UN Datathon 2024 is coming!

One of the most intensive exercises to get insights from data is arriving at the Fifth United Nations World Data Forum.

- The UN Datathon 2024 is one of the most anticipated data science events for the global statistical community.

- The Datathon is aimed at teams of 3 to 5 people over 18 years of age from all over the world, with at least two participants attending the Forum in Medellin in person (mandatory).

- **Registration will be open from September 25 to 11 October**.

- You do not need to be an expert in data analysis, just a basic data science knowledge.

- Documentation, data science tools and workshops will be offered to participants.

- The official languages of the Datathon are English and Spanish.

The UN Datathon 2024 is an event sponsored by the United Nations Statistics Division, DANE, Ruta N Corporation- Medellín and the Mayor's Office of Medellín - Special District of Science, Technology, and Innovation, which seeks that participants develop their skills to find ideas and solutions from certain identified challenges. This year the theme of the UN Datathon is: *Solutions for sustainable tourism in urban areas based on data*.

- Participants can be from National Statistical Offices (NSO) or National Statistical Systems (NSS) institutions (partially funded if from developing countries), (young people) from academia, research institutes or think tanks, as well as other self-funded teams if they commit to having at least 2 in-person participants in Medellin.

Unlike other data competitions, the UN Datathon 2024 is a competition with hands-on workshop elements, in which participants are provided with all educational elements through webinars, and can be completed by teams at their own pace, studying the available materials, including e-learning materials.

The subsequent phase of face-to-face work in Medellin will allow teams to collaborate on their solutions, benefiting from the elements of a face-to-face event that cannot be replicated online: team building, face-to-face mentoring, and problem-solving, as well as knowledge sharing between teams.

During the Datathon, participants will complete a series of exercises that will result in mandatory deliverables, with solutions to the challenges associated with sustainable tourism in the city of Medellin. The exercises will be specified in such a way that will still allow teams to develop their own original and creative solution about to said topic and be in tune with the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs.

Deliverables will tentatively include:

- Combine datasets based on technical and conceptual criteria for the challenges posed, by local datasets provided by DANE and the Mayor's Office of Medellin.
- Attractive data visualizations.
- Development of an interactive report or dashboard.
- An element or challenge associated with Privacy-enhancing Technologies (PETs) will be considered.
- (Video) presentation of the solution at the World Data Forum (WDF).
- The code must be under an open-source license and submitted to an open Git repository. This will allow a) to implement the solutions for Medellin and b) to replicate and implement the solution in other cities in Colombia, in the region, and globally.

Solutions will receive a higher score if they are transferable to other locations in Colombia and around the world. In addition, each story must be aligned with any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Information about the Datathon and previous events can be found on the UN Datathon 2024 website https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/events/2024/un-datathon/ and on its documentation wiki, where you can consult the comprehensive documentation of data sources and data science tools available for the competition, the types of solutions, previous winners, as well as visual resources to improve your skills for the competition.

Press release

Fifth World Data Forum
UN Datathon 2024
Medellín, Colombia. November, 8 – 11

Important dates:

- **Registration opening:** 25 September through the link: https://bit.ly/undatathon2024
- **Deadline for registration:** 11 October**.**
- **Training sessions:** October 23 and 30, 2024 + optional data science tools office hours
- **Opening ceremony:** 8 November.
- **Competition period:** From 9 to 11 November 2024, along with the United Nations World Data Forum.

There will be one (1) overall winner of the Datathon, one award for the best young team (whose members are under 32 years of age), and one award for the best student team.

This is a global contest sponsored by the United Nations Statistics Division, in partnership with the National Administrative Department of Statistics - DANE Colombia, the Ruta N Corporation - Medellin, the Mayor's Office of Medellin - Special District of Science, Technology and Innovation, the United Nations Regional Big Data Hub in Brazil, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Global Partnership on Data for Sustainable Development (GPSDD), Amazon Web Services (AWS), Esri and the United Nations Major Group for Youth and Children (UN - MGCY).

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