Activities for International Data Forum

International Data Week comprises three complementary events: SciDataCon 2016 (the research conference to address frontier issues in data), an International Data Forum and RDA Plenary 8 (bringing together the data community in concrete activities to advance data sharing and interoperability).

The International Data Forum will bring together international researchers, industrialists, policy makers and educators to discuss the major opportunities and challenges of the data revolution, such as 'Big Data' and 'Open Data' with an aim to provide a more profound understanding of the Data Revolution. This is the centrepiece of International Data Week and will feature keynotes from world-renowned speakers, high-level panels and discussion sessions. The target audience is comprehensive, ranging from academic researchers, to government decision makers, and industrial leaders. An exhibition space will be organized to showcase ongoing capabilities and advances, with a focus on visionary prospects in data science.

The Forum will address the national and international dimensions of the data revolution and the implications of the data revolution for major research questions and national and international policy. It will explore the linkages between research, industry, government and education that are required for the global community to fully exploit the opportunities offered by the data revolution. Innovations in industry may inform academic and publicly funded research, and vice-versa. Activism around open public data and open scientific data bring the exciting prospect of greater public engagement and citizen science of real value.

The Programme Committee is invited to help ensure the coherence of the whole week, but to focus on the International Data Forum and help us ensure that this centrepiece is a genuine highlight that lives in the memory of participants and stimulates debate and action.

To achieve this, the day will feature a number of elements, for example:

- keynotes from figures of world standing, from the research, data, policy or commercial domains;
- panel discussions on controversial and significant issues (for example, we have been speculating on something related to the proposed cancer 'moonshot', the recent NEJM editorial and the implications for data sharing;
- a data prize for data reuse and data sharing;
- a 'data hackers' event aiming to cross boundaries between research data, public sector data and citizen science
- keynotes or debates on key issues: e.g. reproducibility of research; data and development; industry and research collaboration, particularly in big data and health areas; etc.

These are just examples. We will be looking to the Programme Committee for original ideas, for contacts and convening power to help make this a landmark event.