



International Data Responsibility Group

“People First in a Digital Age”.

A global network of experts committed to developing principles and standards for a responsible Data Revolution

New data streams offer enormous potential to improve the livelihoods of affected populations in the developing world. However, as a growing number of actors attempt to harness this potential, the risk of irresponsible, unethical and inappropriate data use grows too. The potential negative implications of such misuse are significant and include loss of property, liberty, and life. To ultimately develop a credible framework and minimum standards for responsible data use, building a shared narrative is a crucial first step. No organisation can single-handedly conduct the research required as well as formulate and support such a narrative. The members¹ to the International Data Responsibility Group (IDRG) are taking on this challenge collectively. The group intends to be inclusive and transparent and welcomes additional partners.

Function

The International Data Responsibility Group (IDRG) is a global network of experts and organisations working on the principles and standards that are required for guiding the Data Revolution in the context of humanitarian action, sustainable development and peace & justice. Its members seek to build an authoritative

knowledge platform that enables responsible experimentation on the release, processing and use of data and minimising risks. The IDRG is designed as a networked platform, with a coordinating Secretariat in The Hague. Research and affiliated partners will meet every year to host the Annual International Data Responsibility Group Conference.

The IDRG was officially launched on 23 October 2015 in The Hague.

Activities

The IDRG will fulfil three roles aimed at building a trusted frame of reference for stakeholders worldwide: 1) Curator; 2) Convener; 3) Facilitator.

Curator

The IDRG will produce an annual report with relevant trends in the field of data use in the context of international development, humanitarian response, and peace and justice. The report will be launched every year at the International Data Responsibility Conference.

Convener

The IDRG will organise regular events, connecting practitioners with domain experts and policy-makers. We host an annual International Data Responsibility Group Conference in The Hague. This semi-academic conference allows professionals in the sector to present their latest work in this field, to raise awareness on key issues and to find support and collaborators for

¹Data-Pop Alliance - <http://datapopalliance.org/>, Data & Society Research Institute - <https://datasociety.net/>, Leiden University <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en>, The Governance Lab @ NYU - <http://www.thegovlab.org/>, United Nations Global Pulse - <http://unglobalpulse.org/>.

oncoming research. Further, this is also the moment when the IDRG presents its annual report.

Facilitator

The IDRG will serve as an intermediary that connects data users with experts on data responsibility. An example of this is the IDRG Fellowship Programme. It allows IDRG members to send a colleague to a field location to conduct field research. The fellows research is aligned with the annual theme of the IDRG, and is aimed at advancing the debate on data responsibility for vulnerable populations. The theme for 2017 is the potential risks of collecting and processing digital data in the European Refugee Crisis.

Deliverables

The IDRG defines four key deliverables and works with three thematic areas: 1) humanitarian action, 2) sustainable development, 3) peace & justice:

- An **Annual Fellowship Programme** that contributes to building bridges between those who have in-depth knowledge, on the one hand, and technology experts on the other; and between academics and practitioners who might benefit from a sustained hands-on dialogue about what works, and what does not in the emerging field of data responsibility.
- The **Annual Report** on global trends in data use in these contexts;
- An **Annual Expert Meeting**, the International Data Responsibility Conference in The Hague;
- An **Online Platform** with information, tools and best practice for responsible data use: www.responsible-data.org.

Roadmap February 2016 – March 2017

Date	Action
February 2016	Second annual IDRG Conference (The Hague, NL) (http://www.responsible-data.org/international-data-responsibility-conference-2016.html)
May 2016	UN OCHA Think Brief: Building Data Responsibility into Humanitarian Action (https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/TB18_Data Responsibility_Online.pdf)
June 2016	Mapping and Comparing Responsible Data Approaches (http://www.thegovlab.org/static/files/publications/ocha.pdf)
December 2016	Big Data for Development and Humanitarian Action: Towards Responsible Governance (http://unglobalpulse.org/sites/default/files/Big_Data for Development and Humanitarian Action_Report_Final_0.pdf)
January 2017	IDRG Fellowship Programme (Lesbos and Athens, Greece) (http://www.responsible-data.org/fellowship.html)
March 2017	Third annual IDRG Conference (The Hague, NL) (http://www.responsible-data.org/idrg-conference-2017.html)

Contact

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