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# Beyond the Italian DS Community: other national experiences

— Curtis Sharma, 4TU.ResearchData/TU Delft  
Giulia Caldoni, University of Bologna —

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# The speakers

## **Curtis Sharma** Project Manager/Community Manager, Skills4EOSC at 4TU.ResearchData

Since December 2022

Main activities: Leading WP6 - Professional Networks for Lifelong Learning, supporting the establishment of new OS, DS and thematic data professional networks

**Before:** PhD in Cognitive Psychology of Language Learning and Processing

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Co-chair of [RDA FAIR4ML IG](#)

Co-lead of [RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship IG - TG7](#)

Member of [RDA AI and Data Visitation WG](#)

## **Giulia Caldoni** Data Steward for the biomedical and scientific area at University of Bologna

Since May 2022

Main activities: reviewing DMPs, advocacy and training on RDM and OS, drafting of policies and guidelines on RDM

**Before:** PhD in Biology/Oncology

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Member of [Comunità Italiana dei Data Stewards](#)

Member of [RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship IG - TG7](#)

Member of the project [Skills4EOSC](#)

# Skills4EOSC

Skills for the European Open Science Commons (Sep 2022 - August 2025)

- Core objective - advance OS skills by unifying training landscape into a common and trusted pan-European ecosystem, closing three identified gaps:
  - Lack of OS and data expertise
  - Lack of clear definition of data professional profiles and career paths
  - Fragmentation in training resources
- WP6 task 3 objective - create new DS networks
  - Link with Skills4EOSC Competence Centres
  - Harmonise DS networks within RDA PDS IG

Skiis  
4 eosC



# Skills4EOSC DS Networks, Initiatives & Collaborations



Bologna & IIT Genoa,  
supported by ICDI



SND, Umea (Swe), CSC (Fin),  
UiT, HKDIR (Nor), DTU, DKB  
(Den), DATICE (Ice)



MINHO, Iscte,  
Coimbra,  
supported by FCT-  
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ELTE, HUN-REN,  
supported by  
KIFU

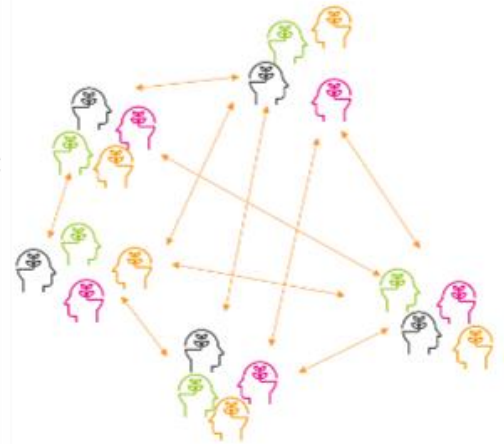


UCC & SONRAI,  
supported by NORF

Developed independent  
of SKills4EOSC –  
collaboration in RDA PDS  
IG TG7

# Role of Skills4EOSC

- Professional Profiles
- Identify gaps – where networks do not exist
- Stakeholder engagement in context – is network feasible/desirable
- Coalesce initiatives – bringing local efforts/individuals together
- Core team - Steering Committee
- Tools – Network Starter Kit/Playbook, etc
- Harmonisation of networks – cross pollination of ideas, etc
- National Competence Centres – support and sustainability



# RDA: Professionalising Data Stewardship IG - TG7



## Progress/outputs

- steering group formed, co-chairs appointed
- development of a terms of reference document

## Next steps

- finalise the Terms of Reference
- begin building a community
- host our first seminar/meeting by the end of 2024

### Group Description:

This is the webpage of the RDA Interest Group on professionalising data stewardship.

The idea to create an interest group was raised in a BoF session during the 14th Plenary (Helsinki), and a first informal group of interested people was established.

At the 15th Virtual Plenary, as second BoF session was organised.

The group was formally endorsed around the 16th Virtual Plenary, which we celebrated during our VP16 breakout session.

We presented the first outcomes of the first three task groups (see below) at the VP17 breakout session.

Subsequently, we had sessions at VP18, VP19, and we are now taking part in VP22 as well.

In 2022, we also organised a webinar.

Are you curious about our ambitions, goals and activities. Make sure to read our charter (via the 'charter' tab on this webpage). We currently have eight active task groups, tackling the following challenges:

TG1. a business case for data stewardship

TG2. data stewardship terminology

TG3. the integration of data stewardship across an organisation (models)

TG4. job profiles for data stewards

TG5. training for data stewards

TG6. career tracks for data stewards

TG7. networking and knowledge exchange

TG8. certification

## TG: Network

### Objectives - Focused on Knowledge Exchange and Networking

- Foster a collaborative environment for data stewards and RDM professionals to support each other
- Facilitate the creation of DS/RDM networks
- Promote interaction between RDM professionals and networks
- Share and amplify relevant resources from PDS IG and related groups



# RDA: Professionalising Data Stewardship IG - TG7

## Objectives

The Networking and Knowledge Exchange Task Group (TG7) is part of the larger [Professionalising Data Stewardship Interest Group](#) (IG) and will operate in support of the broad objectives outlined in the IG Charter. Specifically, TG7 will:

- Create and sustain a space and community where data stewards and other professionals working in RDM can seek and offer support to one another, addressing common challenges and exploring areas for collaboration.
- Support the conception and creation of new national or regional DS and RDM networks.
- Encourage contact and cross-pollination between DS and RDM professionals and networks.
- Disseminate relevant information, tools, and developments in DS and RDM including resources developed by the Professionalising Data Stewardship IG and similar working groups and IGs.



# Other networks we connected with:



## Sonraí

Ireland, since 2023

<https://datastewards.ie/>



## Data Steward Interest Group

The Netherlands, since 2017

<https://tdcc.nl/dsig/>

## Nordic DS Network Initiative

Nordic countries, not launched yet

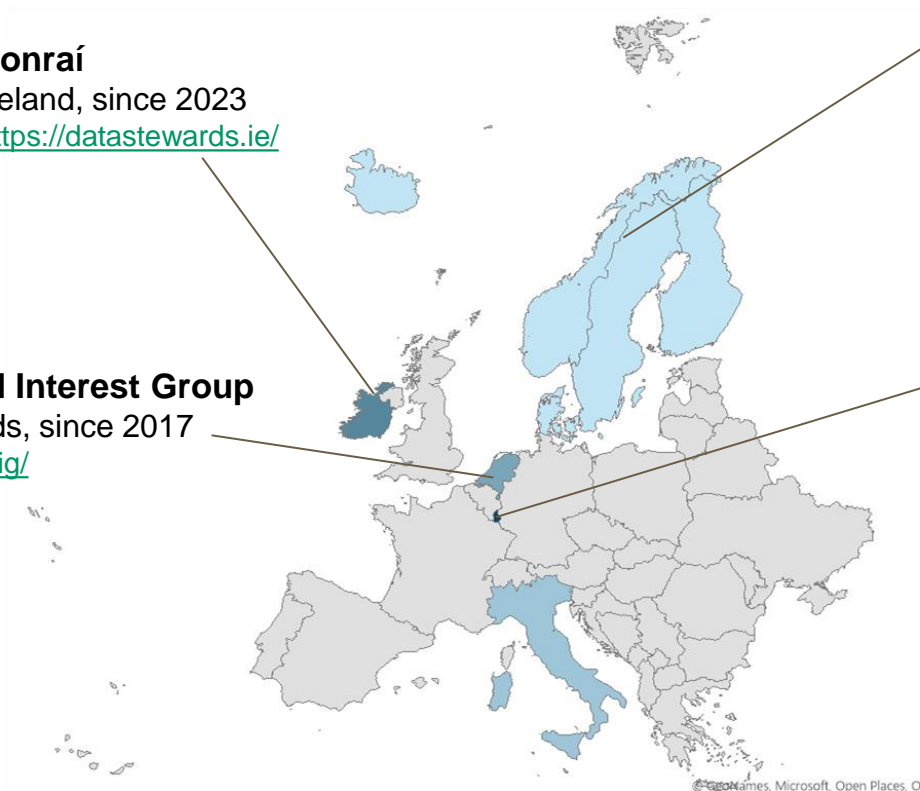
## Data Management



## National Community of Practice

Luxembourg, since 2023

<https://www.lnds.lu/services/data-management-national-community-of-practice/>





# The experiences around us: common objectives

RDM support staff often isolated (1 per institution) → **connection**



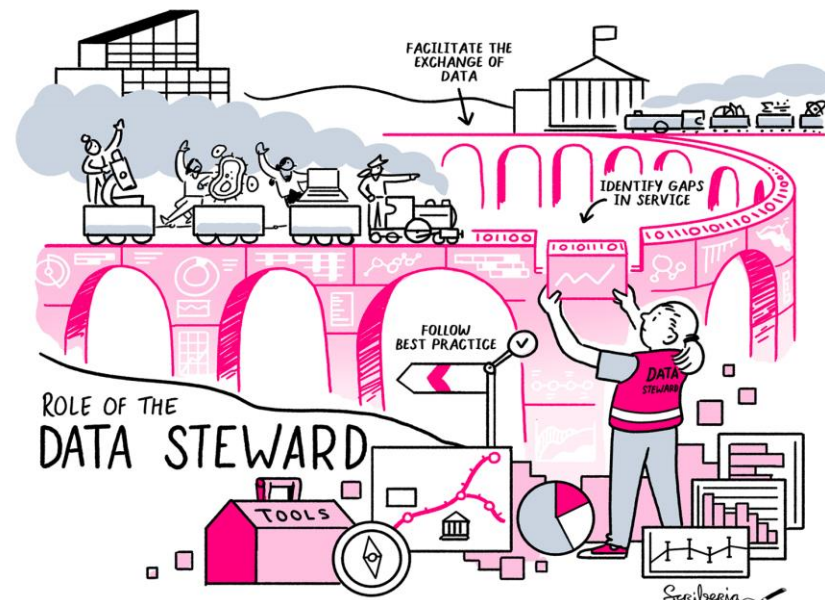
**Sharing of knowledge and experiences** both at national and international level



Parallel working on similar topics  
→ **not reinventing the wheel** via  
co-creation and re-use of resources



**Professionalization of the DS figure**  
→ creating opportunities for professional  
recognition + setting up training pathways



# The experiences around us: strategies and tools

	How	Who	Where	Why	What
<b>Sonraí</b>	Top-down approach (Ireland's National Open Research Forum)	Data Stewards in Ireland	Mailing list + blog posts (" <a href="#">Advice from Data Stewards</a> ")	To promote the need for data stewards and stewardship skills as a core enabler of open research	Community events + microcredential training course for DS
<b>Data Steward Interest Group</b>	Bottom-up initiative in the context of the Thematic Digital Competence Centres	Everyone who is interested in data stewardship, not limited to a specific academic discipline (nor to the Netherlands).	Mailing list (sharing & promotion) + slack channel (questions, sharing of materials) + website (notes from meetings) + regular meetings	Hands-on and solution-oriented approach for practical matters	Community events ('news and noteworthy' + 'in case you missed it'), " <a href="#">Spotlight on: Data Stewards</a> "
<b>Data Management National Community of Practice</b>	Top-down initiative in the context of the Luxembourg National Data Service	All individuals with a professional interest in data management and stewardship in Luxembourg.	Website + google folder (materials from the meetings) + regular meetings	Knowledge-exchange, networking, awareness on national professionalisation of DS.	Community events (workshop, thematic talks)

# The experiences around us: strategies and tools



## Ask yourself

## Am I a data steward?

Regardless of your formal job title, if you answer yes to one or many of the following questions, you are doing the work of a Data Steward and engaged in data stewardship.

1. Do you often find yourself minding the data\*?
2. Are you the 'data person' in your research group, team, department or service?
3. Are you the person who develops/implements data processes, databases and workflows within your unit?
4. Do you spend a significant portion of your time on data, metadata handling/wrangling, alignment, quality, cleaning and mining?
5. Do you administer or provide support for data infrastructure or service?
6. Have you reviewed, written or implemented a data management plan?
7. Do you provide research data management support, training or implementation as a central service or to a research group or team?
8. Are you tasked with data curation, preservation or FAIRification?
9. Are you working on Research Data Management policy development or implementation?



## Past events

- 2024-04-29 – Thematic talk on Data Sharing: [Lessons learnt from \(inter\)national projects on data management & cross-border data sharing](#)
- 2024-02-16 – Thematic talk on Data Cataloguing: [Why, when, who, and how – 10 things you always wanted to know about data cataloging but were too afraid to ask](#)
- 2024-01-16 – Workshop on Data Archival; Core concepts of data archival, Dataverse Netherlands, and Dataverse Norway
- 2023-11-03 – Data Challenges in Public Administration: *The path to becoming a data-driven public sector: seizing opportunities and tackling challenges, by Gilles Hermes and Renée Thommes from the Ministry of Digitalisation*
- 2023-07-19 – Research Data Management Community Kickoff Workshop (Session 2): *Background and priorities for the community, by Pinar Alper from the Luxembourg National Data Service*
- 2023-06-30 – Research Data Management Community Kickoff Workshop (Session 1): *Background and priorities for the community, by Pinar Alper from the Luxembourg National Data Service*

## DSIG Meetings

### Upcoming

2024-12-10 [Agenda & Registration](#) (hosted by [TDCC-LSH](#) Health-RI [Data Stewardship Community](#))

2024-11-26 [Agenda & Registration](#) (hosted by [TDCC-SSH](#))

### 2024



2024-10-14 [Shared notes](#)

2024-09-12 [Shared notes](#) (hosted by [TDCC-LSH](#) Health-RI [Data Stewardship Community](#))

2024-07-02 [Shared notes](#)

2024-05-14 [Shared notes](#) (hosted by [TDCC-NES](#))

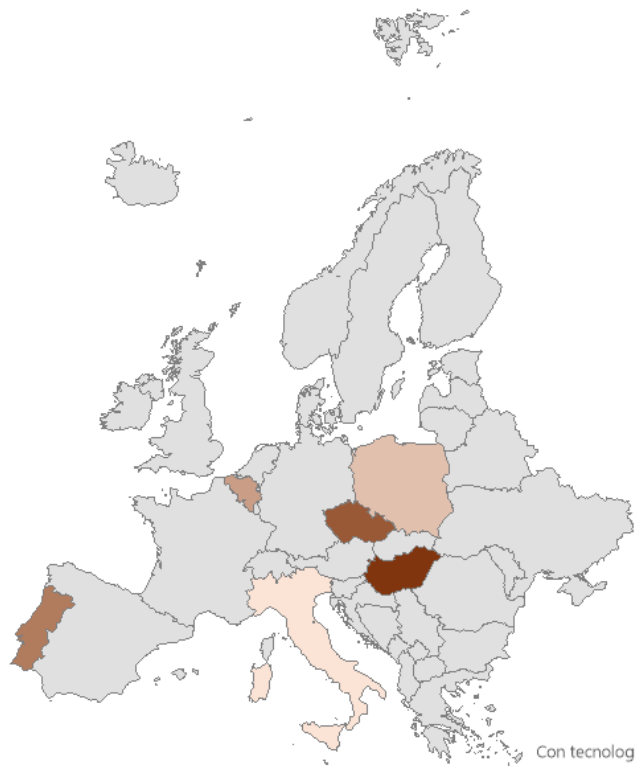
2024-04-24 [Shared notes](#) (hosted by [TDCC-SSH](#))

2024-03-06 [Shared notes](#) (hosted by [TDCC-LSH](#) Health-RI [Data Stewardship Community](#))

2024-02-01 [Shared notes](#)



# Other networks we will be connecting with:



Stay tuned....