



A Decade of Data 2013-2023

Research Data Alliance

The Research Data Alliance (RDA): 10 years young and still growing very strong

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Secretary General, Research Data Alliance

RDA France Annual Meeting

12 October 2023

www.rd-alliance.org

A global greenhouse for research data management

RDA is an **international community-driven, member-based** organisation focused on the development of infrastructure and community activities that reduce barriers to data sharing and exchange, and the acceleration of data-driven innovation worldwide.



The Vision, The Mission and The Values

Vision

Researchers and innovators openly share and re-use data across **technologies**, **disciplines**, and **countries** to address the grand challenges of society.

Mission

RDA builds the **social** and **technical** bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data.

RDA Guiding Principles

- ✓ Openness
- ✓ Consensus
- ✓ Inclusive
- ✓ Harmonization
- ✓ Community-driven
- ✓ Non-profit and technology-neutral



A Decade of Data 2013-2023

Research Data Alliance



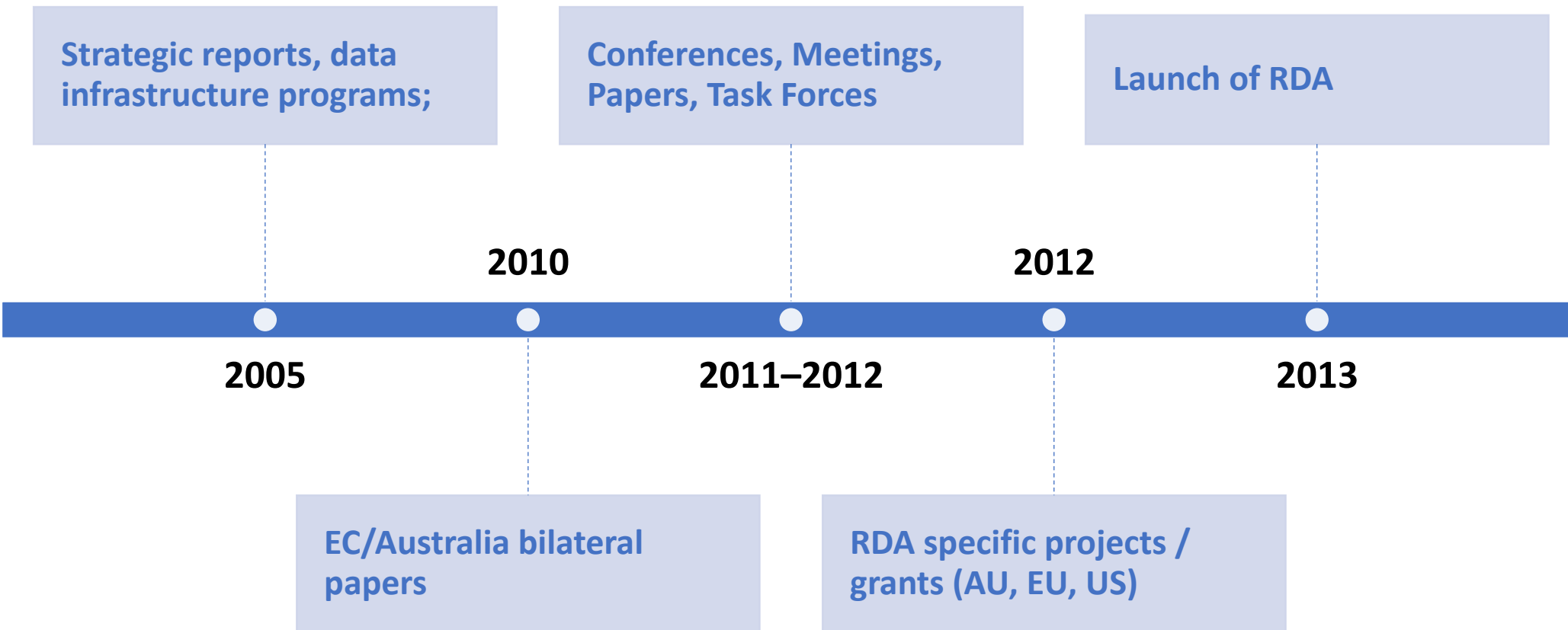
www.rd-alliance.org

What was the rationale to set up RDA?

RDA came about as data communities and international agencies sought to accelerate research innovation and the development of enabling data infrastructure at a time of unprecedented growth of digital research data (the RDA community defines "research data" broadly as any digital data used in the conduct of research).

Berman, F, Wilkinson, R, Wood, J (2014) Guest editorial: Building global infrastructure for data sharing and exchange through the Research Data Alliance. D-Lib Magazine 20(1/2): .
doi:10.1045/january2014-berman.

RDA was not built in a day



Berman, F. (2019): [The Research Data Alliance --The First Five Years](#), Supplement to: Berman, F., & Crosas, M. (2020). The Research Data Alliance: Benefits and Challenges of Building a Community Organization. Harvard Data Science Review, 2(1). [doi: 10.1162/99608f92.5e126552](https://doi.org/10.1162/99608f92.5e126552)

Besök an RDA

RDA
↑

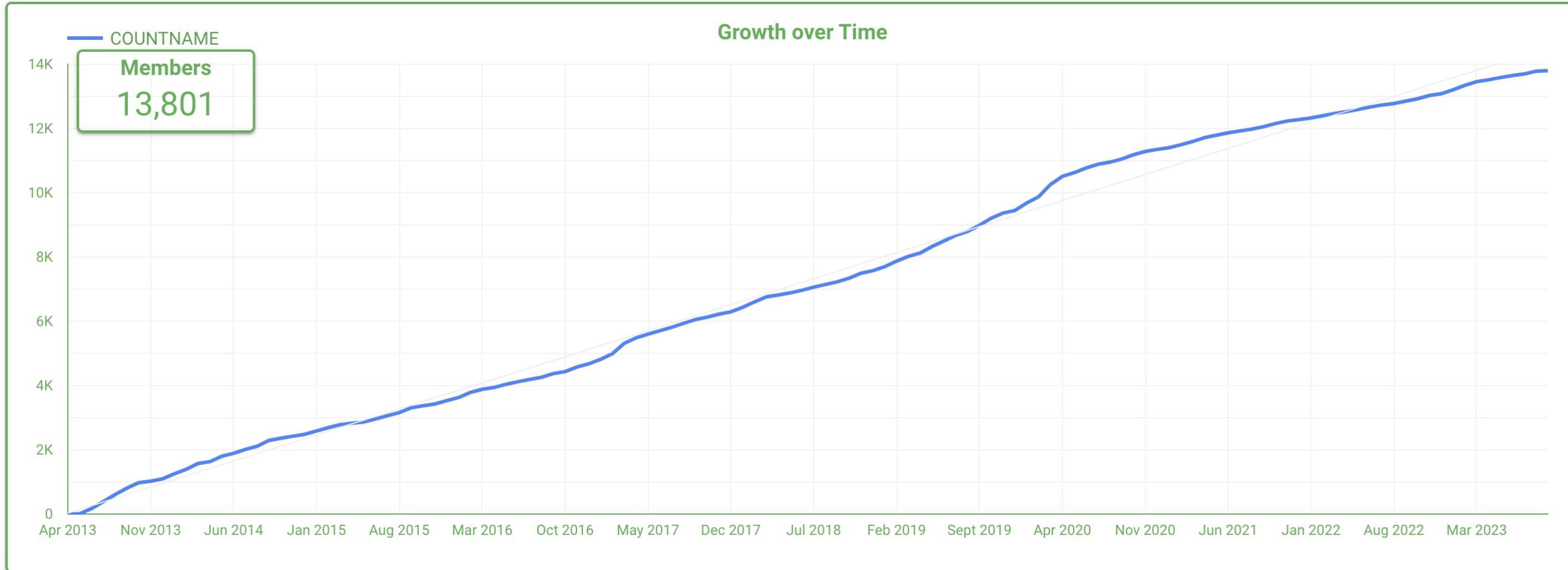
The Road to the Research Data Alliance



1st RDA Plenary Meeting, 18 – 20 March 2013, Chalmers University
250 participants & 14 Working group ideas launched

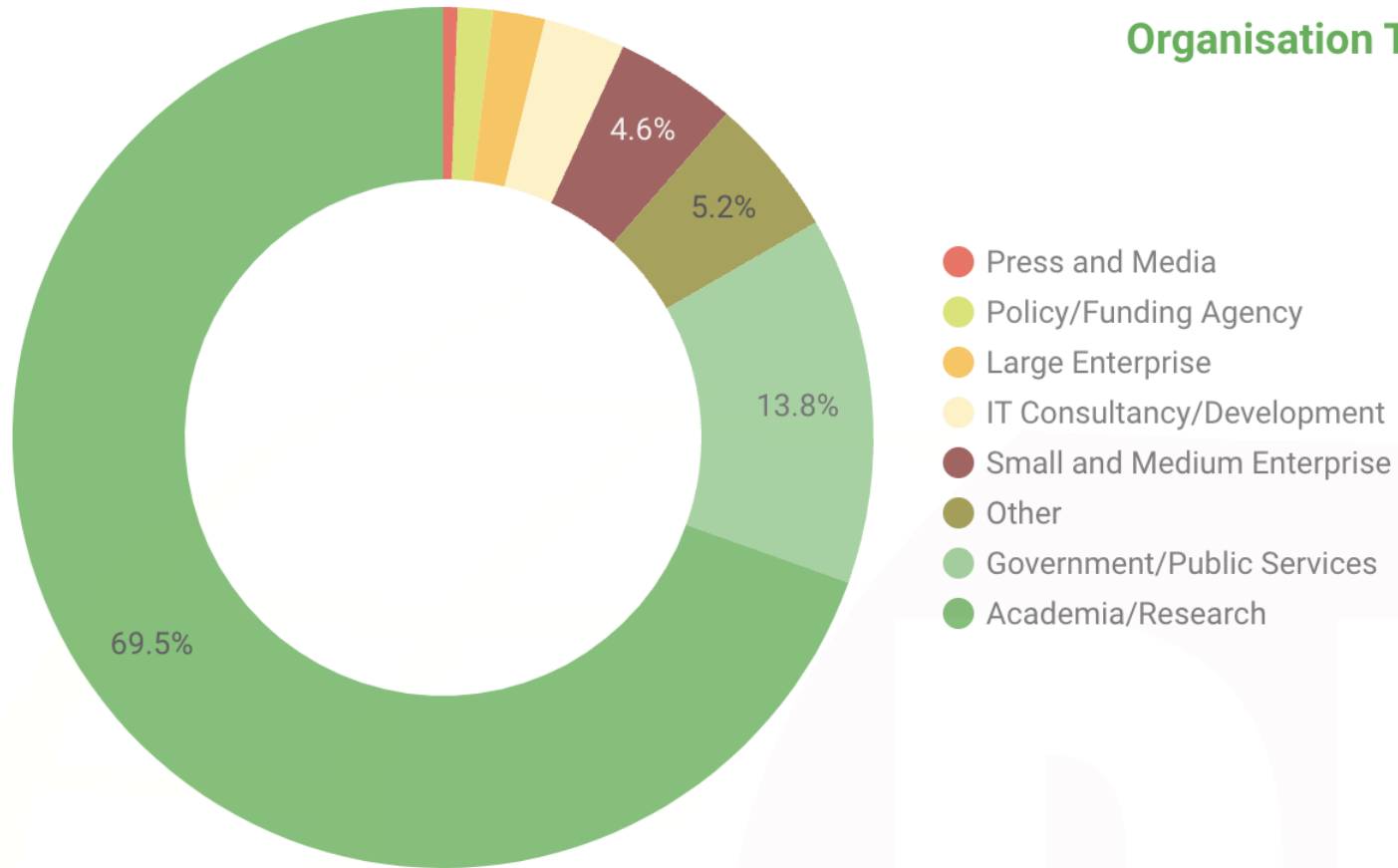


Who is RDA – Worldwide Growth



Who is RDA – Organisation type

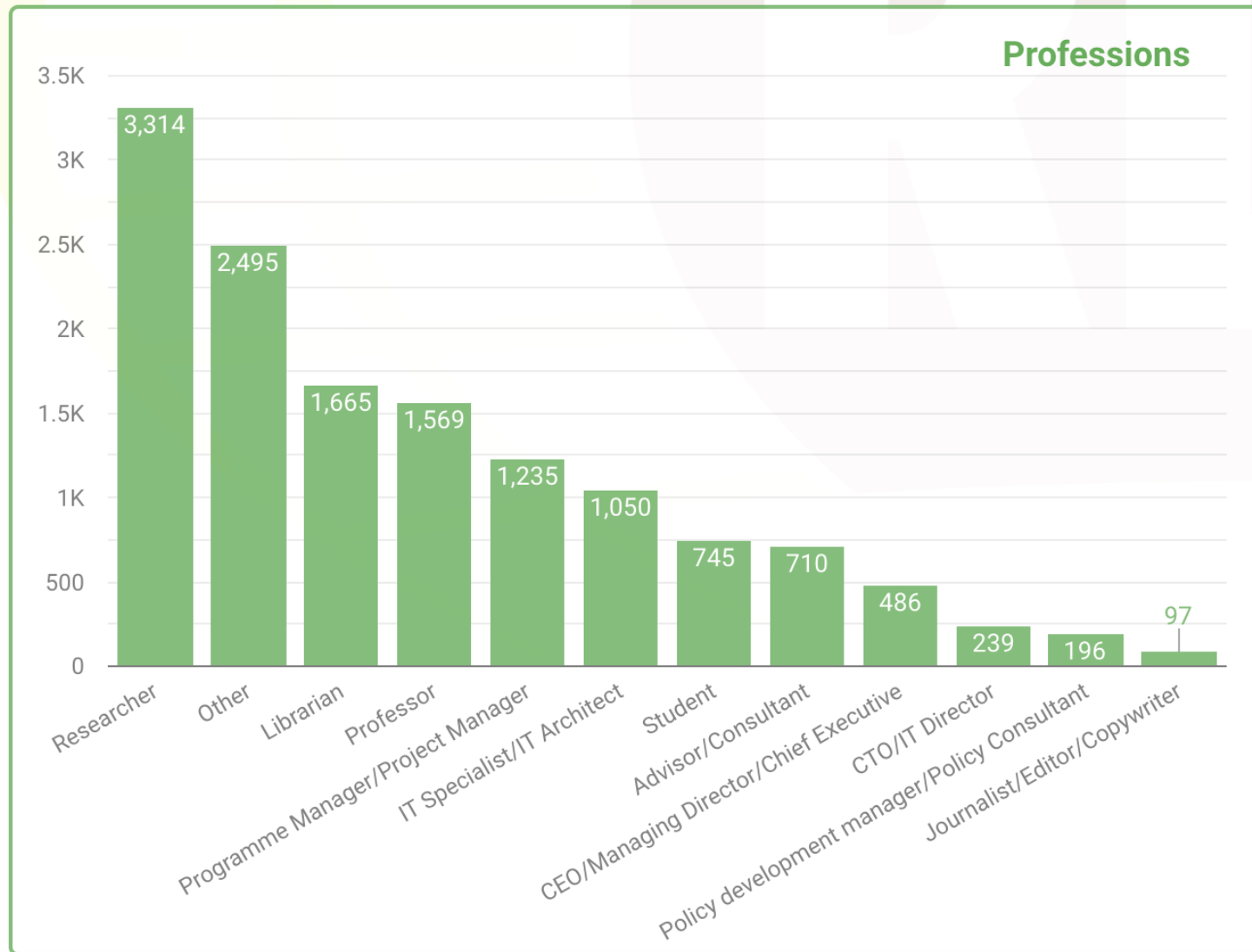
Organisation Type



	Organisation Type	COUNTNAME ▾
1.	Academia/Research	9,596
2.	Government/Public S...	1,904
3.	Other	721
4.	Small and Medium E...	631
5.	IT Consultancy/Devel...	422
6.	Large Enterprise	270
7.	Policy/Funding Agen...	182
8.	Press and Media	75

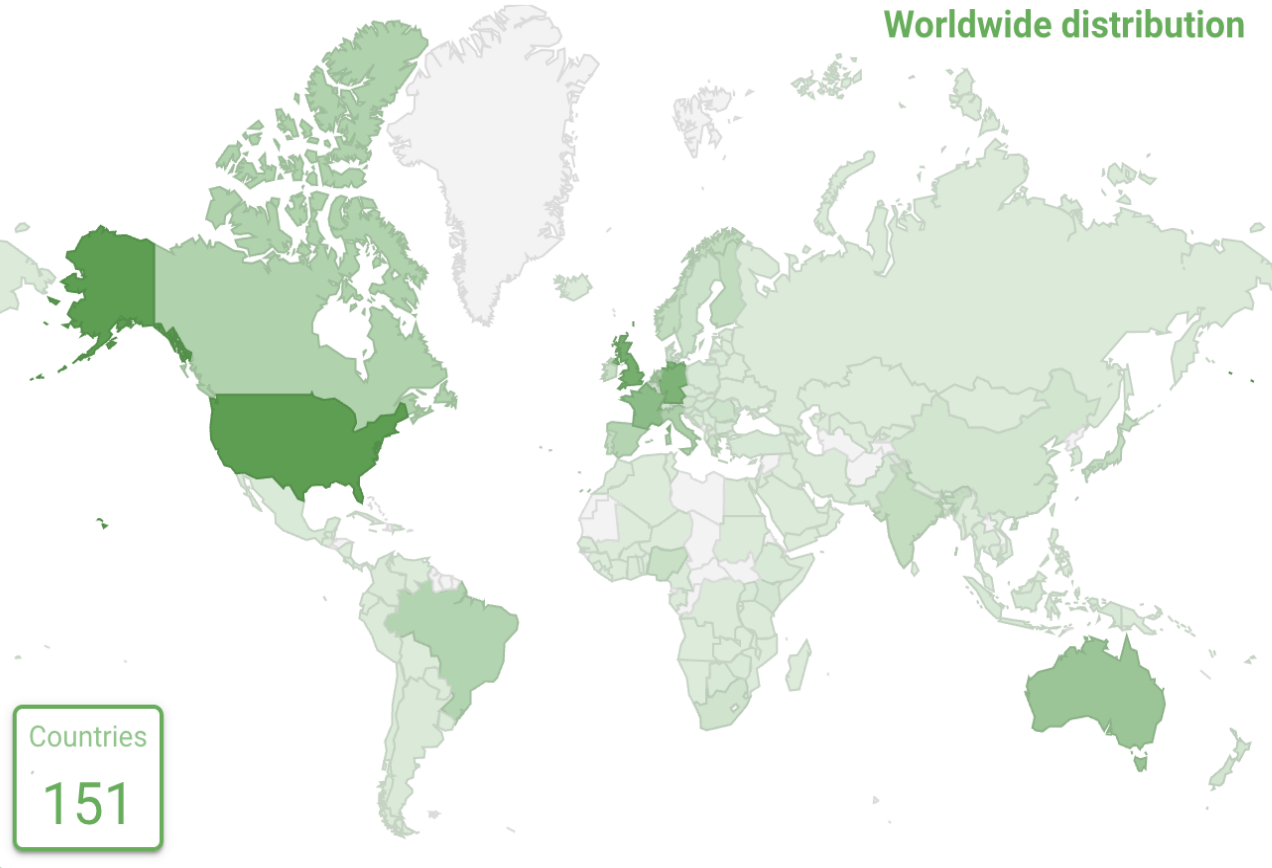
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Who is RDA – Professional Title

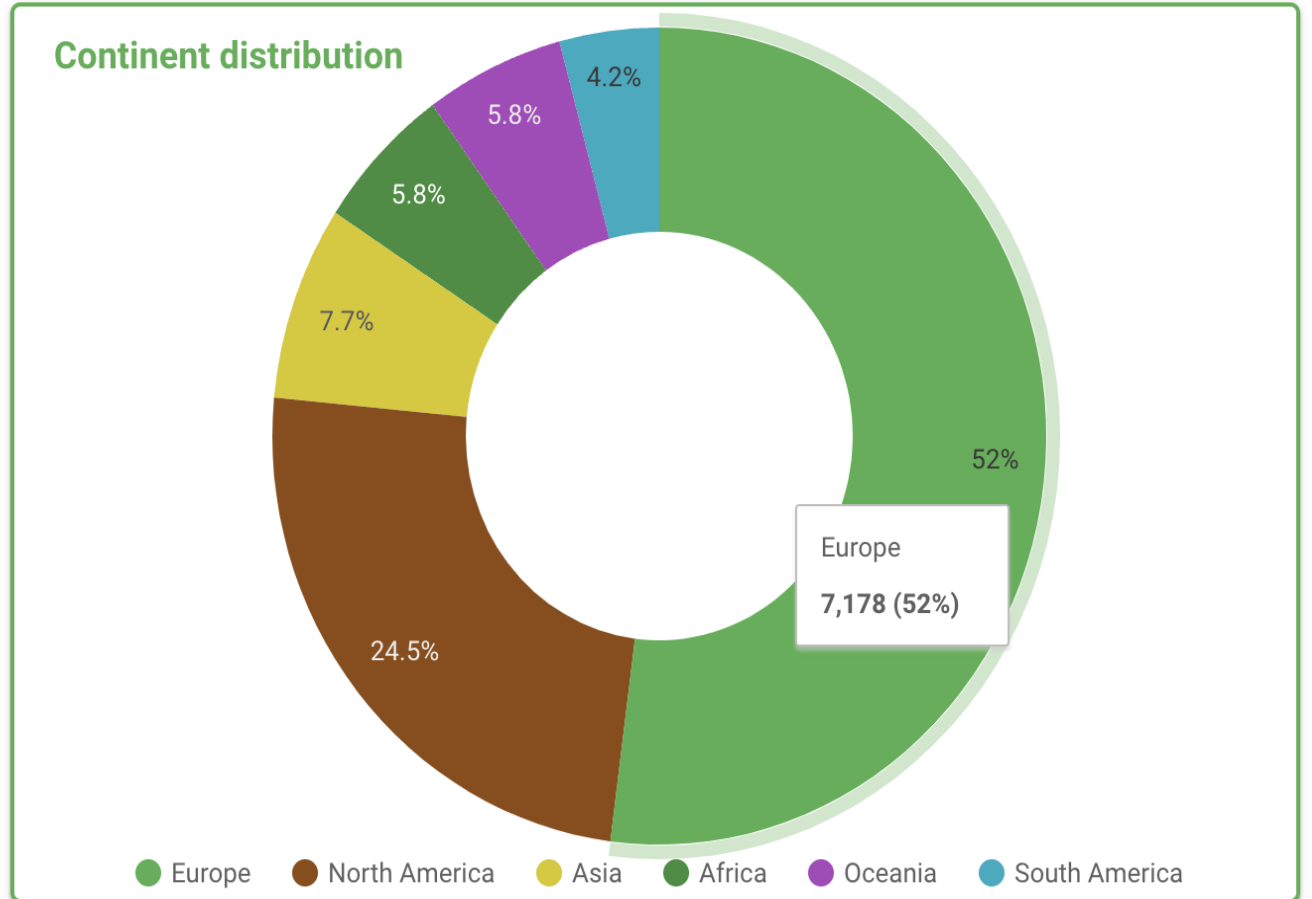


Who is RDA – Geographical Distribution

Worldwide distribution



Continent distribution



13,801 RDA members from 151 different countries

The heart of the RDA: *Community groups*



Grass-roots, bottom-up, organic creation to address global challenges

Working Groups

- Develop & implement **tools, policy, practices & products** for data that are adopted & used by projects, organisations, & communities.
- Life span: 12-18 months

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Concrete deliverables - "Running code", tools, standards, etc.

Interest Groups

- Focus on solving a specific **data sharing problem** and identifying what kind of infrastructure needs to be built.
- Life span: As long as group is active.

OUTPUT:

Best practices, guidelines, emergence of new working groups (WGs), etc.

Communities of Practice

- **Domain/disciplinary focus**, coordination and awareness raising role - 'umbrella group'
- Life span: as long as CoP is active (review every 18 months)
- 1 CoP on Agricultural Data

OUTPUT:

New WGs & IGs, bridge building across the RDA and externally.



The International, Inclusive Family

Individuals
(13,800+)

“a strategic think tank to enhance a **constructive dialogue and collaboration on themes relevant to data science** and to present the latest research results in many areas”

Create groups, collaborate & generate outputs

Organisations
(80+)

“one of the few places where **researchers and data managers / information professionals** directly interact and collaborate to develop solutions and best practices”

Adopt, Implement, Customise

Nations / Regions
(35+)

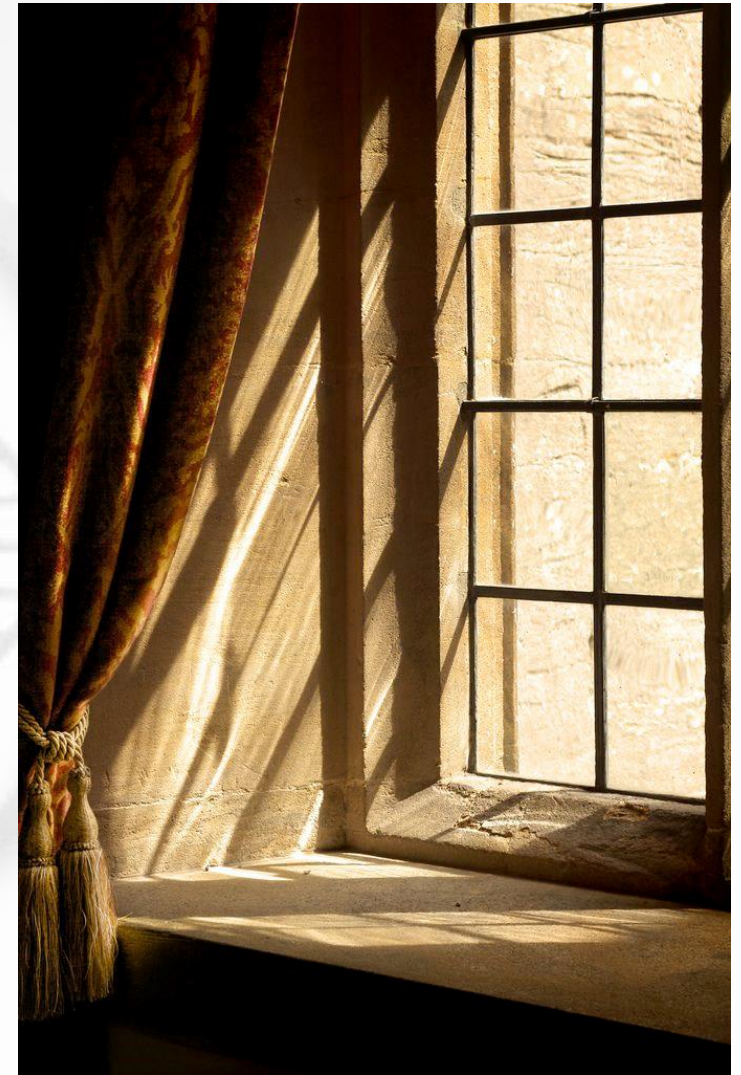
“a global perspective to assist in **sharing best practices, experiences and common needs** to achieve efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts”

Localise (linguistically & culturally), network

Back to the Future

“It is like opening the curtains – the more you open the more is unveiled. Data is light.”

The words from French Minister of State for Digital Technology Axelle Lemaire, who spoke at the opening session of the 6th RDA Plenary, 23-25 September 2015, Paris, France.



RDA Recommendations

- Open Science paradigm must change to be inclusive
- Prioritisation of data standards and application of new technologies
- Invest in team science.
- Inclusion of the scientific community in the definition of the Open Access and Open Science visions, agendas and policies
- Reward, recognise and support the diversity of roles and responsibilities, and their importance in the overall academic research ecosystem.
- Proactive Consortia funding of infrastructure where developed countries and scientific communities should subsidise some of the cost for less developed countries and communities.
- Funders should align their policies and investments to reduce financial waste and duplication of efforts.

[Full report & recording of Research Data Alliance \(RDA\) roundtable during the Science Summit at the United Nations General Assembly, 15 September 2023](#)

RDA/EOSC FUTURE DOMAIN AMBASSADORS



Funded by the EOSC Future project, this diverse programme served to gain a deeper understanding of disciplinary community needs and will provide in turn the EOSC with a domain insights, in particular communities that might need more support to engage with open science practices and EOSC.

<https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-disciplines>

It opened the door to other possibilities, international networking. It gave me an 'authority' to argue for his domain. RDA recognised material sciences as an important domain



Composed by: Dr. Helene Andreassen (RDA/EOSC Future Ambassador for Linguistics), Andrea Berez-Kroeker, Lindsay Ferrara
Contributors: List TBA
Comments requested: Please note that this is a new Discipline page, and it is open for comments from the RDA Community. To add your input please use the comments section below.

Downloadable disciplinary info sheet: [Linguistics](#)



Overview of data-related practices in Linguistics

"Data, in many forms and from many sources, underlie the discipline of linguistics. [...] From descriptive to theoretical work, from corpus-based to introspection-based inquiry, from quantitative to qualitative analysis, linguists rely on data every day. [...] Data must be understandable, discoverable, reusable, shareable, remixable, and transformable."

(Berez-Kroeker, A.L., McDonnell, B., Collister, L.B., Koller, E. 2022. Data, Data Management, and Reproducible Research in Linguistics: On the Need for The Open Handbook of Linguistic Data Management. In Berez-Kroeker, A.L., McDonnell, B., Collister, L.B., Koller, E. (eds.), *The Open Handbook of Linguistic Data Management*, p. 3. Cambridge, MA.

RDA Community cross-fertilisation workshops

Harnessing the power of community groups to brainstorm global challenges, solutions and initiatives

 Workshop summaries
2-3 page document highlighting challenges, solutions, initiatives, and actions for the RDA.

30 November 2023: Summary Community Cross-fertilisation workshops on-line event

RDA for Data Management Planning

RDA for Agricultural Data

RDA for FAIR Data, Software & Hardware

RDA for Health and Medical Data

RDA for Persistent Identifiers

RDA for Agricultural and Environmental Data

RDA for Research Evaluation

Celebrating A Decade of Data
RDA community cross-fertilisation workshop

Version: July 2023



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

Doi: 10.15497/RDA00096

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The community cross-fertilisation workshop, 'RDA for Research Evaluation', brought chairs and members of RDA Working Groups (WGs) and Interest Groups (IGs) together with members of the wider research data community to share and discuss challenges, solutions and initiatives associated with Research Evaluation. This workshop was a collaboration with the [Australian Research Data Commons \(ARDC\)](#), with [Liz Stokes](#) (Skilled Workforce Development; ARDC) as guest co-host. The key findings of the workshop summarised herein will be used to direct the future strategy of the RDA community. Read more about the [community cross-fertilisation workshop series](#) in commemoration of the [RDA's 10th Anniversary](#).

RESEARCH EVALUATION CHALLENGES

Culture and recognition challenges

- A change within the evaluation culture of primary actors is needed by e.g. i) research organisations and communities and ii) evaluators, reviewers (especially actors used to less current methods).
- Culture of research does not support, recognise and reward diversity of research contributions.
- Research evaluation should be based on quality, productivity and impact; however, evaluation tools do not currently support this.
- It is harder for less-well funded institutions to support good research data management practices.
- Mechanisms to recognise open science activities at the same level as publications are needed, e.g. making data FAIR and sharing of data.
- More recognition of RDA contributions is needed.
- There is a lack of motivation or incentives to submit and share data in institutions.
- Public central authorities sometime prohibit their researchers from sharing data.
- Open science networks need support building presence on a range of social media platforms.
- Distribution of tasks and responsibilities are not clear and the function of open science specialists needs evaluation (data scientists, data managers).

RESEARCH EVALUATION CHALLENGES

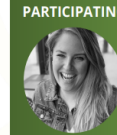
Challenges with evaluating non-traditional outputs

- Evaluation of research needs to evolve to recognise the diversity of outputs and there is a need to assess how to measure their impact.
- Non-traditional outputs e.g. research data and instruments are: i) not discoverable, recognised or rewarded; ii) less easy to evaluate. This results in over-emphasis on convenient assessment proxies for research credibility, quality and impact (e.g. journal impact factor, reputation).
- Tracking data citations and linking non-traditional outputs to traditional ones is challenging.

RESEARCH EVALUATION CHALLENGES


Disciplinary challenges

- Identification of meaningful qualitative criteria beyond bibliometrics is needed to enable research impact measurement; this may add a burden on researchers and evaluators when qualitatively assessing outputs.
- Consideration of discipline-specific maturity assessment is needed.
- A common understanding across all disciplines of the meaning of open science is lacking.



Evaluation of Research IG
Nominated lead: [Emma Croft](#)


- Outputs and achievements:
- Successful BoFs: P19 & P20
 - IG established
 - Liaison with CoARA
 - P21 session accepted

 [See community group card](#)



Sharing Rewards and Credit (SHARC) IG
Nominated lead(s): [Anne Cambon-Thomsen](#)


- Outputs and achievements:
- [A grid of evaluation of FAIR \(Romain et al. DSJ\)](#)
 - [A survey on Open Science activities rewarding mechanisms](#)
 - [P20 Draft recommendations](#)

 [See community group card](#)



Data Policy Standardisation and Implementation IG
Nominated lead: [Rebecca Taylor-Grant](#)

- Outputs and achievements:
- [Supporting output: Developing a Research Data Policy Framework for All Journals and Publishers](#)

 [See community group card](#)

*Workshop leads collected challenges, solutions and initiatives in preparation for the workshop and explained them during the workshop on behalf of their group.

- There is a lack of suitable policy, tools, guidelines, training, funding and incentives enabling non-traditional outputs to be assessed and rewarded in time-constrained research assessment contexts.

Disciplinary challenges

- Identification of meaningful qualitative criteria beyond bibliometrics is needed to enable research impact measurement; this may add a burden on researchers and evaluators when qualitatively assessing outputs.
- Consideration of discipline-specific maturity assessment is needed.
- A common understanding across all disciplines of the meaning of open science is lacking.

Common challenges: by the community, for the community

1. FAIR data and software creation

- Metadata standards and ontologies

2. Ethical considerations

- Personal or commercially sensitive data, consent, anonymisation, security and privacy, AI, data exploitation, democratising data

3. Social and cultural barriers

- Training and education, raising awareness, incentivisation and adoption

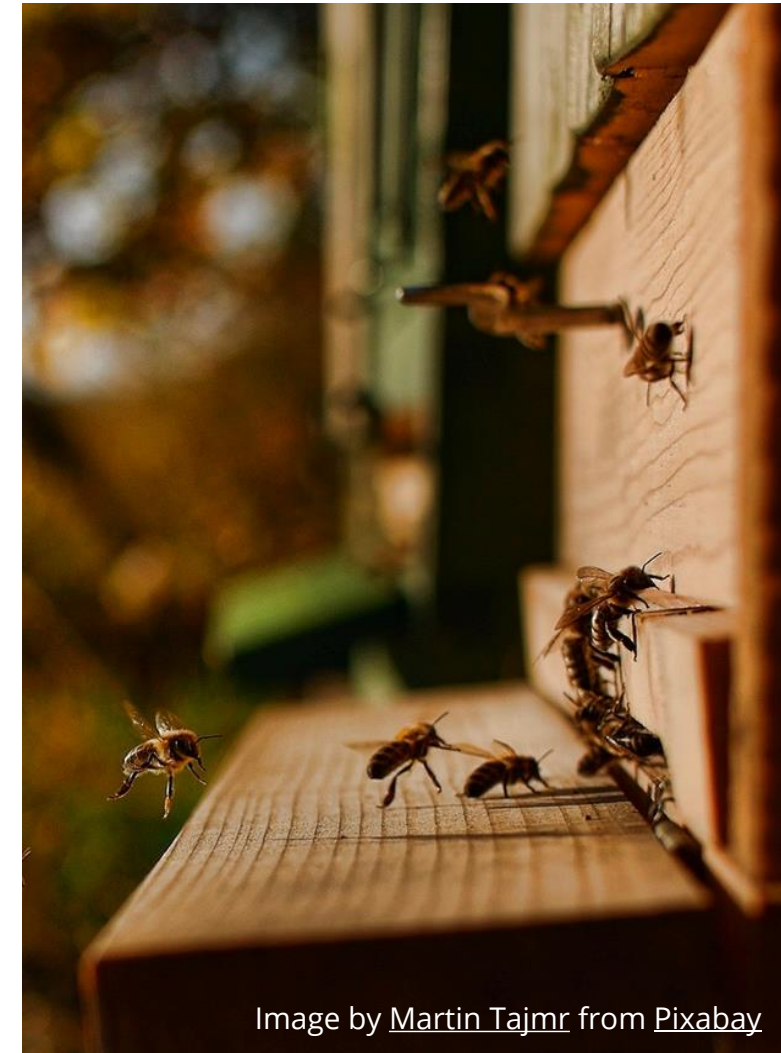


Image by [Martin Tajmr](#) from [Pixabay](#)



RDA Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Sustain, Empower, Innovate

Acknowledgements

- Drafted by the RDA Council in collaboration with Secretariat since November 2022.
- Feedback received from community consultation in March 2023.
- Contributions from the RDA Governance bodies (TAB, RA, OA).
- Pre-final version now open for comments.
- Final version published December 2023.



Summary

- Fifth strategic plan - direction until 2028
- 2020-2023 Strategy Highlights
- Four **strategic themes** for 2024-2028:
 - *Globalise*
 - *Sustain*
 - *Empower*
 - *Innovate*
- **Strategic areas & priorities**



The RDA now: A snapshot




Vision

Researchers and innovators openly share and reuse data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

Mission

The RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and reuse of data.

Guiding Principles

-  Openness
-  Consensus
-  Inclusivity
-  Harmonisation
-  Community-driven
-  Non-profit and technology-neutral

13,800+
Community Members

82
Organisational & Affiliate
Members

150
Countries

35
Regional Networks

150+
Community Groups

RDA 2020-2023 Strategy Highlights

PEOPLE

- Increased representation of the RDA in global areas (e.g. Southern hemisphere).
- Launch of the Communities of Practice (CoPs) framework.
- Formalisation of engagement with Regions through structured agreements/MoUs.

PROCESSES

- Increased financial revenue and implementation of financial sustainability plan.
- Definition of a framework to engage with the private sector.
- Improved coordination among RDA groups through cross-fertilisation workshops.

PRODUCTS

- Investment of resources to build a collaborative web platform for the community.
- Recruitment of two new RDA Foundation staff to support the global community.
- Increased awareness of the RDA's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





2024-2028 Strategic Directions

In the next five years, the RDA's strategy will focus on four strategic themes...



1. GLOBALISE

Ensure the RDA is a truly global organisation

- Build and maintain capacity in global areas
- Consolidate and expand regional engagement



2. SUSTAIN

Secure organisational sustainability

- Promote sustainability within the RDA
- Optimise processes for financial sustainability



3. EMPOWER

Foster leadership for the future

- Support leadership in education and training
- Champion progress in research data management practice and policy



4. INNOVATE

Create impact in the global data landscape

- Harness the power of the community to innovate and advocate
- Maximise potential and impact of RDA Outputs and Recommendations
- Provide an effective environment for innovation and community growth within the RDA

GLOBALISE

Ensure the RDA is a truly global organisation

STRATEGIC AREA	PRIORITY
1.1. Build and maintain global capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1.1. Increase RDA engagement in the Global South1.1.2. Collaborate with global projects and initiatives1.1.3. Encourage multilingualism in RDA activities
1.2. Consolidate and expand regional engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.2.1. Support, maintain and innovate existing regional relationships1.2.2. Engage new regions

SUSTAIN

Secure organisational sustainability

STRATEGIC AREA	PRIORITY
2.1. Promote sustainability within the RDA	<p>2.1.1. Provide coordination for Working and Interest Groups</p> <p>2.1.2. Ensure RDA Outputs and Recommendations remain current and relevant</p> <p>2.1.3. Continue to develop RDA staff expertise and organisational knowledge</p>
2.2. Optimise processes for financial sustainability	<p>2.2.1. Further diversify funding sources to ensure RDA meets its strategic objectives</p> <p>2.2.2. Expand relationships with funders, ministries, national governing bodies and others to communicate the value of the RDA and realise financial sustainability</p>

EMPOWER

Foster leadership for the future

STRATEGIC AREA	PRIORITY
3.1. Support leadership in education and training	<p>3.1.1. Raise awareness of training resources and opportunities where available and needed</p> <p>3.2.2. Explore collaboration between RDA and higher education institutions to include awareness of, and participation in the RDA and its groups</p> <p>3.1.3. Encourage and recognise contribution, service and involvement in both the RDA community and governance</p>
3.2. Champion progress in research data management practice and policy	<p>3.2.1. Raise awareness of the importance of research integrity to promote sound research practice and workflows through the higher education system, such that early career researchers establish an integral basis and skills for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science policy development later in their careers• Educating the next generation of researchers <p>3.2.2. Advocate the importance and implications of policy development and implementation for research data</p> <p>3.2.3. Ensure the recognition of best practices in research data management and open research</p>



INNOVATE

Create impact in the global data landscape

STRATEGIC AREA	PRIORITY
4.1. Harness the power of the community to innovate and advocate	<p>4.1.1. Demonstrate the innovative value of the RDA to a broad range of stakeholders</p> <p>4.1.2. Encourage innovation to address emergent themes impacting research data, including but not limited to Artificial Intelligence (AI), High Performance Computing (HPC) and research software</p>
4.2. Maximise potential and impact of RDA Outputs and Recommendations	<p>4.2.1. Engage in outreach and promotion to increase adoption of RDA Outputs and Recommendations</p> <p>4.2.2. Measure impact of RDA Outputs and Recommendations to maximise value and potential</p> <p>4.2.3. Facilitate the conversion of RDA appropriate Recommendations to standards</p>
4.3. Provide an effective environment for innovation and community growth within the RDA	<p>4.3.1. Map, develop and maintain the RDA landscape to clarify boundaries and identify overlaps or gaps in provision</p> <p>4.3.2. Review and revise RDA structures and processes to enable growth</p>

Implementation Plan

- Separate internal implementation plan
- 18- month timeline
- Outlining activities, deliverables & actors associated with strategic areas & priorities
- Includes Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure progress

Provide your feedback

- Complete online form from **Friday 20 October 2023 until Friday 10 November**



Read the full Strategic Plan



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

New web platform: by the community, for the community

- Smart member management
- Smart content management
- More cross links to groups, outputs, themes, etc
- Multilingual
- Increased regional visibility
- Dedicated community member landing page & personalised content
- ...

The screenshot shows the RDA website homepage. At the top left is the RDA logo. To the right are navigation links: 'Become a Member' (highlighted in yellow), 'Login', and 'Contact'. Below these are menu items: 'Who We Are', 'What We Do', 'What We Work On', 'Get Involved', 'Plenaries & Events', 'RDA Groups', and 'News & Media'. The main content area features a large heading 'Research Data Alliance' with a sub-heading 'With over 10000 members from 145 countries, RDA provides a neutral space where its members can come together to develop and adopt infrastructure that promotes data-sharing and data-driven research'. Below this is a green button labeled 'Our Guiding Principles'. To the right is a video player showing a woman looking at a computer screen, with a yellow play button and a progress indicator '1 | 3'. Below the main content is a section titled 'RDA Provides Value To' with six icons and labels: 'Funders & Policy Makers' (lightbulb icon), 'Industry' (atom icon), 'Infrastructures' (cube icon), 'Libraries' (book icon), 'Research Performing Organisations' (microscope icon), and 'Researchers & Scientists' (lightbulb icon).



Plenary Meetings: Benefits of Attending



Exchange knowledge, share discoveries, discuss barriers and potential solutions



Learn about new trends, strategies, research developments, directions and policies



Expand your network and meet new committed and passionate data science professionals, working in multiple disciplines



Contribute to acceleration of data infrastructure development



23-26 OCT
2023
SALZBURG



**International
Data Week**
A FESTIVAL OF DATA



<https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries/international-data-week-2023-salzburg>

Organised by



Hosted by:



rd-alliance.org 

@resdatall

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RDA Plenary Meetings in 2024

1 fully virtual meeting in April 2024

1 hybrid meeting in late 2024 – not in Europe



INTERNATIONAL DATA WEEK 2025

*Trusted research data driving
innovation and a better world*



Australian Research Data Commons



NCRIS
National Research
Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

The ARDC
is enabled
by NCRIS



COMMITTEE ON DATA
CODATA
INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE COUNCIL



RDA
RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE



WORLD
DATA SYSTEM

See you in
Brisbane
Australia

13 - 16 OCTOBER 2025



INTERNATIONAL DATA WEEK

2027

20 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2027

Cape Town International
Conference Centre (CTICC)



rd-alliance.org



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Merci
beaucoup

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