

GROUP A report on: **data sources/sourcing**

inductive vs deductive approach to data gathering

temporal/spatial resolution depends on the question (topic why and for what do we need them, i.e. obtain a subset of data relevant to a particular issue).

be imaginative on issue-oriented data gathering

scales - scale matching

agenda for priorities in data collection/gathering:

1. which field do we cover (who should be involved in the collection of data - may be useful to produce a list of PAGES people specifying field of expertise for drawing regional/disciplinary expertise maps: need for specific/specialist (inter)disciplinary profiles e.g. agricultural economist), as well as more traditional profiles: economists, archaeologists, climatologists). Possible need for integrating new people on board from specific (inter)disciplinary fields.

Promote and ease interdisciplinary data dialogue during focus meetings. Data integration, connecting specific datasets. Qualitative vs quantitative data (e.g. possible need to devise/define semiquantitative solutions like graduations 1 to 5 to qualitative data).

2. data gathering: scouting/surveying for open/free accessible databases (environmental/ archaeological/ social/ economical/ photography), need for thorough data review and quality control. integrate existing and experiment data (empirical datasets + linked modelling).

Data gathering cost: how long does it take to gather/produce data (e.g. archaeological data). How/where do we get the datasets? time to acquire data, access to data/knowledge of data existence

Data quality evaluation: Critical approach to data, evaluate them. Can we trust them? reliability/coverage/completeness. How are data used, multiple use of data? Can we use the same dataset to solve different questions. Multiple use of data bayesian approaches

Is there a need for datasets classification? data "recycling vs generation" data need to be integrable, aim is being able to connect datasets:

- social sciences (define sub-groups)
- environmental/ecological sciences (define sub-groups)

3. make contact with people institutions who created the datasets (metadata - use abuse of data, reliability)

4. discuss about where to go from there as to new datasets needed and to be collected.

e.g. baseline/background data are not always available and sometimes need to be generated

Discuss how to synthesize and link datasets? data integration (need for an umbrella), standardisation and harmonisation (e.g. of dating techniques), integration of modelling/simulation output (grow data through modelling to fill the gaps in datasets).