

WorldStat¹

Criteria for potential host organisations

The WorldStat working group is inviting expressions of interest from potential host organisations who may be able to house a pilot WorldStat initiative. The group welcomes interest globally, for a hosting period of at least three years.

Now for the Long Term, the 2013 report of the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations, called for the establishment of 'WorldStat', a body that would improve the reliability and availability of global statistics. In May 2014, eminent statisticians as well as senior representatives of international organisations, foundations, and the media gathered at the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford, to discuss how to progress WorldStat. A working group of experts, drawn from this wider group, has now produced a detailed proposal for a pilot WorldStat. This proposal calls for the creation of a small three-year pilot initiative focused on the quality of statistics worldwide. As a watchdog organisation, WorldStat would undertake activities to monitor and encourage production of quality statistics worldwide, assess practices of both official and non-official producers of influential data, improve data documentation, and call attention to misuse of statistics.

During its pilot phase, WorldStat could be hosted by a compatible, not-for-profit organisation. Although a pilot initiative, it is envisaged that a host organisation would need to be able to house up to ten staff members. The working group would welcome comments from potential host organisations on:-

- **Location:** The location of a potential host organisation is important; this encompasses good transportation links (vital for an initiative working internationally) as well as proximity to relevant organisations (for ease of networking with partners relating to all or any aspect of WorldStat's work, such as funders or major statistical providers or users).
- **Independence:** As an initiative that is hosted, WorldStat will need to work well with its host organisation but will also need to demonstrate clear and visible independence from its host and from governments, funders and other agencies whose work may fall within the remit of WorldStat.
- **Ease of start-up:** The ease of starting up a pilot WorldStat initiative, including the strength of available back office assistance and competitive overheads, will be a key consideration.
- **Degree of support:** The degree of support a host can give will be important, either through in-kind support (such as the provision of administrative and IT services) or direct funding.

The WorldStat working group comprises Shaida Badiee and Eric Swanson (Open Data Watch); Marie Bohata (formerly Eurostat); Martine Durand (OECD); Enrico Giovannini (Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata); Walter Radermacher and Pieter Everaers (Eurostat); and Hetan Shah (Royal Statistical Society).

For further discussions on WorldStat and potential hosting arrangements, in the first instance please contact Anushya Devendra at the Oxford Martin School (anushya.devendra@oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk).

A final decision will be made by the WorldStat working group, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations.

¹ 'WorldStat' is a working title taken from the report of the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations, and is highly likely to change.