Data Infrastructure Strategy - VISION, GOALS and OUTCOMES

Vision

The vision for ESRC's data infrastructure strategy is as follows:

ESRC's data infrastructure investment ensures unique, high quality data will be used to address current and future major societal challenges and advance the UK's reputation as a world leader in social science. Under this strategy, ESRC's investment will become more valuable, innovative and integrated; ensuring the flexibility to respond to new opportunities and maximise the economic and societal contribution of data infrastructures and resources

Areas of focus

There are four areas of focus which align to the vision. Each area has an aligned goal and multiple sub-objectives.

Area 1: Building and sustaining a foundation

Area 1 goal: ESRC's portfolio of data investments is a foundational pillar for UK social science's role in research and policy making

Area 1 objectives:

- To create evidence to inform investment in and lay foundations for a sustainable mainstream research resource, complementing other UKRI infrastructures
- To ensure research users across all sectors and localities can discover and access data and data-driven research in order to deliver societal benefits
- To build on the UK's position as a highly collaborative player that makes a significant contribution to national and international challenges

Area 2: Leadership and connectedness

Area 2 goal: ESRC and investments works collaboratively and makes connections between people, organisations and infrastructures

Area 2 objectives:

- To demonstrate, empower, develop and facilitate collaborative leadership in the research data landscape
- To support and facilitate effective integration and working together
- To enhance connections with other research councils to explore linkages with other disciplines

Area 3: Responsiveness, flexibility and innovation

Area 3 goal: ESRC and investments take decisions that support innovation and changing research and policy needs

Area 3 objectives:

- To invest proactively, transparently, and agilely to support innovation and capacity building of both people and infrastructure potential
- To ensure a holistic, comprehensive, ambitious and sustainable approach over the longer term with due focus on funding considerations

Area 4: Impact, transparency and public benefit

Area 4 goal: ESRC and investments facilitate public and community engagement to ensure its investments deliver benefits for all UK communities

Area 4 objectives:

- To ensure the performance and impact of both individual investments and the whole portfolio form part of a comprehensive reporting, monitoring and evaluation strategy
- To develop greater understanding of different outcomes for individuals and groups, through data and data-enabled research that delivers social and economic benefits
- To engage and secure recognition from data owners, policy makers, other users, and the general public that ethical data-enabled research has delivered social and economic benefits