

Governance Track at the e-IRG Workshop on Data

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The last two years has witnessed intensified activity by a large number of data practitioners and policy makers under the labels of the Data Interoperability Task Force (DAITF) and Data Web Forum (DWF) [1, 2]. This work, showing the strength of combing the bottom up and top down approaches, is now being coordinated at a global level to form the Research Data Alliance (RDA) [3] as the vehicle to accelerate discussions for Global Harmonization on Data Issues.

A first Global Data Meeting was organized in Copenhagen [4] in the realm of the International Conference on Research Infrastructure (ICRI), bringing together data practitioners from various disciplines and regions on the globe. A second meeting, this time inspired by RDA, was organized in Washington 1-3 October 2012 [5] and the ideas and concepts of RDA were further developed and presented at the European Data Infrastructure (EUDAT) [6] conference. The official launch of RDA and first plenary meeting is scheduled for 18-20 March 2013 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The purpose of the Research Data Alliance is to accelerate international data-driven innovation and discovery by facilitating research data sharing and exchange, use and re-use, standards harmonization, and discoverability. This will be achieved through the development and adoption of infrastructure, policy, practice, standards, and other deliverables. Membership of the RDA is open to everyone. The primary work of the Research Data Alliance will be conducted through short-term, outcome-oriented Working Groups, broader-focused Interest Groups, with effective international collaboration.

Development, support and participation so far has included the US (NSF, NIST), EU (iCORDI) and AU (ANDS). The RDA will combine a bottom-up process driven by the scientific practice and requirements (as it is known, for example, from the excellent work of Internet Engineering Task Force, IETF) with a balanced top-down process for defining and supporting a suitable governance framework. The RDA Working groups serve as accelerants to data sharing practice and infrastructure. Their outcomes are expected to include:

- Adopted standards
- Deployed infrastructure
- Adopted policy
- Implemented best practice, etc.

Guidelines for RDA Working Groups and instructions for preparing Case Statements are available [7].

This e-IRG conference and meeting will provide an opportunity for delegates and data practitioners from European member states, and other communities not yet involved in the planning discussions, to comment on the conceptualization of the RDA operations and bylaws, etc. During the e-IRG conference, the Governance and Policies track will facilitate a discussion on the proposed RDA governance model (organizational, legal and financial), which combines bottom-up initiatives and top-down strategies, and policies which should be implemented.

The Governance and Policy track enables discussion on items such as:

- Which stakeholders should participate and what role does each have?
- How should we optimally combine bottom-up, problem driven approaches with top-down guidance to achieve success?
- What is the role of funders in this process and how does it compare to the role of the data practitioners from the communities?
- What governance model offers the highest chances for success?
- Which policies should be implemented?
- How should the RDA Council, Secretariat and Working Groups be populated?

References:

- [1] <http://www.daitf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/DAITF-Preparation-Note-v3.pdf>
- [2] http://www.daitf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/DataWebForum_Concept_Paper.pdf
- [3] <http://www.rd-alliance.org>
- [4] <http://www.daitf.org/?p=48>
- [5] <http://d2i.indiana.edu/data2012/>
- [6] <http://www.eudat.eu/1st-conference>
- [7] <http://www.treloar.net/rda/RDACaseStatementGuidelinesV1.pdf>