

# Becoming a National Member of CODATA

**This document highlights the benefits of CODATA membership and outlines steps to be taken by interested National Members to apply for CODATA membership and to establish a CODATA National Committee.**

Prospective members may also wish to consult [CODATA's vision, mission and strategic priorities](#).

## Why join CODATA?

Joining CODATA will connect your data experts to the international data community and bring them to the cutting edge of international data activities. CODATA is a resource through which its members can articulate and advance their data priorities, engage with a global network of expertise and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Benefits of CODATA membership include:

- Participation in CODATA's high-impact, international priority initiatives.
- Immediate insight into and benefit from CODATA's thought leadership.
- Influence over CODATA strategic initiatives and agenda-setting.
- Participation in CODATA governance.
- Opportunities to collaborate with other CODATA members.
- Facilitation of member-led activities and projects.
- Knowledge sharing of cutting edge data issues with the CODATA expert community.
- Coordination from the CODATA secretariat to achieve members' priorities.

By joining CODATA, a National Member makes an invaluable contribution to enable CODATA to execute and expand its ambitious and critical mission, and supports international cooperation.

CODATA achieves a considerable return on investment for members by leveraging voluntary effort and collaboration, as well as identifying opportunities to enhance impact through third party funding.

## Steps and actions to become a National Members of CODATA

**Indicate wish to join CODATA:** Indicate to the CODATA Executive Director (via the Secretariat's address [info@codata.org](mailto:info@codata.org)) the wish of a given organisation or consortium of organisations to join CODATA. National Members can be single organisations or consortia that can perform a prominent national leadership role and act as the point of contact for CODATA in a given nation or economy.

**Complete this [Expression of Interest template](#)** of a country to become a CODATA National Member. The CODATA Executive Director and/or CODATA Officers would be pleased to discuss the CODATA membership and related procedures with prospective National Members. Please contact the CODATA Secretariat at [info@codata.org](mailto:info@codata.org) for more details and arrangements.

**Membership application is reviewed and approved by the CODATA Executive Committee.**

**Membership dues are assigned to the new National Member according to a formula related to GDP.** Dues-paying Members must pay their first year's dues before receiving any privileges of the membership.

**Name Point of Contact for the Collection of Dues:** Identify a single point of contact for the collection of CODATA's annual national membership dues. CODATA dues may be paid by a single organisation or by a consortium of organisations. The dues may be raised by the most appropriate means in a given territory: from the budgets of the lead organisation or the consortium, by direct government grants, by contributions from a range of organisations in that country. Dues should be paid annually and as promptly as possible. The invoices are generally issued in January.

**Name CODATA Delegate:** Identify a primary point of contact for governance matters. Each member country should appoint a CODATA Delegate who is expected to attend the biennial General Assembly and to act as the key liaison and coordinator in relation to governance.

**Establish a National Committee:** Each country or economy that is a member of CODATA should establish a CODATA National Committee (NC). The composition of the NC will necessarily vary from country to country, because of local circumstances, the stakeholders and resources involved. Some general recommendations are given below.

For recommendations on effective operations and expectations of a CODATA National Member, please see the 'Expectations of CODATA National Committee' document.

## The NC Membership

- Typically a NC comprises 8-12 members, in order to achieve stakeholder representation, but this may vary according to resources, candidates and national circumstances.
- NC members should be drawn from a range of stakeholders and data experts. The following categories of membership should be considered (*not* in order of priority):
- representatives of national science academies or similar that are members of the International Council of Science;
- representatives of International Scientific Unions or associations that are members of the International Council of Science;
- national experts already engaged in CODATA initiatives, groups and projects;
- representative of ministries or funders of research and higher education;
- representative of ministries or entities responsible for data collection activities (in particular or for example in relation to the environment or society);
- representative of key data collection and stewardship organisations;
- representative of key research organisations with activities in data analysis and stewardship;
- leading experts in data stewardship, in data standards and metadata, in various branches of data science, including large scale analysis, AI etc;
- leading experts in specific research disciplines with an interest in how that field uses data;
- representatives of organisations that maintain data standards or other components of the data ecosystem;
- representatives of research libraries or other institutions performing data stewardship and assisting researchers with that task;
- representatives of publishers, journals and other organs taking an interest in the place of data in the scholarly record;
- experts in data policy, IPR and legal issues relating to data.