World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015-2018
Teleconference #25

Teleconference #25 was held on Tuesday, 27 March 2018 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action Items

- WDS-SC members were requested to provide information on funding opportunities for WDS training, linked with what they are already doing within their domains/communities.
- The WDS-International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) will provide updated drafts of the Strategic and Implementation Plans by the 18th WDS-SC Meeting. The Strategic and Implementation Plan will be looked at in light of the merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council.
- Nominations for members of the new Scientific Committee were sent to ICSU with recommendations of who would best complement the existing SC members, as well as the suggestion of a rolling seat for representatives of the WDS Early Career Researchers Network.
- The WDS Metadata Catalogue was discussed with OpenAIRE. The WDS-IPO will take over a large part of the work and communicate with WDS Members who are not exposing their metadata in a harvestable way. Having WDS Members go through the CoreTrustSeal certification will help in this. Discussions with OpenAIRE will be reopened such that what already exists can replace the current portal on the WDS website.
- The Council of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) did not present a new strategy for the future of RDA at its 11th Plenary Meeting. WDS and RDA are already synergistic in their activities in various regions, and thus need to coordinate when working in the same direction.
- The OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy is considering a review of its policy recommendations concerning availability of research data from public funding. It organized a workshop in Paris at which ICSU-WDS was represented and provided inputs. There is still a lot of interest in Open Science/Data.
- There was some discussion at the workshop on how e-Infrastructures are being developed in Europe and the need for such e-Infrastructures to be more coordinated internationally. The joint report by WDS and the OECD Global Science Forum is a first step in this process, but additional follow-up work is necessary to see how various regional initiatives can be connected. This topic will be discussed at a session at SciDataCon 2018.

Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Workshop + 18th WDS-SC Meeting

- Around 230 people have now registered for the LAC Workshop which is more than expected, and exceeds the maximum capacity of 150 people that the auditorium can accommodate. The Local Organizers are continually asking people to confirm that they will attend to ensure that there are no problems.
- A quick survey has been made of the institutions and profiles of the people registering, and the audience should well represent the regional/international community.

ICSU Unions Survey on Data

- ICSU is organizing a survey on scientific data with a focus on the Unions. ICSU-WDS and the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) have been invited by ICSU to add questions to the survey, and a preliminary list of points that are important/useful from a WDS perspective has been put together for WDS-SC feedback.

- It was suggested that ontologies and metadata should be mentioned, as well as the Unions' awareness of WDS webinars and meetings. These will be added either under current questions or as new ones.
- The WDS-SC was requested to send the WDS-IPO any comments/changes and their top three priorities for questions in order for a revised version to be sent to ICSU.

INASP–WDS Research Data Management Training Proposal

- The proposal was discussed with INASP at a teleconference. A number of questions were raised that need to be resolved before moving forward with the collaboration. These will be examined at the 18th WDS-SC Meeting.

WDS Working Group (WG) on Non-standard Outputs

- The WG had its kick-off teleconference in which it mainly discussed terminology; in particular, what is a 'non-standard output'. The WG is trying to determine the recommendations that ICSU-WDS has for archiving research outputs such as code/data protocols/digital images/… and whether repositories of these might undergo a certification. The WG initially needs to define very carefully what it is covering and how broad its recommendations will be. It is potentially open-ended, and thus the WG decided to prepare a white paper—or at least some discussion points—for the 18th WDS-SC Meeting to enable the WDS-SC to refine the scope and decide on how to proceed.
- The WG is related to the discussions ICSU-WDS is going to have at SciDataCon, and is about whether such outputs are really within the WDS remit. If so, does this affect the certification process, the WDS Data Sharing Principles, or the emphasis on the WDS website? A WDS session at SciDataCon will be a very important contribution to that, because topics are on the agenda of international funders, and so a wider community discussion is needed.

CoreTrustSeal/WDS Applications Update

- The CoreTrustSeal Assembly of Reviewers is in place, and is beginning to work its way through the backlog of applications that built up at the end of 2017. The new CoreTrustSeal Application Management Tool is also operational, but this creating a second backlog since the CoreTrustSeal legal entity has still not been approved, and so the administration fees cannot be collected from applicants.

Any Other Business

- There is currently a Senate Inquiry in Australia about monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with an implicit requirement to assess where baseline and relevant datasets are being archived and made available. WDS has been asked to contribute a couple of sentences in a report by the Australian Academy of Science that will be submitted to the Inquiry. The idea is to stress that WDS and its Members are working towards ensuring data are available to address the SDGs: ICSU-WDS is helping to archive baseline and relevant data and there are Australian Members of WDS who are focussing on this.