

WDS Early Career Researchers and Scientists (ECR) Network Charter

Background

The World Data System (WDS) is a body of the International Council for Science (ICSU) that helps to coordinate and supports research data centres and data services worldwide. WDS activities span all disciplines, and are designed to ensure that research data are preserved and openly disseminated to safeguard the integrity of science. ICSU-WDS is also concerned with the availability to scientists and policymakers of the critical information necessary to manage Earth's resources wisely.

Recognizing the important role of Early Career Researchers in developing and promoting best practice in data management, data analysis and data sharing, ICSU-WDS establishes a Network of Early Career Researchers and Scientists (collectively ECRs), to help foster better communication among ECRs, and to design activities targeting their interests and concerns.

Goals

- Setup and maintain a WDS ECR Network web presence.
- Communicate with, and reach out to, other ECRs about the role of ICSU-WDS.
- Promote and expand participation in the WDS Data Stewardship Award.
- Increase participation in WDS collaborator meetings/activities (e.g., Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) meetings and EUDAT conferences) to raise awareness of the ECR Network and to learn of new initiatives that may be of interest.
- Identify and propose activities that would be attractive to ECRs, including for WDS events (e.g., SciDataCon and International Data Week).
- Provide input to, and comment on, WDS training activities and education documents.
- Explore and communicate data management standards and best practices.
- Organize workshops and conferences in data management, data analysis, and data sharing.
- Support the development of junior data scientists in career progression, and raise the profile of the discipline amongst the scientific community.

Deliverables and Milestones

- Propose and organize a session for SciDataCon 2018: The Digital Frontiers of Global Science (19 January 2018).
- Create and maintain social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, and/or other) for announcements and highlights of ECR Network activities (May 2018).
- Develop a dedicated webpage for the ECR Network on the WDS website to communicate upcoming events, share activities of common interest, and facilitate contact with members (May 2018).
- Provide contributions to the [WDS Blog](#) (June 2018).
- Develop an annual report to capture actions, decisions. and recommendations made by

members and outcomes of ECR Network activities (November 2018).

- Develop community assessment at the end of Year 1, and compare with an initial assessment of the ECR Network community (November 2018).

Schedule

- Finalize ECR Network Charter after communication and feedback: **December 2017**
- Host bimonthly teleconferences with ECR Network members to plan future activities and discuss recent milestones: **January 2018**
- Respond to the Call for Sessions for SciDataCon 2018: **January 2018**
- Participate in monthly ESIP Data Stewardship meetings: **15 January 2018 onwards (2:00–3:00 pm Eastern Time)**
- Organize the SciDataCon session if it is accepted: **February–November 2018**
- Prepare a document to welcome Network members and ask them information that will be used to set up their profile on the WDS website: **March 2018**
- Set up a webpage on the WDS website containing the ECR Charter: **May 2018**
- Add member profiles to the WDS website: **May 2018**
- Circulate the SciDataCon 2018 Call for Abstracts amongst the WDS ECR Network: **May/June 2018**
- Submit a Blog post to WDS on the ECR Network: **June 2018**
- Actively participate in the SciDataCon 2018 Conference and associated WDS meetings: **5–9 November 2018**

Membership

Anyone meeting the following criteria may be a member of the WDS ECR Network:

- Be < 40 years old.
- Have a Master's degree, equivalent, or higher.
- Be in the first 10 years after their last degree.
- Be involved in data analysis or data management.

With the consent of the Co-chairs, members not meeting one or more of the criteria can be accepted to join the WDS ECR Network.

Ex officio members

- **Rorie Edmunds** (WDS-IPO)
- **Isabelle Gartner-Roer** (WDS-SC)

Chairs

The WDS ECR Network shall be co-chaired by representatives of the Network members. These Chairs are appointed by the WDS-SC, and shall serve a term of three years, unless agreed otherwise. In this regard, the Chairs will be reviewed every two years by the WDS-SC during one its biannual face-to-face meetings.

Current Chairs

Name	Organization
Alice Fremand	Strasbourg's University - EOST
Ivan Pyshnograiev	Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, Ukraine
Sabrina Delgado Arias	Science Systems and Applications, Inc./NASA GSFC

Finances

Participation of members of the WDS ECR Network is voluntary. Administrative support is provided by the WDS-IPO. This includes organizing online meetings (GoToMeeting) and providing an online collaborative space.

The WDS-IPO cannot provide financial support for travelling or for any other costs. Face-to-face meetings will be organized as the opportunity arises at international conferences, and participants will be expected to fund their travel and expenses through their own organizations.

Communication and meetings

Internal communication

- General communications are provided via e-mail using the ECR Mailing List.
- General documentation is shared with the Network using Google Docs.
- Other means of communication such as a 'chat' or an internal blog could be developed.
- All action items, decisions, and recommendations will be documented; meeting minutes will be posted in the Google Drive and shared via email.

External communication

External communication is provided through the established Network webpage and via social media.

Meeting guidelines

- Meetings will be advertised by e-mail and in the Network's shared calendar, which will be setup by the Co-chairs;
- A detailed agenda will be provided before each meeting. The speaker and the timing are defined for each topic before the meeting;
- The online meetings are held at least once every two months or as needed at the initiative of the Co-chairs;
- The GoToMeeting conference software tool will be used to host ECR meetings.

Procedures

The Co-chairs will be responsible for:

- Agenda of WDS ECR Network meetings and for calling those meetings.
- Administration of the WDS ECR Network web resource.
- Developing goals and objectives for WDS ECR Network activities.

- Assessing the community of Network members via periodic surveys.
- Organization of communications and announcements.
- Overall Network coordination.
- Updating the Charter according to the evolving needs and feedback from the Network.

They will report to the WDS-SC Executive Committee regularly; at least twice a year on the occasion of the biannual WDS-SC face-to-face meetings.