



OPEN CALL FOR EXPERTS for the establishment of the **PREZODE INTERNATIONAL DATA WORKING GROUP**

[PREZODE](#) (Preventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) is an international One Health initiative. Launched in January 2021, the initiative brings together more than 230 actors from governments, research institutions, academia, civil societies, health agencies, and other relevant entities from around the world, with the common goal of advancing research and international collaborations to prevent, reduce and tackle the emergence of zoonotic diseases.

INTRODUCTION

Data and information management lie at the heart of PREZODE's mission. Currently, effective data management is indispensable, particularly in the realm of infectious disease prevention and control. The PREZODE Strategic Agenda underscores the necessity of strengthening accessibility to robust information for research, operational programs, and public awareness.

More specifically, the Strategic Agenda has identified five pillars aimed at preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases and working groups will be launched in May 2024 to articulate various activities. However, in many critical areas, the necessary data do not exist. It is expected that the projects funded under the PREZODE umbrella will fill several of these gaps.

In light of the implementation of PREZODE, it is important to discuss access to and use of information from PREZODE-funded projects, as well as other relevant research-derived data, to inform future decisions. To facilitate this, the PREZODE Steering Committee has established a cross-pillar **International Data Working Group (IDWG)** involving all the five Pillars Working Groups and beyond.

PREZODE invites different regional, and international organizations to join this working group, and, encourages its members to nominate and solicit applications from the most qualified scientists and experts to assist and support the work of the **IDWG**, based on the objectives described below. PREZODE also invites young and experienced professionals to participate, emphasizing the diversity of regions, disciplines, and gender parity.

It is important to note that PREZODE will make all of this work available to the scientific and international community. This will allow for versatile use in supporting the prevention of emerging zoonotic diseases worldwide.

STRUCTURATION OF THE PREZODE IDWG

The PREZODE **IDWG** comprises the following members¹:

- One Chair (PREZODE Chief Data Officer) and two co-chairs.
- One member of each of the five PREZODE Pillar Working Groups (who will ensure the connection between the actions of the five Pillars of PREZODE and the work of the **IDWG**).
- Experts nominated by PREZODE members.
- External experts from international organizations.
- External experts in the eleven areas described below appointed by the **IDWG**.

¹ In accordance with the total number of applicants and the working arrangements to be agreed with the team.

The number of participants in the **IDWG** will not exceed 25 people. Depending on the expertise of applicants, sub-groups will be organised to advance certain objectives. A co-chair, identified among the applicants, will be in charge of each subgroup.

Frequency of IDWG meetings: the **IDWG** will convene online meetings every **4 to 6 weeks** for 2 hours, depending on the requirements. To ensure the engagement of the team and strengthen the links and communication between the team, face-to-face meetings will take place at least once a year.

Reporting: the results of the IDWG should be reported to the PREZODE Steering Committee every 6 months and to the General Assembly once a year.

IDWG'S expert role and responsibilities:

- Actively participate in virtual **IDWG** meetings to provide opinions, comments, information and recommendations regarding ongoing objectives and topics under discussion.
- Complete any allocated tasks, respecting the timeframe provided (e.g. review of draft documents).
- Convene meetings conducted in English every 4 to 6 weeks.
- Serve as a liaison with national/regional/international communities and organizations during your mandate and when needed.

Please note that this is a voluntary opportunity, and no financial compensation will be provided. However, it offers a unique occasion to collaborate with a passionate team of experts and contribute to advancing global health through the One Health approach.

QUALIFICATION OF THE PREZODE IDWG EXPERTS

- PREZODE **IDWG** experts should have broad national, regional and/or international expertise in one or more of the topics described in the objectives (see corresponding OBJECTIVES section below).
- Good proficiency in spoken and written English is a requirement.
- Commit to dedicate around 1 to 2 hours per week to the PREZODE **IDWG** tasks.
- Participate and engage in the PREZODE **IDWG** for two years.
- The PREZODE **IDWG** shall represent the broad range of disciplines relevant to One Health. Experts should therefore be knowledgeable in one or more of the following areas:
 1. *Data governance and data legal expertise (with experience in establishing policies and procedures for managing data effectively, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks related to data privacy, security, data accessibility, intellectual research property rights and ownership).*
 2. *Infectious diseases, emerging zoonotic diseases.*
 3. *Surveillance of zoonotic diseases.*
 4. *Zoonotic disease epidemiology and prevention.*
 5. *Social, economic and behavioural sciences relating to One Health.*
 6. *Data interoperability (expertise to work on developing standards and protocols to enable different systems and datasets to communicate and exchange information seamlessly).*
 7. *Ontology in prevention, surveillance, infectious diseases and emerging zoonotic diseases*
 8. *Mathematics, modelling and foresight relevant to assessing impacts of climate, environmental and other global changes related to emerging zoonotic diseases and health.*
 9. *Data ethics experts (with a focus on the collection, use, and sharing of data in scientific research). These experts should have expertise in developing guidelines and principles to ensure that data practices are transparent, FAIR data principles (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable), and respectful of individuals' rights and privacy, CARE data principles (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics).*
 10. *Alignment and coordination facilitators (to align the goals and activities of different projects and teams, ensuring coherence and synergy across the initiative).*
 11. *Technology platform development experts (involves the design, development, and maintenance of technological platforms to support data management, analysis, and sharing).*

OBJECTIVES

In the frame of PREZODE, the development of an international research data platform (or portal) is key to the international scientific community of PREZODE and beyond. With this in mind, and in coordination with the Pillar Working Groups of PREZODE, the **IDWG** will play an important role in proposing and suggesting lines of action to

achieve this objective. However, during the first year of work, the focus should be on discussing the first four objectives outlined below. Objectives 5, 6, and 7 will be developed in a later stage as the team progresses.

The following is a list of objectives that have been previously validated by the PREZODE Steering Committee and will serve as the initial roadmap. The **IDWG** may propose adjustments as necessary:

1. Identify the critical *data types* that PREZODE requires to achieve its primary goal of preventing Emerging Zoonotic Diseases (EZD).
2. Define the roles of PREZODE and its members regarding data governance, data accessibility, data ownership and the legal issues linked to the data.
3. Address how scientific data generated by PREZODE can be shared, interoperable, and reusable globally within the scientific community.
4. Identify or develop a data ontology recommended by PREZODE-funded projects. Agree on glossaries and a common vocabulary.
5. Develop ethical guidelines for the production and use of data in agreement with existing laws and international regulations.
6. Align the vision across members and serve as a data coordinating team for PREZODE, through frequent exchanges with the various projects and actions developed by PREZODE members, acknowledging contrasted regional circumstances.
7. Design and implement² a global platform for PREZODE, focusing on research data and operational data for the prevention of emerging zoonotic diseases in line with the PREZODE pillars. This platform will be developed taking into account the needs underlined in the Strategic Agenda following and gathered during global workshops, as well as platforms that have been identified in different studies during the construction of PREZODE. This platform should be characterized by:
 - a. *Querying different databases and platforms via API (Application Programming Interface), with an emphasis on underutilised data.*
 - b. *Establishing standardized data framing and harmonisation protocols.*
 - c. *Facilitating clarity on which projects each research team is currently working on, as well as their location.*

PREZODE IDWG PROVISIONAL TIMELINE

YEAR 1

- Kick-off meeting of the **IDWG** and presentation of the work organization of the team.
- Phase 1: Refine tasks and objectives for the group based on the seven objectives defined above.
- Define critical data to achieve PREZODE Objective 1 (transversal to all the IDWG sub-groups)
- In parallel, three sub-groups will be formed:
 - Sub Group 1: Define the roles of PREZODE and its members regarding data governance, data accessibility, data ownership and the legal issues linked to the data.
 - Sub Group 2: Address how scientific data generated by PREZODE can be shared, interoperable, and reusable globally within the scientific community.
 - Sub Group 3: Identify or develop a data ontology recommended by PREZODE-funded projects. Agree on glossaries and a common vocabulary.
- Presentation at the General Assembly of PREZODE of **IDWGs'** progress and the roadmap for the second year.

YEAR 2

- To be defined during the first year according to progress.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must be **knowledgeable of at least one of the objectives described above**. They shall fill in an online questionnaire to be found [here](#).

TIMELINE

- Call Publication: **April 22nd, 2024**
- Application Deadline: **June 5th, 2024, 23:59 Paris time**
- Announcement of Group Members: **July 8th, 2024**

Join us in shaping the future of data-driven disease prevention and control through collaboration and innovation. Together, let's make a tangible impact on global health.

² Either through the elaboration of projects to obtain the funds, as well as, establishing a study to support the type of platform to be developed.