

WDS supports ICSU's vision and mission by promoting universal and equitable access to, and long-term stewardship of, **quality-assured scientific data and data services, products, and information** covering a broad range of disciplines from the natural and social sciences, and humanities.



TRUSTED
DATA SERVICES
FOR GLOBAL
SCIENCE

WORLD DATA SYSTEM

Why join ICSU-WDS?

International research is increasingly dependent on access to quality-assured data across multiple scientific domains, in particular to tackle the pressing challenges of sustainability and the resilient management of our planet. In unison with the concept of Open Science, it is vital that the data underlying scientific research are properly preserved and fully and openly shared to facilitate scrutiny and reuse.

The International Council for Science (ICSU) established the World Data System (WDS) to address these needs and to create a common globally interoperable distributed data system that incorporates emerging technologies and multidisciplinary scientific data activities. WDS represents a worldwide **'community of excellence'** for scientific data that ensures the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assured data and data services to the international science community.

Improved local and international recognition:

- **Heightened profile** with the imprimatur of ICSU and its Members, and worldwide exposure for your organization.
- **Increased visibility and engagement** in international activities, programmes, and projects will improve your organization's reputation and peer recognition, and will increase its user base.
- **Improved funding prospects** with increased international recognition (i.e., ICSU and WDS are 'good names'). If you are hosted by a larger institution, WDS membership can increase the value of your organization in the eyes of the host institution's leadership.
- **Facilitated interactions and data exchange** (which might not be possible otherwise) with other members of the international data community thanks to the nongovernmental nature of ICSU.

HOW TO JOIN?

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Demonstrated commitment to Open Science:

- **Adherence to the WDS Data Sharing Principles**, which embody the spirit of Open Science, will demonstrate to your stakeholders and users your commitment to data and service quality, and long term stewardship.
- **Promoting of your organization as a trustworthy scientific data service** by obtaining a WDS Certification of Trustworthy Digital Repository which can be displayed prominently on your website. It is also included on registries of research data repositories. WDS Members are recognized by the research stakeholders (funders, publishers, etc.) to have met accreditation criteria on scientific relevance, governance, data management, technical infrastructure and security, and quality-assurance.

Increased performance and agility:

- **Enhanced discovery of your data** and an increased disciplinary and interdisciplinary user base by including your organization's data in the WDS metadata catalogue. WDS certified data holdings and services are easily searchable, rapidly accessible, increasingly interoperable, and satisfy national and international standards.
- **Improved practices and processes** by sharing information on new, emerging international data exchange and management standards, as well as activities that enhance products, services, or performance (e.g., easier

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Who can join?

Scientific data services* are eligible to join WDS as Regular, Network, Partner or Associate Members. Regular and Network Members are evaluated and accredited by the WDS Scientific Committee on criteria such as access to high quality data, data stewardship, and participation in broad harmonization and interoperability efforts.

sharing of data and information with other systems). WDS opens worldwide prospects for collaborations through avenues such as **SciDataCon**—the international conference for scrutiny and discussion of the frontier issues of data in research—the WDS Members Forum, and participation in international working groups.

- Facilitated citation of your data with emerging data publication services as a component of scholarly publishing. Data citability has an overall positive impact on the quality and availability of scientific data and is a major incentive for data providers. WDS data publishing services will provide your organization with the tools needed to highlight their contributions to the scientific community.

* Scientific data services assist organizations in the capture, storage, curation, long-term preservation, discovery, access, retrieval, aggregation, analysis, and/or visualization of scientific data, as well as in the associated legal frameworks, to support disciplinary and multidisciplinary scientific research.



ICSU

International Council for Science