

## LEARN Caribbean Workshop

### Opening Remarks

Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

In recent years, we have seen how the attention of various sectors in the public and private sectors has centered around the explosive growth of data, beginning to shape what we now call the "data revolution".

Along with the concern about the technical challenges of handling large and ever-increasing volumes of data, there has been an increased awareness of the need to use them and make them available to society for multiple benefits, thus demonstrating their value in The advancement of knowledge, the strengthening of mechanisms for citizen participation, transparency and the evaluation and monitoring of public policies. This last point has been explored in detail in the report published in the year 2015 by the Data Revolution Group of the United Nations.

The movement around the data is also linked to broader trends that influence the access and reuse of information, with an emphasis on openness and free disposition. ECLAC has not been outside this development. Not only has it contributed to the analysis of this phenomenon but also develops various projects of technical cooperation, consultancy and research programs to the governments of Latin America to strengthen their competences in the pillars and strategic axes of the disciplines of Electronic Government and Open Government. It also actively contributes to the promotion of strategies for the strengthening of national statistical offices and the development of capacities for the management of large data. The Commission has also worked on the creation of open information platforms for free access to the community. An example of this is the ECLAC Digital Repository, which brings together the intellectual assets of the Commission from 1948 to the present, and CEPALSTAT, the statistics and indicators portal for the region.

Within this renewed awareness of the value of information, we can place Research Data Management, an incipient area of development that not only highlights the relevance of the appropriate management and availability of data generated in scientific research, but also of The need to encourage the formulation of institutional policies and the creation of regulatory frameworks. Talking about Research Data Management has multiple benefits: on the one hand, an economic base, since the reuse of data allows a better use of the public and private resources invested; And on the other, it allows raising the standards of research, through the replication and validation of its results; Finally facilitates the advancement of knowledge in all areas of human endeavor.

ECLAC, through the Hernán Santa Cruz Library, has joined the LEARN project (Leaders Activating Research Networks) since June 2015. This project has been funded by the European Commission through Horizon 2020, Excellence that combine science and innovation. Together with ECLAC, four other institutions participate in LEARN: University College London, LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries), University of Vienna and University of Barcelona. The main objective of LEARN is to

disseminate the topic of Research Data Management and to contribute to the development of policies, strategies and good practices within universities and research institutes in all areas of knowledge.

In this context, ECLAC has contributed not only to installing and disseminating this issue in Latin America and the Caribbean, but also in identifying the state of the issue, advances, challenges and needs, through the establishment of links with people and organizations within the region.

This collaboration has been of great relevance to ECLAC: for the first time, the Hernán Santa Cruz Library participates in an international project with external financing, which has allowed the generation and strengthening of links with institutions in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, demonstrating the benefits. Which reports on the exchange of experiences and collaboration between organizations at the regional and global levels.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, a fruitful dialogue has been established with universities, research centers, government agencies and libraries, which today - for the first time - allows us to look at Research Data Management from a regional perspective.

The great extent and diversity of our region has been a major challenge for the LEARN project. However, we have achieved relevant achievements, opening the discussion of important issues such as the development of policies and regulatory frameworks, the financial and technological infrastructure dimensions, and capacity development, to mention a few.

During the course of the project, it has been shown that in Latin America and the Caribbean, various organizations and communities are already working to improve the management and access to data generated by research, especially those financed by public funds, and that there is a disposition of dialoguing and converging their efforts and those of other organizations throughout the territory.

This Workshop is proof of this. We are honored to have the presence of individuals and organizations from Barbados, Curacao, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, among other countries, in what is believed to be the first sub regional event on Research Data Management. We also have the presence of multiple actors who participate in the financing, production and access to scientific information: researchers and researchers, authorities of research institutions, representatives of funding agencies and government agencies promoting science and Technology, library professionals and information technology.

There is the will of all the parties involved to learn from others, share their own learning and generate links to advance in this matter.

As in the previous three workshops held in Europe under the LEARN Project, the visions and experiences of all participants will contribute to the development of a management policy model and a set of good practices that can be used and adapted to particular contexts.

Finally, we hope that with the beginning of this event, it will facilitate the creation of professional networks and alliances aimed at achieving common goals. The invitation is therefore to take advantage of this day to learn more about Research Data Management, share their perspectives and discuss strategies, lines of action, roles and responsibilities. Establishing alliances and commitments will allow us to achieve progress for Latin America and the Caribbean.

I wish you all an excellent Workshop.