



German Cluster of WDCs for Earth System Research

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The World Data Center (WDC) System was established during the International Geophysical Year in 1957 and operated under the auspices of the International Council for Science (ICSU) for the benefit of the international scientific community. ICSU is an international organization in the fields of geoscience and environmental sciences. The WDC system provides an effective mechanism for international exchange of data and information in all disciplines related to the Earth, its environment and the sun. Individual fields of WDC concentrate on one or several disciplines and are operated on a long-term basis.

In Germany three ICSU WDCs as well as another data center that is a candidate ICSU WDC have formed an alliance in order to promote Earth System Science and Research in Germany and abroad. This Cluster is actively pursuing a strategy, using information technology, to make data related to Earth Systems available to as wide and as interdisciplinary audience as possible.

The World Data Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (WDC-MARE), the World Data Center for Climate (WDC-C), the World Data Center for Remote Sensing of the Atmosphere (WDC_RSAT) and the candidate WDC of the Lithosphere (WDC-Terra) by GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam (GFZ) are cooperating over several years

on many issues, especially related to data archiving, publication, availability.