

# Data Stewards in the public sector of the Norwegian job system

**Date:** 7th of May 2024, 09:00 - 10:30 CEST

**Online event:** [Zoom registration](#)

**Organised by:** Life Science RDM Group Norway

**ELIXIR Code of Conduct:** <https://elixir-europe.org/events/code-of-conduct>

## Background

The data steward profession is internationally among the fastest growing jobs (report from [DANS - NL](#)). Despite this, there is currently no defined career and educational pathway in Norway to become accredited as a Data Steward. On top of this, this highly demanded position is not presently represented in a suitable job category in the Norwegian public sector. The evaluation committee for the Norwegian Research Infrastructure program already wrote in 2021: The committee recommends that "RCN, together with the RPOs [research performing organisations], promote training of highly skilled people needed for operating RIs in the research system. We would especially mention data stewards as a new category that does not yet have a place in the system" ([Evaluation of the INFRASTRUKTUR initiative](#), page 6).

Due to their transdisciplinary competence and their broad range of responsibilities, Data Stewards are currently employed across different job categories. This often results in misaligned career progression matrices and poor career progress (see also NIFU report: [Technical-administrative employees in the university and higher education sector](#))

In this event, we aim to learn about the approaches adopted by other countries in defining and integrating the profession of Data Steward in the public sector and discuss together with the Norwegian unions, research and education institutions and Data Stewardship Experts on potential ways to anchor this role better in Norway.

## Schedule

Time (CEST)	Topic	Speaker(s)
09:00	<a href="#">Welcome</a>	Korbinian Bösl
09:05	Example <a href="#">Data Stewards in the Dutch system</a> 12+3min Q+A	Fieke Schoots (Training Coordinator FAIR Data, Health RI NL)
09:20	Example <a href="#">Data Stewards in the Swedish system</a> 12+3min Q+A	Niclas Jareborg (Data Management team in the SciLifeLab Bioinformatics platform - NBIS)
09:35	Panel Discussion	<p><b>Moderated by:</b> <a href="#">Live Kvale</a> (UiO library - <a href="#">Section for open research</a>)</p> <p><b>Participants:</b> Jon Iddeng (<a href="#">Forskerforbundet</a>)</p> <p><a href="#">Dag Endresen</a> (UiO NHM, <a href="#">Global Biodiversity Information Facility-Norway</a> and Tekna UiO)</p> <p>Katrine Weisteen Bjerde (<a href="#">HKDIR</a>)</p> <p><a href="#">Erik Sandquist</a> (Senior Research Infrastructure Advisor, <a href="#">Division of Research and Innovation, UiB</a>)</p> <p><a href="#">Even Birkeland</a> (Data Steward FHI)</p>
10:25	Sum up	
10:30	End	

## Notes:

Mailing list: <https://mailman.uib.no/listinfo/life-science-rdm>

Slack to join Life Science RDM Norway:

[https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared\\_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg](https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg)

(Non teaching) job profile descriptions at Karolinska:

<https://staff.ki.se/media/108585/download>

## Chat log:

09:01:23 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ioIHj\\_Q6oCSIRQYk26drBn2sUQCSFxq1eg1vMi\\_QXRE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ioIHj_Q6oCSIRQYk26drBn2sUQCSFxq1eg1vMi_QXRE/edit)

09:03:01 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:

Mailing list: <https://mailman.uib.no/listinfo/life-science-rdm>

Slack to join Life Science RDM Norway:

[https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared\\_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg](https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg)

09:04:21 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:

Agenda:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ioIHj\\_Q6oCSIRQYk26drBn2sUQCSFxq1eg1vMi\\_QXRE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ioIHj_Q6oCSIRQYk26drBn2sUQCSFxq1eg1vMi_QXRE/edit)

09:39:30 From Diana Pilvar To Everyone:

Niclas, will you link slides somewhere?

09:41:29 From Sagnik Sengupta To Everyone:

What criteria are used while employing someone as a "Staff Scientist" or "Seniore Staff Scientist" as of today?

09:43:46 From Nina Marie Evensen To Everyone:

Are these "new" staff titles you mentioned scientific or technical staff?

I was also wondering why his name was suddenly there - he is one who needs moderation sometimes



09:47:08 From Niclas Jareborg To Everyone:

Replying to "Niclas, will you lin..."

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xBR71qFP8vLqiDPHIDnEeongEprcbj-Zh\\_fuierGX7w/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xBR71qFP8vLqiDPHIDnEeongEprcbj-Zh_fuierGX7w/edit?usp=sharing)

09:47:18 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:

Reacted to "https://docs.google...." with 🙏

09:51:17 From Niclas Jareborg To Everyone:

Replying to "What criteria are us..."

[https://staff.ki.se/media/108585/download?\\_gl=1\\*1sr5b5j\\*\\_ga\\*MTEzMDUzNzk2Ni4xNzE1MDA1ODc4\\*\\_ga\\_VZD17KHKE3\\*MTcxNTA2ODI0MS4yLjAuMTcxNTA2ODI1MC4wLjAuMA..](https://staff.ki.se/media/108585/download?_gl=1*1sr5b5j*_ga*MTEzMDUzNzk2Ni4xNzE1MDA1ODc4*_ga_VZD17KHKE3*MTcxNTA2ODI0MS4yLjAuMTcxNTA2ODI1MC4wLjAuMA..)

09:56:44 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Is there a plan to coordinate this development of data stewardship across different universities?

09:57:01 From Elisa Pierfederici To Everyone:

Reacted to "Is there a plan to c..." with 👍

09:57:52 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:

Reacted to "Is there a plan to c..." with 👍

09:58:51 From Astrid Krahn To Everyone:

I need to leave for another meeting. Thanks for interesting information and discussion.

10:03:50 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

What is "norkam"?

10:04:11 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:

Veileder for vurdering i akademiske karriereløp - Universitets- og høyskolerådet (uhr.no)

10:04:41 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:

NOR-CAM = Norwegian Career Assessment Matrix

10:05:01 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Reacted to "NOR-CAM = Norwegian ..." with 👍

10:05:04 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Reacted to "Veileder for vurderi..." with 👍

10:06:18 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:

There might be a balance to find between developing data stewardship as an independent profession and developing data stewardship skills among (all?) scientific staff. (Many researchers are already overloaded with new administrative tasks and some are sceptical to needing to learn new metadata skills).

And a balance between training such skills for all students versus a dedicated study program for a establishing a new profession. Versus training for current professionals to gain (meta)data skills.

10:07:07 From Ingrid Heggland To Everyone:

Reacted to "There might be a bal..." with 👍

10:07:09 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Reacted to "There might be a bal..." with 👍

10:07:43 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:

Reacted to "There might be a bal..." with 👍

10:08:36 From Bjørn Sverre Gulheim To Everyone:

Reacted to "There might be a bal..." with 👍

10:08:41 From Diana Pilvar To Everyone:

Reacted to "There might be a bal..." with 👍

10:10:22 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:

A small comment about diversity (thanks to Katrine for mentioning it): Diversity is key, extending beyond academic qualifications to ensure gender+race balance, if we want to create inclusive field of data stewardship.

10:10:45 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:

Reacted to "A small comment abou..." with 👍

10:11:09 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Reacted to "A small comment abou..." with 🙌

10:11:18 From Niclas Jareborg To Everyone:  
Reacted to "A small comment abou..." with 👍

10:11:59 From Live Kvale (UiO) To Everyone:  
Reacted to "There might be a bal..." with 👍

10:12:03 From Live Kvale (UiO) To Everyone:  
Reacted to "A small comment abou..." with 👍

10:12:12 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:  
Many have "permanent" positions that rely on external funding and are relatively easy to be terminated.

10:12:36 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:  
Reacted to "Many have "permanent..." with 👍

10:12:45 From Jon Iddeng (Forskerforbundet) To Everyone:  
Replying to "Many have "permanent..."

yes, you are right

10:15:15 From Jon Iddeng (Forskerforbundet) To Everyone:  
What do we best call a Data steward in Norwegian: Dataforvalter or Datarøktter or??

10:15:34 From Live Kvale (UiO) To Everyone:  
Datarøktter 😊

10:15:51 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:  
Replying to "What do we best call..."

My understanding is Dataforvalter equals more Data Manager

10:16:08 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:  
Reacted to "Datarøktter 😊" with 👍

10:16:29 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:  
Datakurator could also be descriptive

10:16:46 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:  
The scientific staff need to understand that they need data stewards in their projects when they apply for money

10:16:56 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:  
Reacted to "The scientific staff..." with ❤️

10:17:01 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:  
Reacted to "The scientific staff..." with 👍

10:17:06 From Ali KA To Everyone:  
Reacted to "The scientific staff..." with ❤️

10:17:22 From Live Kvale (UiO) To Everyone:  
Replying to "Datakurator could al..."

I feel like the kurator is a more narrow concept

10:17:40 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:  
Reacted to "Many have "permanent..." with 👍

10:17:56 From Bjørn Sverre Gulheim To Everyone:  
After training a number of researchers and research assistants, I feel that what is important is data/metadata management in various ways, which is perhaps even more important than domain

knowledge. Personally, I only have domain knowledge from the finance sector, education, and the military. But as mentioned, the ability to understand data structures, etc., is what is most important. Another thing is that I have missed standard structures; what do you think about this in training?

10:18:11 From Bjørn Sverre Gulheim To Everyone:

Reacted to "The scientific staff..." with 🙌

10:18:44 From Espen Åberg (ELIXIR) To Everyone:

Reacted to "The scientific staff..." with 👍

10:18:57 From Espen Åberg (ELIXIR) To Everyone:

Reacted to "I feel like the kura..." with 👍

10:19:24 From Fieke Schoots To Everyone:

Replying to "The scientific staff..."

Dutch funders play a great role in this: they require you to consult with a data steward on your project proposal and in some programs even require to budget a considerable amount for data stewardship

10:19:39 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:

Reacted to "Dutch funders play a..." with ❤️

10:19:41 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:

One problem with the EOSC governance model is that the INFRAEOSC projects are basically autonomous and only a fraction of the results is adopted to the wider EOSC community

Also while the EOSC Core and Interop specifications are partly informed by the INFRAEOSC projects the linkage is rather indirect

10:19:56 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:

Reacted to "One problem with the..." with 👍

10:19:57 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Many data stewards are really good at teaching! Me and my colleague has developed a course for PhD medical students.

10:19:57 From Jenny Ostrop To Everyone:

Reacted to "Dutch funders play a..." with 👍

10:19:58 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:

Replying to "The scientific staff..."

Data Management Plans (DMP) requirements is another tool

10:20:05 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Reacted to "Dutch funders play a..." with ❤️

10:20:07 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:

Reacted to "Dutch funders play a..." with ❤️

10:20:52 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Replying to "The scientific staff..."

But for now, I have an impression that this is only seen as "one-off" document that one delivers because one needs to

10:21:32 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:

Replying to "The scientific staff..."

Yes, but there is no monitoring, really. Some people get in touch with ELIXIR Norway when they need a DMP, and then disappear.

10:21:49 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:  
Replying to "The scientific staff..."

Work is ongoing to develop tools to make the DMPs alive and changing throughout the projects

10:22:00 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:

Reacted to "Work is ongoing to d..." with 👍

10:22:14 From Ingeborg Winge To Everyone:  
Reacted to "Dutch funders play a..." with ❤️

10:22:15 From Dag Endresen To Everyone:  
Replying to "The scientific staff..."

—> machine-actionable DMPs might help

10:22:23 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:

Reacted to "—> machine-actionabl..." with 👍

10:22:54 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:

Reacted to "Many data stewards a..." with 👍

10:22:57 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:  
Replying to "The scientific staff..."

the maDMP specification is very minimal though

10:23:27 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:

Reacted to "the maDMP specificat..." with 👍

10:25:56 From Elisa Pierfederici To Everyone:

Reacted to "I feel like the kura..." with 👍

10:26:49 From Trude Eikebrokk To Everyone:

Reacted to "I feel like the kura..." with 👍

10:26:53 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:

Who should teach these course(s) then? If the Data Stewards have the expertise, but are not supposed to teach for ECTS since they are employed on technical/administrative positions...

10:27:05 From Elisa Pierfederici To Everyone:

Reacted to "Who should teach the..." with 👍

10:27:13 From Jon Iddeng (Forskerforbundet) To Everyone:

Reacted to "Who should teach the..." with 👍

10:27:14 From Fieke Schoots To Everyone:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/implementation-plan-investments-digital-research-infrastructure>

10:27:17 From Jenny Ostrop To Everyone:

Reacted to "Who should teach the..." with 👍

10:27:19 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:

Reacted to "Who should teach the..." with 👍

10:27:24 From Diana Pilvar To Everyone:

Reacted to "Who should teach the..." with 👍

10:27:35 From Katrine Weisteen Bjerde To Everyone:

Reacted to "https://www.nwo.nl/e..." with 👍  
10:28:26 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:  
Replying to "Who should teach the..."

I got permission to use my work hours for teaching, but I think it's a special case

10:30:15 From Jenny Ostrop To Everyone:  
Another challenge in course development is that universities are not rigged for offering courses across departments or even institutions. Courses without credits are perceived less attractive. Microcredentials may be a solution but currently not well established/recognized.  
10:30:28 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:  
Replying to "The scientific staff..."

The RCN policy has the explicit possibility to mandate the use of a specific infrastructure/archive but does not make use of this clause (yet) very much.

10:30:46 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:  
Reacted to "Another challenge in..." with 👍  
10:30:48 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:  
remove 👍  
10:30:49 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:  
Reacted to "Another challenge in..." with 👍  
10:31:07 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:  
Replying to "Another challenge in..."

Very true! It's often also difficult to find these courses since one doesn't really know what to search for...

10:31:34 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:  
Reacted to "Another challenge in..." with 👍

10:32:43 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:  
<https://www.khrono.no/datahandtering-sett-i-lys-av-data/869925>

10:33:01 From Camilla Blixhavn To Everyone:  
About possible career paths for data stewards. I have been working as a data steward (we have called it data curator or data curation scientist) since 2017 within the field of neuroscience, but my official position is Researcher. We have discussed possible career paths for this role through the years, and my colleagues and I are currently finishing up our PhDs on our data stewardship activities with publications about workflows and standards that we have developed including data descriptor papers associated to datasets we have curated and published. Very happy to listen in to a discussion about more formalized job roles and career paths for data stewards, thank you!

10:33:34 From Ingrid Heggland To Everyone:  
Reacted to "About possible caree..." with 👍

10:33:38 From Fieke Schoots To Everyone:  
Reacted to "About possible caree..." with 👍

10:33:43 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:  
Reacted to "About possible caree..." with 👍

10:34:29 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:



Reacted to "About possible caree..." with 👍

10:34:35 From Jenny Ostrop To Everyone:  
Reacted to "About possible caree..." with 👍

10:35:43 From Kam Sripada To Everyone:  
Reacted to "About possible caree..." with 👍

10:36:31 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:  
Will there be a "data steward" slack space?

10:36:41 From Camilla Blixhavn To Everyone:  
We started calling ourselves data curation scientists as the data producers approaching us to share their data were more inclined to share details about their research (which is essential to improve FAIRness) when they learned we were scientists ourselves.

10:37:10 From Korbinian Bösl (ELIXIR) To Everyone:  
Replying to "Will there be a "dat..."

we have the LS RDM space here:  
[https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared\\_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg](https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg)

10:37:42 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:  
Replying to "Will there be a "dat..."

Right, but it's only for medical data?

10:37:48 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:  
Replying to "Will there be a "dat..."

We can create channel there for data\_steward\_role?

10:38:14 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:  
Reacted to "we have the LS RDM s..." with 👍

10:38:16 From Julia Romanowska To Everyone:  
Reacted to "We can create channe..." with 🙌

10:38:18 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:  
Slack [https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared\\_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg](https://join.slack.com/t/biomeddata/shared_invite/zt-1e6r3q14j-nVo42Nn2nZFtc~ekdUQFGg)

10:38:19 From Federico Bianchini To Everyone:  
Replying to "Will there be a "dat..."

There should be something linked to RDA Norway, for example.

10:38:44 From Fieke Schoots To Everyone:  
Thank you so much for this insight into datastewardship in Norway, very interesting!

10:38:48 From Live Kvale (UiO) To Everyone:  
Thank you so much to the organisers this was such a valuable event 🔥

10:38:51 From Dennis Gan To Everyone:  
Thanks!

10:38:53 From Kam Sripada To Everyone:  
Great event, thanks!

10:39:04 From Nazeefa Fatima To Everyone:  
Thank you for moderating and to all the speakers/participants!

10:39:04 From Camilla Blixhavn To Everyone:  
Thank you!