

Task Group Proposal

Coordinating Data Standards amongst Scientific Unions

- **Data standards are critical components of global data infrastructures**
 - they enable online discovery, sharing and programmatic access to scientific data
- **There is little coordination in the development of science data standards**
 - Between the individual Science Unions and
 - Between the Unions and the developers of major data infrastructures (e.g., RDA).
- **There is an urgency to develop a unified approach to standards development**
 - In order to reduce replication of effort and a proliferation of incompatible practices.
- **Coordinating data standards is essential at an international level**
 - If at a basic level we are to be able to discover and access data from across, and beyond the various sciences to enable data from all Science Unions to be used in transdisciplinary projects
 - Particularly those that seek to tackle the most pressing environmental and societal issues facing humanity (e.g., Future Earth).
- **We propose to:**
 - Assist each Union to establish a Commission on or identify a group that are point of contact
 - Provide a web-accessible page that provides links to repositories of standards
 - Identify and publicise best practice examples
 - Promote the need for, and benefits of, adherence to standards to the scientific community