Data & Software roles of the future:
Data stewardship and the Digital Competence Centre at TU Delft

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Data & Software roles of the future: Data stewardship and the Digital Competence Centre at TU Delft
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Why should we care about good data management?
There are numerous benefits!

- Time saved (less time struggling => more time on research)
- Increased research reproducibility, less errors
- Easier to patent
- More visibility, impact, citations
- More trust
- Compliance, no data loss
Good Data Management is clearly beneficial and important.
But Good Data Management is not yet common practice

Survey of 4,500 researchers in 2020

24% are familiar with the FAIR principles

Good data management takes time and effort, requires knowledge and skills.
Researchers should not be doing this alone.

- Researching
- Teaching
- Supervising
- Applying for grants
- Reading papers
- Writing papers
- Going to conferences
- Networking...

Doing excellent data and software management?
TU DELFT CASE STUDY
TU Delft = Delft University of Technology

https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1922415
Central Data Support team: repository, training, advocacy, website, tools policy...
Central support is not enough!

We don’t even find these services...
we don’t know how to use them
Data Stewards Pilot

2017/2018

Central University funding

1 Disciplinary data steward at every faculty for 3 years

Then the faculty decides what to do

Coordination at the Library
### Data Stewards Pilot

**2017/2018**

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# Data Stewards Pilot

## 2017/2018
- Central University funding
- 1 Disciplinary data steward at every faculty for 3 years
- Then the faculty decides what to do
- Coordination at the Library

## 2020/2021
- All data stewards appointed as permanent members of faculty
- More data stewards appointed
- Job profile for data stewards

## Data Stewards Support
- Data stewards support researchers in data management
- They are the contact point for data questions
- They report to faculty senior executives
Problem:
Insufficient Capacity
Digital Competence Centre Pilot
(Started September 2020)

Hands-on support with data and software management:
Learning by doing
Digital Competence Centre (DCC)

Initiative of the Library, ICT and HPC

(funded by the Open Science Programme and a grant from the Dutch Funding Agency)

- 2 Data Managers
- 4 Research Software Engineers (RSEs)
- 1 HPC Consultant, 1 Coordinator

Experts available to work with research groups for up to 6 months, 2 days/week
Plus: More support hired at Faculties

Data Managers & RSEs at Departmental/research group level
Plus: More support hired at Faculties

Time to Say Goodbye to Heroes?
Plus: More support hired at Faculties

Team Science:

- Most effective teams combine various types of professionals and skills
Three Levels of Data Support @TU Delft

Central Support
- Repository
- Training
- Communications

=> Central (library) funding

Faculty level support
- Data Stewards
- Data Managers, RSEs

=> Faculty & research group budget

DCC support
- Data Managers
- Research Software Engineers

=> Central & grant-based funding

+ National collaboration (4TU.ResearchData)
Invest in Data Stewardship
It will pay back
THANKS!

Any questions?
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