



CODATA Important Activities, Events and Dates 2018

As a guide to members, this document provides a summary of important activities, events and dates relating to CODATA initiatives and governance in 2018.

Strategic Priority Areas

Data Policy: CODATA will build on recent outputs including *Science International Accord on Open Data in a Big Data World* <http://www.science-international.org/>, the *CODATA-RDA Guidelines for the Legal Interoperability of Research Data* <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.162241> and the *OECD-CODATA Report on Sustainable Business Models for Research Data Repositories* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/302b12bb-en>.

- The European Commission's **Expert Group on FAIR Data** (chaired by the Executive Director of CODATA) will publish its report and action plan to make FAIR Data a Reality in September 2018.
- The CODATA **Data Policy Committee** aims to publish in September a number of draft reports or white papers on selected topics, including: 'Upstream-Downstream: Non-Profit Research Data and Commercial Innovation', 'Data Diplomacy' and a 'Model Data Policy Training Module'.

Frontiers of Data Science: In addition to major **conferences** and the **Data Science Journal**, the priority activity under this strategic area is to advance the **Commission on Data Standards** to address issues of interoperability and data integration in particular for interdisciplinary research areas. The initiative is now moving forward with three pilot case studies, examining the issues of data availability and interoperability in relation to infectious disease, disaster risk and resilient cities.

Data Skills and Capacity Building: The priority activities in this area are the African Open Science Platform project, the Schools of Research Data Science and the GO-TRAIN initiative.

- The **African Open Science Platform** project addresses a number of areas essential to building capacity in the use of data and Open Science. Information on the project's activities can be found at <http://africanopenscience.org.za/>. In addition, 2018 will see a strategy workshop (March) and stakeholder workshop (September), to prepare the next stage of the initiative.
- The **CODATA-RDA Schools of Research Data Science** are expanding. In 2018 schools will take place in Brisbane, Australia (June); Trieste, Italy (August); Kigali, Rwanda (October) and São Paulo, Brazil (December). Be sure to follow the CODATA website, lists and social media for announcements of application deadlines.
- CODATA will play a coordinating role in the **GO-TRAIN Implementation Network** <http://bit.ly/GO-TRAIN-IN> with a first task of preparing a 'manifesto' and an ambitious workplan to develop a curriculum framework for data science and data stewardship; a train-the-trainer programme; and a mechanism for endorsement and certification of training activities.

Major Events

CODATA will convene two major conferences in 2018.

CODATA-Göttingen Symposium on 'the critical role of university RDM infrastructure in transforming data to knowledge', 18-20 March, Göttingen, Germany: <http://bit.ly/CODATA-RDM-Symposium>

- The event will feature invited talks and c.50 selected presentations. It will result in a Special Collection of the Data Science Journal providing an overview of current activities to enhance research data management in Universities and research institutions.

SciDataCon 2018, part of International Data Week 2018, 'The Digital Frontiers of Global Science', 5-8 November, 5-8 November, Gaborone, Botswana: <http://internationaldataweek.org/> and <https://www.scidatacon.org/IDW2018/>

- International Data Week 2018 brings together SciDataCon 2018, the international research conference for all matters to do with data science, research data management and data stewardship (organised by CODATA and the World Data System), and the 12th Plenary Meeting of the Research Data Alliance.
- International Data Week will be a major event for the global Open Science, data science and research data community. On the agenda will be the role of data in the sustainable development goals, the emergence of FAIR data, the evolution of scholarly communications, the need for data skills in education and - in sum - the many issues related to Open Science / Open Research, globally and in Africa.
- The key dates for the SciDataCon element of International Data week are as follows:
 - 1. Deadline for session proposals: 19 February 2017**
 2. Selected sessions will be notified by 28 February 2018.
 3. Call for abstracts will be released 1 March 2018
 - 4. Deadline for abstracts submission: 30 April 2018**
 5. Target for confirmation of accepted abstracts, 31 May 2018.

Dates for the CODATA General Assembly, Elections and Selection of Task Groups

The **CODATA General Assembly** will take place immediately after International Data Week on 9-10 November, in Gaborone, Botswana. Information will appear at <http://bit.ly/CODATA-GA-2018>

CODATA Elections 2018: Information about the 2018 elections is provided at <http://bit.ly/CODATA-Elections-2018> from where the necessary forms can also be obtained. CODATA Members are invited to nominate candidates for the role of President, Vice-President and Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee. The Election is conducted at the General Assembly. The key dates in relation to the Election are as follows (please consult the documentation for an explanation of terms and the process):

Call for Nominations Released	26 October 2017
Deadline for nominations from CODATA members	9 April 2018
Provisional List published by the Nominations Committee	26 April 2018
Deadline for Additional Candidates from CODATA members	14 September 2018
Final Slate published by the CODATA Secretary General	21 September 2018
General Assembly	9-10 November 2018

Selection of CODATA Task Groups 2018-2020: Information about the process for proposing and selecting CODATA Task Groups for 2018-2020 is provided at <http://bit.ly/CODATA-TGs-2018-20>. CODATA Members are invited to propose Task Groups, which are then selected by vote at the General Assembly. The key dates in relation to the Election are as follows:

Call for Task Group Proposals Released	7 November 2017
Deadline for submission of draft Task Group Proposals for comment from the CODATA Executive Committee (optional)	28 February 2018
Feedback to be provided by the CODATA Executive Committee	no later than 30 April 2018.
Final deadline for submissions of Task Group Proposals	15 June 2018
General Assembly	9-10 November 2018