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World Data System Early Career Researcher Network: what it is and why you should join.

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The World Data System (WDS) is an affiliated body of the International Science Council (ISC) that supports research data repositories and data service providers worldwide. The WDS Early Career Researcher (WDS-ECR) Network is dedicated to nurturing, advancing, and strengthening the capacities of early career scientists within data-centric fields. The network has ten overarching goals as part of its charter (<https://worlddatasystem.org/charter-wdsecr/>), and through fostering connections between communities and across disciplines, the WDS-ECR Network encourages cooperative projects and proactive participation.

This vision of an inclusive environment is oriented towards innovation and advancement in research data stewardship. In recent years, the WDS-ECR membership has grown significantly, encompassing a wide range of academic fields from Social Sciences to Genomics. WDS is committed to strengthening its support for early career data scientists and data stewards by promoting an interconnected community with access to opportunities and resources that will ensure the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assured data and data services to the international science community.

Our proposed poster will showcase some of the resources offered by the network, including recognition through the WDS Data Stewardship Award, guidance via mentorship programs, skill-building through specialised webinars, and opportunities for worldwide collaboration during networking events. The presentation's objective is not only to illustrate these benefits but also to demonstrate how affiliation with the WDS-ECR Network can empower researchers at their career inception. We endeavour to build a dynamic community that upholds the highest standards in data management such as FAIR and CARE principles and supports open science initiatives. We invite dynamic data science professionals from any discipline or region to join us!

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