ICSU World Data System Implementation Plan 2014–15

Trusted data services for global science

To realize its Strategic Targets as stated in the Strategic Targets 2014–2018 document, the WDS Scientific Committee, in consultation with WDS Members has agreed to concentrate its activities and guide the WDS International Programme Office to implement the plan below in which each of the five Strategic Targets is assorted with specific actions.

Strategic Target 1:

Make trusted data services an integral part of international collaborative scientific research

a) Renew support for the Metadata Catalogue that will be built with WDS resources; recognizing that it is a tool for discovery of datasets and can be used in the context of research programmes.

b) Move the prototype Knowledge Network project to an operational phase for use in disciplinary and multidisciplinary research programmes.

c) Take the leadership in establishing a service for trusted digital repositories in collaboration with RDA and involving existing initiatives.

d) Engage with the flagship ICSU-sponsored Future Earth programme in collaboration with CODATA.

Strategic Target 2:

Nurture active disciplinary and multidisciplinary scientific data services communities

a) Document and disseminate strategies employed by successful communities and Members to promote adherence to standards and conventions.

b) Build bridges between data communities through workshops and fora, in addition to the SciDataCon Conference co-organized with CODATA.

c) Foster better consultation among communities to increase awareness of others' strategies.

d) Document evidence to generate a case study collection as a tangible asset.

Strategic Target 3:

Improve the funding environment for data services

a) Engage in fund raising—public and private, including in kind or subscription models—as part of Working Groups activities to support WDS infrastructure and activities.

b) Explore Belmont Forum funding for the Knowledge Network on the basis that its applications can help: (i) identify infrastructure within the service landscape that might complement scientific projects within Future Earth; (ii) funding underdeveloped landscapes; (iii) funding new data centres/services and evolving certain structures.

c) Find matching funding from NICT, the National Research Foundation, and the European Union, and explore a contribution from the National Research Council of Italy (CNR - IIA), to extend GI-cat to suit WDS Metadata Catalogue requirements and build the first operational implementation of the Knowledge Network on top of this.

d) Make the case to funders for supporting data infrastructure by demonstrating the saving that this would ultimately bring to them.

e) Explore ways of limiting the cost for obtaining Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) in developing countries through close collaboration with DataCite (funding for annual DataCite licences to start issuing dataset DOIs is very difficult to justify in developing countries)

Strategic Target 4:

Improve the trust in and quality of open scientific data services

a) Expand WDS certification to increase trustworthiness in data services, and in turn trust in shared data in collaboration with the Data Seal of Approval and RDA.

b) Establish data publication as a trusted scientific data service and integral part of the scholarly record and collaborate with organizations such as DataCite, ICSU-CODATA and RDA.

c) Establish SciDataCon as a high profile international conference co-organized with ICSU-CODATA on scientific research data to promote good practices for full and open access to data.

Strategic Target 5:

Position WDS as the premium global multidisciplinary network for quality assessed data

a) Satisfy Strategic targets 1 to 4

b) Identify gaps in WDS Membership to inform the recruitment strategy developed by the WDS Scientific Committee with the support of the International Programme Office

c) Increase the levels of active communication and advocacy through maximizing the effectiveness of existing tools such as the WDS website, newsletter, webinar series, and social media outlets

d) Publish high-impact articles (editorial/scholarly) outlining the concepts of ICSU-WDS or in response to other articles