

Sandbox

A "Sandbox" environment has been created, with support from the Central Statistics office (CSO) of Ireland and the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC). It provides a technical platform to load Big Data sets and tools. It gives participating statistical organisations the opportunity to:

- (a) Test the feasibility of remote access and processing – Statistical organisations around the world will be able to access and analyse Big Data sets held on a central server. Could this approach be used in practice? What are the issues to be resolved?;
- (b) Test whether existing statistical standards / models / methods etc. can be applied to Big Data;
- (c) Determine which Big Data software tools are most useful for statistical organisations;
- (d) Learn more about the potential uses, advantages and disadvantages of Big Data sets – "learning by doing";
- (e) Build an international collaboration community to share ideas and experiences on the technical aspects of using Big Data.

For more information, see [the presentations and conclusions from the workshop where the Sandbox was launched](#) (Dublin, 16 April 2014)

The Sandbox environment will be available for the rest of 2014 and 2015. The use of the Sandbox is managed by a task team comprising representatives of national and international statistical organisations.

The results of the 2014 Sandbox experiments are [available here](#). The 2015 results are [available here](#).

For 2016 and beyond, there is a strong interest from national and international statistical organisations to keep the sandbox open on a subscription basis. Please see the [Sandbox Prospectus](#), and the [options paper](#) produced by a "sprint" session held in Cork in June. This was subsequently endorsed by the HLG Executive Board, which oversees the Big Data project.

