Shaping Resilient Futures: Open Science and Data Policies for Crisis Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Presenting the results of UNESCO's global consultation on developing data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science

Thursday 16 January 2024, 13:00 to 14:30 CET (12:00 to 13:30 UTC)
Registration link

Background

The escalating frequency and severity of health emergencies, natural hazards, disasters, and geopolitical crises underscore the critical need for evidence-based approaches to preparedness, response, and recovery. These crises have far-reaching humanitarian impacts, disrupting lives and livelihoods worldwide and necessitating coordinated, timely interventions across local, national, regional, and global levels.

In response, UNESCO has partnered with the Committee on Data (CODATA) of the International Science Council (ISC) to explore how the principles of open science, as articulated in the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, can inform the development of effective policies for data collection, analysis, and sharing during crises. This initiative aligns with existing international frameworks and policies, emphasizing the role of open science in fostering resilient and reliable data.

As part of this effort, the UNESCO-CODATA Data Policies for Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science (DPTC) project has produced practical resources, including a factsheet, a guidance document, and a checklist. These tools, integrated into the UNESCO Open Science Toolkit, are designed to facilitate the implementation of the UNESCO Open Science Recommendation and empower stakeholders to adopt robust data practices for crisis management.

This webinar will present key findings from UNESCO's global consultation on crisis data policies and showcase the resources developed to support open, transparent, and reliable data governance in times of crisis.

Objectives

The webinar aims to showcase the contributions of the global consultation to the deliverables of the UNESCO-CODATA DPTC project, including the following:

- Factsheet for developing data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science
- Guidance for the development of data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science
- Checklist for developing data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science

Participants will gain insights into the outcomes of UNESCO's global consultation, launched in October 2024, which gathered scientific and technical feedback to ensure these resources are both practical and effective in addressing real-world crisis management challenges.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
13:00	Welcome	Ana Persic, UNESCO Simon Hodson, CODATA
13:10	Establishing a collaborative approach for developing data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science	Virginia Murray, CODATA
13:15	A summary of four illustrative case studies 1. COVID-19 and the IHR 2. Türkiye earthquake 3. Floods in Australia 4. Tracking displaced children in Ukraine	Virginia Murray, CODATA Burcak Basbug Erkan, CODATA Jacqueline Stephens, CODATA Ingvill Constanze Ødegaard, CODATA
13:35	Summary of the DPTC project deliverables • A factsheet for developing data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science • A guidance for the development of data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science • A checklist for developing data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science	Francis P. Crawley, CODATA
13:45	Summary of the feedback from the global consultation	Ana Persic, UNESCO Virginia Murray, CODATA
14:00	Feedback from the discussants to build our collaboration	Francis P. Crawley, CODATA
14:25	Next steps and closing	Virginia Murray, CODATA Simon Hodson, CODATA Ana Persic, UNESCO
14:30	End of the webinar	

Speakers

Professor B. Burcak Basbug Erkan; Department of Statistics, Middle East Technical University (METU); Academic Partnerships Director, Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management (ICPEM), United Kingdom; Member CODATA International Data Policy Committee (IDPC); Ankara, Turkey

Burçak is a Professor of Statistics and Disaster Science at the Middle East Technical University (METU). She was the Course Director of MSc in Disaster Management and Resilience at Coventry University in the United Kingdom between August 2019 and August 2020. She was the Director of the METU Disaster Management Centre, Ankara, Türkiye between 2008 and 2018. She is a board member and co-chair of the CODATA International Data Policy Committee since 2022. She is the Academic Director of the Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management (ICPEM). She has 25 years of experience in disaster risk reduction, disaster risk management, policy development, resilience, disaster risk finance, and disaster risk management education at the international level. She has been in the field for Syrian Refugee Camps 2015, 2011 Van Earthquakes, May 2014 Soma Mine Fire, 2020 Giresun Flood, 2020 Izmir Earthquake, and the 2023 Kahramanmaras Earthquake.

Francis P. Crawley, Chair, International Data Policy Committee, CODATA; Leuven, Belgium

Francis P. Crawley is a philosopher specializing in research ethics, integrity, and methodology, as well as in data and AI ethics and law, with extensive expertise in EU, US, international, and country-specific frameworks. His work focuses on bridging policy with implementation in new technologies, primarily in science and health-related research with ethical oversight, patient, and community interests. With significant experience collaborating across disciplines, domains, and regions, he has contributed to the establishment of consortia, development of patient registries and biobanks, drafting of data management and protection plans, and building data repositories. A lifelong advocate for bioethics, research integrity, and global health, he has played a key role in shaping ethical frameworks for clinical research and biobanking, as well as WHO guidelines on ethics review, Good Clinical Practice, and DSMBs. His expertise encompasses health data governance, AI ethics, and human rights in the digital age. Recently, he has been deeply involved in UNESCO's initiatives on open science and the development of crisis-responsive data policies. His contributions span research data and AI applications, including genomics, digital twins, organoids, and data visitation, fostering collaboration between cutting-edge science and ethical governance. He has worked on health-related research projects across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and CIS countries, addressing diverse regional needs. He has advised global organizations, including UNAIDS, WHO, UNESCO, WMA, and the European Commission, and served as a reviewer for European Commission, EDCTP, and NIH projects. He is a Global Fellow in the Medicines Development Program (GFMD) and a member of the Ethics Working Group of the International Federation of Associations of Pharmaceutical Physicians and Pharmaceutical Medicine (IFAPP).

Dr. Simon Hodson, Executive Director, CODATA, Paris, France

Dr. Simon Hodson has been the Executive Director of CODATA (Committee on Data of the International Science Council) since August 2013. He is a recognized expert in data policy issues and research data management. Throughout his career, Simon has contributed to numerous influential reports and policy documents. He chaired the European Commission's Expert Group on FAIR Data, which produced the "Turning FAIR into Reality" report, and served as vice-chair of the UNESCO Open Science Advisory Committee, playing a key role in drafting the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science. Simon has also been involved in various projects and initiatives, such as the WorldFAIR project, which aims to advance the development and implementation of the Cross-Domain Interoperability Framework (CDIF). Additionally, he has contributed to the Science International Accord on Open Data in a Big Data World and the OECD Global Science Forum and CODATA Report on Sustainable Business Models for Research Data Repositories. Before joining CODATA, Simon led two successful phases of Jisc's Managing Research Data programme in the UK from 2009 to 2013. He has also been a member of several advisory boards and working groups, including the GEO Data Sharing Working Group and the Dryad Data Repository.

Dr. Ana Persic, Program Specialist, Science Policy and Partnerships Section, Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building, UNESCO; Paris, France

Ana Persic is a Program Specialist at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, in the Science Policy and Partnerships Section at the Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building. She is an ecologist by training with a Master in Ecological Sciences from the University of Padova, Italy, and PhD in Ecotoxicology from the University of Paris South, France. She has previously worked on UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program and served as a Science Specialist at the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York from 2011 to 2018. Persic's role at UNESCO is focused on strengthening the science-policy interface and the promotion of science technology and innovation in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development. She is a UNESCO focal point for science diplomacy and coordinates the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science and partnerships for Open Science. Dr. Ana Persic joined InsSciDE in July 2021, taking over for Swiss diplomat Christina Bürgi Dellsperger. She coordinates UNESCO's duties under the project: managing communication, providing visibility and ensuring project legacy, as well as embedding linkages between InsSciDE and EU science policy- and decision makers.

Professor Virginia Murray, Executive Committee Member, CODATA; Co-chair, Thematic Platform for Health EDRM Research Network, World Health Organization (WHO); Head, Global Disaster Risk Reduction, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA); London, United Kingdom

Professor Virginia Murray is a public health doctor committed to improving health emergency and disaster risk management. She was appointed as Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction for UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) in April 2014. She is currently the chair of the UNDRR/ISC Hazard Information Profile Steering Group for the 2025 update, having been the Chair of the UNDRR/ISC Hazard Classification and Review Technical Working Group from 2019 with the report published in 2020 and the UNDRR-ISC

Hazard Information Profiles: Supplement in 2021. She was a member and then vice-chair of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG), 2008-2017, supporting as required negotiations for the Sendia Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 by the UN member states. She is a member of CODATA Executive Committee. She is a co-chair of the WHO Thematic Platform Health and Disaster Risk Management Research Network, and by working in collaboration with this network, she is one of the editors of the WHO Guidance on Research Methods for Health and Disaster Risk Management, published in October 2021 and updated in 2022. She is a visiting/honorary Professor and fellow at several universities.

Professor Ingvill Constanze Ødegaard is a distinguished political scientist and professor with affiliations at the University of Oslo, Norway, and the University of Cologne, Germany

Professor Ingvill Constanze Ødegaard is a distinguished political scientist and professor with affiliations at the University of Oslo, Norway, and the University of Cologne, Germany. She is the Chairwoman and Managing Director of the foundation “Children Born of War Project” and a member of the International Data Policy Committee (IDPC) at CODATA. She graduated in comparative politics, economics, and German from the University of Bergen, Norway, and Friedrich-Wilhelm-Universität, Bonn, Germany. She holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Giessen, Germany, and a habilitation in the social sciences from the University of Cologne. Her research primarily focuses on children born of war (CBOW), and she has been a leading figure in this field for over two decades. She founded the International Network of Interdisciplinary Research on Children Born of War (INIRC-CBOW), which later merged with the foundation “Children Born of War Project”. Professor Ødegaard has advised numerous organizations, including the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Survivors Fund, Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, and UNICEF. She has also contributed to arts projects like the film documentary “Wars Don’t End” and the VR exhibition “Nobody’s Listening”. In addition to her work on CBOW, she is involved in the ERC consolidator grant EuroWARCHILD at the Center for Gender Research at the University of Oslo and is a member of the UNESCO-CODATA working group on “Data Policy for Times of Crises Facilitated by Open Science.”

Professor Jacqueline Stephens, Flinders University, Australia

Associate Professor Jacqueline Stephens is an epidemiologist at Flinders University, Australia, specializing in public health regulatory science. She is a member of the College of Medicine and Public Health and the Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute. Her research focuses on identifying and eliminating healthcare inequity, particularly for people living in rural and remote locations. She uses data linkage and 'big data' in a mixed methods approach, contextualizing epidemiological findings with community narratives to better understand the context of the data. Her research covers a range of health issues, including childhood ear health, maternal healthcare, communicable diseases, kidney disease, climate change, and healthcare access during disasters. Associate Professor Stephens is also involved in data linkage ethics and is a member of the SA Health Human Research Ethics Committee and the International Science Council's Committee on Data (CODATA) Early Career Researchers Network. She is an ex-officio member of the Australasian Epidemiological Association Executive Council and the Public Health Association (SA Branch) committee.