

Feasibility study for an international (meta-)data platform



Organization: Government

Data Type: Official statistics, Survey data, Citizen data, Private sector data, Geospatial data, Administrative data, Artificial Intelligence, Civil registration and vital statistics, Census, Monitoring and evaluation, Data for SDG monitoring, Cross cutting

Region: Global

Timeline: The feasibility study is expected to be conducted in autumn 2024. Potential subsequent steps will be determined based on the results of the study.

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Sponsoring Organization:

Switzerland

Supporting Organization(s):

Objective:

“Good data”, which is representative, comparable, harmonized, interoperable, and subject to ethical principles, provides added value for societies and helps them in fact-checking and countering fake news. Governments have the means to publish “good data” in such a way that it is visible. A global platform could link this “good data” together. This would increase transparency and enable more evidence-based policy-making, and enable the re-use of data by governments, science and all other actors.

Description:

Imagine you are looking for health data from a given country and want to compare it with health data from another country. Today, it takes a long search in the countries, at international organizations, etc. to find this data. Moreover, data so far mostly exists in separated areas, in so-called silos. The data is often collected or gathered for a specific purpose. It can often only be used for this purpose.

If the national metadata platforms and those of international organizations are harmonized, then a global platform can connect to all these platforms. Thus, all (good) data sets could be made visible in a global platform. The platform would be able to tell you who has which data sets, how good the quality is, how often they are collected, whether they are representative. If they are open government data, you can access it directly via an API, otherwise the platform would contain information on where you can request access and, if applicable, who is allowed to link it with other data. The data itself remains on its own platform. We commit to commissioning, through the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, a feasibility study by an international expert, in order to assess the feasibility of such a platform, and – if appropriate – to outline potential key parameters and a timeline for building it.