

Launch of UNESCO Open Science Toolkit Resources

Data Policies for Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science

UNESCO-CODATA Working Group on
Data Policies for Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science

Programme

Date: Wednesday 4 June 2025

Time: 13:00-14:00 CEST

Location: UNESCO Headquarters; Paris, France

Overview

This event marks the official launch of a significant contribution to the UNESCO Open Science Toolkit: the suite of resources developed by the UNESCO-CODATA Working Group on Data Policies for Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science.

As communities worldwide face increasingly frequent and complex crises – from health emergencies and disasters to geopolitical conflicts – the need for ethical, reliable, and actionable data has become critical. This session illustrates how open science principles, as outlined in the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, can be operationalized through data policies that enhance digital coordination, enable cross-sectoral data sharing, and support timely, transparent, and trusted decision-making in crisis settings.

The UNESCO Toolkit resource package includes the following:

- **Factsheet:** A concise overview of the critical role data policies play in crisis situations and how open science can lead to more resilient, equitable, and coordinated data management in times of crisis.
- **Guidance Document:** A structured framework designed to help stakeholders develop context-sensitive data policies informed by open science principles.
- **Checklist:** A practical tool to support the design of data policies for times of crisis aligned with open science values.

The event will showcase the purpose and application of each resource, highlighting how they can assist UN agencies, government agencies, policymakers, researchers, first responders, and civil society in developing ethically grounded, robust, and adaptable data policies. By promoting interdisciplinary, rights-based, and science-based collaboration globally, these resources can assist stakeholders to position science at the core of evidence-informed decision-making and coordinated crisis management.

Objective

The key objective of the event is to launch and present the UNESCO Open Science Toolkit Resources on *Data Policies for Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science*; namely the suite of resources developed by the UNESCO-CODATA DPTC Working Group, *Factsheet*, *Guidance*, and *Checklist*, as globally applicable data policy tools that promote ethical, transparent, and coordinated data management in times of crisis.

Agenda

Time	Topic
	Moderator <i>Ana Persic</i> Programme Specialist, Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO
13:00	Welcome <i>Ezra Clark</i> Chief of Section, Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO
	Situating the need for data policies in crises (video presentation) <i>Virginia Murray</i> Co-chair, UNESCO-CODATA Working Group on Data Policies for Times of Crises
13:05	UNESCO Open Science Toolkit Resources on Data Policies for Times of Crisis: The power of the open science framework <i>Francis P. Crawley</i> Chair, CODATA International Data Policy Committee
13:15	The need for data policies in times of crises facilitated by open science: Science, ethics and real-world experiences <i>B. Burçak Basbug Erkan</i> Department of Statistics, Middle East Technical University (METU) Ankara, Türkiye <i>Nicole Mwananshiku</i> The Royal Society, United Kingdom <i>Perihan Elif Ekmekçi</i> Medical Faculty, TOBB University, Ankara, Türkiye <i>Vivi Stavrou</i> International Science Council
13:25	Closing remarks <i>Francis P. Crawley</i>
13:30	Networking on UNESCO open science toolkit resources: Data policies for times of crisis facilitated by open science

Biographies

Dr Ana Persic, Programme Specialist, Science Technology and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO

Dr Ana Persic is Programme Specialist for Science Technology and Innovation Policies and Open Science at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Ecologist by training with a PhD in Ecotoxicology, Dr Ana Persic joined UNESCO in April 2006 in the framework of the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program within the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in Paris. She has then served as a Science Specialist at the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York from 2011-2018. Her work relates to strengthening the science-policy interface and promoting science, technology, and innovation in implementing the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development and sustainable development goals (SDGs). She coordinated the development of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science and is currently working towards its implementation.

Professor B. Burçak 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, Türkiye

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 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). Burçak 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 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake. She is a member of Chatham House and serves on the Editorial Board of the ODI Journal *Disasters*.

Dr Ezra Clark, Chief of Section, Science Technology and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO

Dr Ezra Clark is the Chief of Section for Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) and currently Director of the Division of Science Policy and Basic Science (PBS), in the Natural Sciences Sector of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Prior to this Ezra worked for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the field of ozone and climate under the Montreal Protocol. Ezra holds a PhD in Freshwater Ecology and Hydrology from Exeter University, United Kingdom.

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

Francis is Co-chair of the UNESCO-CODATA Working Group on Data Policies for Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science (DPTC), where he contributes to the development of global guidance, tools, and principles for strengthening data governance in crisis contexts. His work supports the integration of open science into preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for a wide range of emergencies, including pandemics, natural disasters, and conflicts. A philosopher and international expert in bioethics, data policy, and research governance, Francis has decades of experience shaping ethical frameworks and responsible practices in global science. With CODATA he is the Chair of the International Data Policy Committee (IDPC) and a Member of the Executive Committee. Francis is also Executive Director of the Strategic Initiative for Developing Capacity in Ethical Review (SIDCER) and Co-chair of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment's Working Group on Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (CoARA-ERIP). His contributions to crisis-related science policy extend across global partnerships with WHO, UNESCO, CIOMS, and the EU, including frameworks for data sharing during COVID-19 and Mpox, and regional disaster risk initiatives in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Through his commitment to the ethical and responsible governance of science in times of crisis, Francis promotes ethical, rights-based, and reliable digital policy development that strengthen global resilience and ensures that science remains a trusted pillar for crisis management.



Nicole Mwananshiku, Policy Adviser, Data and Digital Technologies, The Royal Society; London, United Kingdom

Nicole Mwananshiku is a Policy Adviser in the Data and Digital Technologies team at the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of sciences. Her work focuses on how data, technology and artificial intelligence can be harnessed to benefit society, with particular attention to their responsible development and use. Nicole leads the Royal Society's Data for emergencies programme, which explores how data can be more effectively mobilised and governed during crises to support timely, evidence-based decision-making. She coauthored the Royal Society's 2024 Science in the age of AI report, which investigates how AI is reshaping scientific research, and she co-leads the UNESCO Working Group on Open Science and AI. She also leads the Society's Online information environment workstream, which addresses the growing challenges of scientific disinformation and explores practical solutions. She holds a master's degree in Conflict, Security and Development from the University of Exeter, and has a particular interest in the intersection of science, policy, and societal resilience.

Professor Perihan Elif Ekmekçi (MD PhD), Head of the History of Medicine and Ethics Department and Deputy Dean at TOBB University Medical Faculty, the Head of the International Chair in Bioethics/WMA Cooperation Center; Ankara, Türkiye

Professor Ekmekçi is a Co-chair of the CODATA International Data Policy Committee (IDPC) and Co-chair of the EOSC-Future/RDA Artificial Intelligence and Data Visitation Working Group (AIDV-WG). She has expertise in the fields of medicine, ethics, and history of medicine. She holds an M.D. and Ph.D. and is currently affiliated with the Department of History of Medicine and Ethics at TOBB University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey. Professor Ekmekçi's educational background includes a medical degree from Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, as well as a PhD in Medical Ethics and History of Medicine from Ankara University. She has held positions as an Assistant Professor and currently serves as the Head of the History of Medicine and Ethics Department and Deputy Dean at TOBB University Medical Faculty, the Head of the International Chair in Bioethics/WMA Cooperation Center (formerly UNESCO Unit for Bioethics), member of Open Science Committee of TOBB ETU, and as the Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of TOBB University Medical Faculty. Professor Ekmekçi is an active member of several professional societies and scientific boards, including the World Association for Medical Law, the European Network of Research Ethics Committees, European Open Science Cloud Task Force, the International Forum of Teachers (IFT) of the International Bioethics Chair in Bioethics, and the Research Data Alliance.

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 Sendai 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.

Dr. Vivi Stavrou, Senior Science Officer; Executive Secretary, Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS), International Science Council (ISC); Paris, France

Vivi is a clinical psychologist and development professional with extensive international experience in humanitarian emergencies and post-conflict situations. She has served as a social development consultant, evaluator, and researcher, collaborating with UN agencies, government ministries, and academic institutions. Her work focuses on child protection, mental health and psychosocial support, health systems development, human rights, and security sector reform. Currently, Dr. Stavrou holds the position of Senior Science Officer and Executive Secretary of the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS) at the International Science Council (ISC). In this role, she leads the management of the CFRS portfolio, promoting the free and responsible practice of science globally. Dr. Stavrou manages the ISC's "Science in Times of Crisis" initiative.

