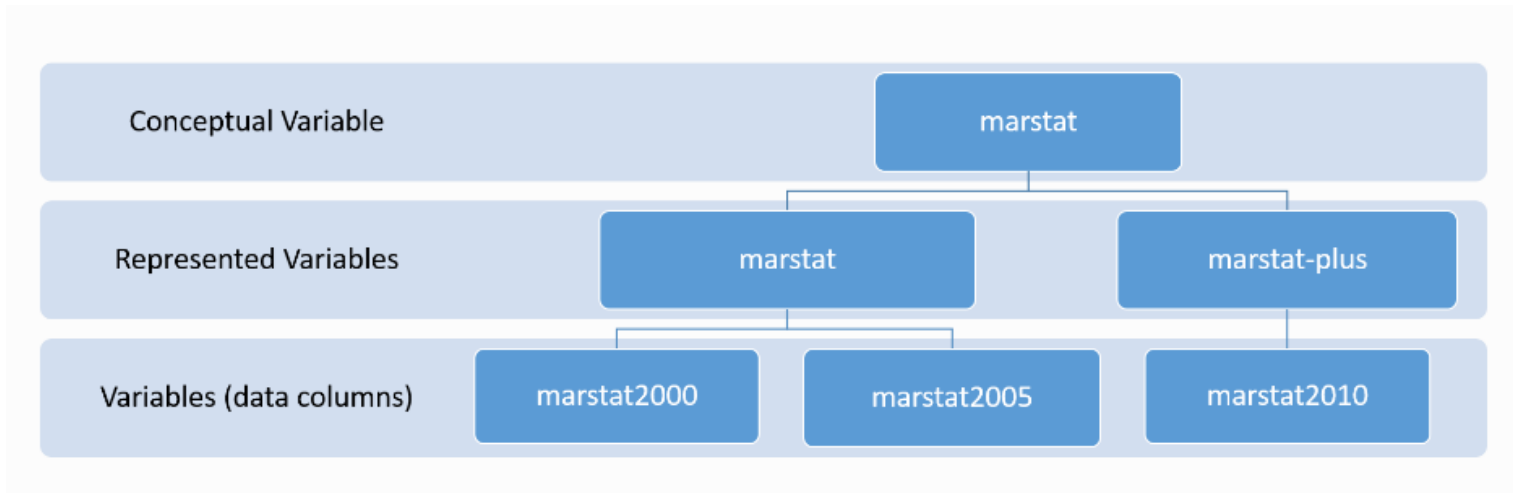& table from Colectica docs:

Colectica Repository

Colectica Portal

Colectica Designer

Conceptual Variable	marstat	
Represented Variables	marstat	marstat-plus
Variables (data columns)	marstat2000 marstat2005	marstat2010

https://docs.colectica.com/designer/manage-content/data/harmonize-variables/?highlight=harmonization