

Israel Data Science Initiative, as part of its support for Data Science research at associated universities, announces a Call for Proposals to support the

Development of FAIR Databases

Part of the charter of IDSI is to promote the establishment of, and access to, data that can enhance research in the scientific, public and private sectors. Such data should be FAIR – findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable. It should be “as open as possible” and “as closed as necessary”. This means that there may be restrictions to access, to protect privacy for example, but there should be clear instructions concerning the “who, how and what” of gaining access to the data.

Establishing such a data resource involves several stages:

1. obtaining permission from the data owner(s);
2. deciding on the scope of data (time frames, variables, subset of interest, resolution);
3. determining anonymization requirements;
4. deciding on the formats for downloaded (raw) data;
5. pre-processing raw data to produce a structured database and dictionaries;
6. carrying out sample analyses based on the database.

Steps 5 and 6 are typically labor intensive, and often involve iterating back to Step 4. (For example, summary analyses show that the data is incomplete or erroneous, and so the downloading must be revised appropriately.)

This call is designed to support the above steps (mainly 4 , 5 and 6) at universities with Data Science Centers affiliated with IDSI. It will do so by providing the salary costs limited to 1 year, for a data-scientist/programmer who will carry out such tasks. The board of IDSI has discretion concerning the actual sum to be awarded. A maximum of two such grants may be made in 2022.

The application for a grant must include:

- A. A description of the proposed database (including its scope) and its importance for research
- B. The data owner(s) and evidence of their agreement to provide the data
- C. Information about anonymization and protection of privacy
- D. How the database will be maintained and updated
- E. A general description of the raw data format and the structured database format
- F. A description of sample analyses that are planned to validate the data

-
- G. A commitment to the FAIRness of the database, specifically stating who will have access and under what conditions. It is essential that the plan includes making the data accessible to a significantly wider group of researchers than those directly involved in establishing the database.
- H. The budget required for salary, based on standard institutional pay scales

Evaluation of proposals will be carried out by a committee comprising representatives of the university data science centers. The criteria for evaluation will include meeting the requirements A through H above, as well as evaluating the importance of the database for research, in particular with regard to its potential impact on Israeli society.

Dates:

- Submissions are to arrive, by email, by: 01-03-2022
- Awards announced: 31-03-2022