

Plenary Session: 'Why establish national and regional RDA nodes in Europe? The community's perspective'

Plenary session:

The session will include a brainstorming about the reasons for an RDA node to establish a formal partnership with the RDA, and will gather the community comments and expectations about the European node's role and activities. The meeting will be an occasion for the European RDA initiatives to interact with their community in a context wider than the national one and with other European initiatives. Its output will be useful for the European initiatives and for initiatives from other regions, who are also organising regional activities.

Session's speakers: Hilary Hanahoe, Alexandra Delipalta, Francoise Genova, Margriet Miedema, Rachel Bruce

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This meeting will take place according to the [RDA Code of Conduct](#)

Attendee Check-in

Top number: 120

Please complete this table to indicate your attendance (add rows as needed):

Name	Affiliation	Location	Email/social media
Francoise Genova	RDA France/Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg	Strasbourg, France	francoise.genova@astro.unistra.fr
Marta Teperek	RDA-NL / NWO	NL	m.tepererek@nwo.nl
Margriet Miedema	LCRDM/RDA-NL	NL	info@lcrdm.nl
Alex Delipalta	RDA Europe	IR	alexandra.delipalta@rda-foundation.org
Rachel Bruce	RDA-UK/UKRI		rachel.bruce@ukri.org @rachelbruce
Laurence El Khouri	RDA France/CNRS	FR	laurence.elkhouri@cnrs-dir.fr
Olivier Rouchon	RDA France/CNRS	FR	olivier.rouchon@cnrs.fr
Maggie Hellström	ICOS Carbon Portal	Lund, SE	margareta.hellstrom

			@nateko.lu.se
York Sure-Vetter	NFDI	Karlsruhe, DE	york.sure-vetter@nfdi.de
Soizick.lesteven@astro.unistra.fr	RDA France/CNRS - CDS - Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg	Strasbourg, France	soizick.lesteven@astro.unistra.fr
Daniel Bangert	4TU.ResearchData	NL	D.F.Bangert@tudelft.nl
Rolf Krah	Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie	Germany	rolf.krah@helmholtz-berlin.de
Christopher Brown	Jisc	UK	christopher.brown@jisc.ac.uk
Halford Dace	TU Delft Library	Delft, NL	H.J.W.Dace@tudelft.nl
Aline Grand	Université de Strasbourg	Strasbourg, France	alinegrand@unistra.fr
Marita Kari	Federation of Finnish Learned Societies	Helsinki, Finland	marita.kari@tsv.fi
Mari Kleemola	Tampere University/FSD	Tampere, Finland	mari.kleemola@tuni.fi
Graham Parton	Centre for Environmental Data Analysis/National Centre for Atmospheric Sciences	UK	graham.parton@stfc.ac.uk Graham Parton
Mingfang Wu	ARDC	Melbourne, Australia	mingfang.wu@ardc.edu.au
Mathilde Bernier	CNRS/DDOR	Paris, France	mathilde.bernier@cnrs.fr
Beth Knazook	Digital Repository of Ireland	Dublin, Ireland	b.knazook@ria.ie

Monica Michel Rodriguez	University of Lille	Lille, France	monica.michel-rodriguez@univ-lille.fr
Tanya van Goch	SURF	NL	tanya.vangoch@surf.nl
Katherine Rial	Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie	Germany	katherine.rial@helmholtz-berlin.de
Susanna Weber	University of Zurich	Switzerland	susanna.weber@ub.unizh.ch
Steffi Genderjahn	Helmholtz Association	Germany	steffi.genderjahn@os.helmholtz.de
Anne-Caroline Deletoille	Institut Pasteur	France	anne-caroline.deletoille@pasteur.fr
Athina Papadopoulou	RDA Europe	Greece	athina.papadopoulou@rda-foundation.org
Majid Ounsy	SOLEIL	France	majid.ounsy@synchron-soleil.fr
Roxanne Wyns	KU Leuven - LIBIS	Belgium, Leuven	Roxanne.Wyns@kuleuven.be
Yasuhiro Murayama	National Institute of Information and Communications Technology	Japan	murayama.yasuhiro.r92@kyoto-u.jp
Magda Szuflita-Żurawska	Gdańsk University of Technology	Poland	magdalena.szuflita@pg.edu.pl
Graeme Diack	Data Specialist, Atlantic Salmon Trust/Missing Salmon Alliance	Scotland	graeme@atlanticsalmontrust.org
Sandra Boerman	DeiC	Denmark	sandra.boerman@deic.dk
Matej Petrič	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia	matej.petric@ff.uni-lj.si
Liise Lehtsalu	RDA Europe	Italy	liise.lehtsalu@rda-foundation.org

Aleksandra Lazić	University of Belgrade, LIRA Lab	Serbia	lazic.ale@gmail.com @AleLazic (X, Mastodon), @alelazic.bsky.social
Jens Klump	CSIRO, Mineral Resources	Perth, Australia	jens.klump@csiro.au
Nathanael Sheehan	University of Exeter	Salvador, Brazil	ns651@exeter.ac.uk
Rosie Allison	RDA Europe	The Netherlands	rosie.allison@rda-foundation.org
Lesley Wyborn	ANU	Australia	lesley.wyborn@anu.edu.au
Kristiina Himanen	University of Helsinki	Finland	kristiina.himanen@helsinki.fi
Adam Leary	Oxford University Press	UK	adam.leary@oup.com
Joanna Janik	RDA France/CNRS-Université Grenoble Alpes	France	joanna.janik@cnrs-dir.fr
Federico Bianchini	University of Oslo	Norway	fredebi@uio.no
Helena Schnitzer	Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH	Germany	h.schnitzer@fz-juelich.de
Alice Fremand	UK Polar Data Centre, British Antarctic Survey	UK	almand@bas.ac.uk
Veronika Stoka	J. Stefan Institute	Slovenia	veronika.stoka@ijs.si
Joanne Fitzpatrick	Lancaster University	UK	j.fitzpatrick2@lancaster.ac.uk
Carmen Reverté Reverté	IRTA (Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology)	Spain	carme.reverte@irta.cat
Miguel Ángel López González	Institut de Recerca i Tecnologies Agroalimentàries (IRTA)	Spain	miguelangel.lopez@irta.cat
Adam Vials Moore	Jisc	UK	adam.vialsmoore@jisc.ac.uk

			@c.ac.uk / @adam_moore / @ukpids
Leo Chiloane	SAEON	South Africa	pl.chiloane@saeon.nrf.ac.za
Karen Ng Lee Peng	Universiti Malaya	Malaysia	karennlp@um.edu.my
Lindsay Callaghan	SAEON	South Africa	l.callaghan@saeon.nrf.ac.za
Hervé L'Hours	UK Data Archive, UK Data Service, University of Essex	UK	hervé@essex.ac.uk
Nick Juty	The University of Manchester	UK	nsjuty@gmail.com
Metka Pirc	UL, Faculty of Social Sciences, Slovenian Social Science Data Archives	Ljubljana, Slovenia	metka.pirc@fdv.uni-lj.si
Mohamed Baessa	King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)	Saudi Arabia	mohamed.baessa@kaust.edu.sa
Christian Berger	Philipps-Universität Marburg	Marburg, Germany	berger@hrz.uni-marburg.de
Julia Gehrmann	University Hospital Cologne	Germany	julia.gehrmann1@uk-koeln.de
James A J Wilson	UCL	UK	j.a.j.wilson@ucl.ac.uk
Sarah Schafer	University of Cape Town	Cape Town, South Africa	sarah.schafer@uct.ac.za
Andreas Czerniak	Bielefeld University	Bielefeld, Germany	andreas.czerniak@uni-bielefeld.de
Sylvie Fiat	Institute of Research for Development	France	sylvie.fiat@ird.fr
Bruno Khélifi	Laboratory Astroparticles and Cosmology (APC),	Paris, France	khelifi@in2p3.fr

	CNRS/IN2P3		
Graham Smith	Springer Nature	UK	graham.smith@springernature.com
Saskia Lawson-Tovey	University of Manchester	UK	saskia.lawson-tovey@manchester.ac.uk
Rob Quick	Indiana University	US	rquick@iu.edu
Juan Bicarregui	UKRI/STFC	UK	juan.bicarregui@stfc.ac.uk
Mikiko Tanifuji	National Institute of Informatics, NII	Japan	tanifuji@nii.ac.jp
Emma Devine	UKRI	UK	emma.devine@ukri.org
Sam Kauranne	BELNET	Belgium	sam.kauranne@belnet.be
Ryan O'Connor	RDA Association (Europe)	Ireland	ryan.oconnor@rda-foundation.org
Alex Ball	University of Bath	UK	ab318@bath.ac.uk
Esther Collas	CNRS - CDS, Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg	Strasbourg, France	esther.collas@astro.unistra.fr
Jenny Ostrop	University of Bergen	Norway	jenny.ostrop@uib.no
Maja Dolinar	Slovenian Social Science Data Archives	Slovenia	maja.dolinar@fdv.uni-lj.si
Lauren Cadwallader	PLOS	UK	lcadwallader@plos.org
Andrew Treloar	ARDC	AU	andrew.treloar@ardc.edu.au
Romain David	ERINHA	FR/BE	romain.david@erinha.eu

Jakub Šindelář	National Library of Technology	Prague, Czech Republic	jakub.sindelar@techlib.cz
Paul Richards	UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)	UK	paul.richards@ukri.org
Dylan Pivo	SAEON	South Africa	d.pivo@saeon.ac.za
Anne Cambon-Thomsen	CNRS	France	anne.cambon-thomsen@univ-tlse3.fr
Ville Tenhunen	EGI Foundation	Savonlinna, Finland	ville.tenhunen@egi.eu
Dale Peters	Independent	South Africa	Dale.peters@uct.ac.za
Janez Štebe	UL/ADP RDA Slovenia	Slovenia	Janez.stebe@fdv.uni-lj.si
Parul Tewatia	Scilifelab Data Centre	Sweden	parul.tewatia@scilifelab.se
Lassi Lager	CSC	Finland	lassi.lager@csc.fi
Matti Heikkurinen	RDA Europe	Belgium/Switzerland	matti.heikkurinen@rda-foundation.org
Louise Bezuidenhout	Leiden University	Netherlands	l.m.bezuidenhout@cwts.leidenuniv.nl
Takudzwa N Musarurwa	University of Cape Town	South Africa	tnmusarurwa@gmail.com
Martyn Rittman	Crossref	Germany	mriddman@crossref.org
Jenny O'Neill	HEAnet	Ireland	jenny.oneill@heanet.ie
Allyson Lister	FAIRsharing, University of Oxford	UK	allyson.lister@oerc.ox.ac.uk
Daniëlle Seymour	SAEON	South Africa	da.seymour@saeon.nrf.ac.za
Najiah Sadali	Universiti Malaya	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	najiahms@um.edu.my

Urša Opara Krašovec	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia	ursa.opara@fe.uni-lj.si
Rory Macneil	Research Space	Scotland	rmacneil@researchspace.com
Yan Wang	TU Delft	Netherlands	y.wang-16@tudelft.nl
Elizabeth Newbold	UKRI-STFC	UK	elizabeth.newbold@stfc.ac.uk
Simon Saldner	KNAW-DANS	Netherlands	simon.saldner@dans.knaw.nl
Esther Plomp	Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences	the Netherlands	e.plomp@tudelft.nl
Giulia Caldoni	UNiversity of Bologna	Italy	giulia.caldoni2@unibo.it
Irina Hope	RDA Foundation	Scotland	irina.hope@rda-foundation.org
Connie Clare	RDA Foundation	England	connie.clare@rda-foundation.org

Meeting agenda

- Introduction: Meeting objectives (10 minutes)
- Presentation of Hilary Hanahoe about her perspective on [the value of regions for RDA Global](#) (15 minutes)
- Information gathering (25 Minutes)
 - [RDA Europe role and activities](#) (Alexandra Delipalta, 10 minutes) - Feedback can be provided below
 - Lightning talks presented by European Partner Countries about their context, priorities and activities, their reasons to establish a partnership with RDA and the activities they would like to organise at the European level.
 - France, Françoise Genova
 - The Netherlands, Margriet Miedema
 - United Kingdom (UK), Rachel Bruce
 - European members of the RDA Regional Assembly are invited to contribute to this shared document along the following lines: why they decided or could decide to establish a formal partnership with the RDA; their priorities and activities in a few words, the activities they would like to be organised at the European level.
 - The participants are invited to express their views about the activities they would like to be organised at the national level and at the European level.
- Discussion of the contributions (30 minutes)

- Summary of the conclusions (10 minutes)

Collaborative Session Notes *(To be used by participants and chairs during the session)*

Hilary's introduction: sound quality was unfortunately poor due to the internet connection. Suggestion from the audience (via zoom chat): Maybe Hilary could re-record her presentation later, and then the organisers could insert that into the session recording afterwards? A general tip: turning on Captions in zoom seems to work quite well, even when audio feed quality isn't very good!

Alex's overview of the RDA Europe's role and support for the regions - [see slides](#).

- Importantly, regions which are interested in committing, or former RDA nodes, can receive support in formalising and growing their engagement with RDA through the RDA Europe
- Alex would welcome comments on her presentation and the framework, either directly, or by adding comments on this document
- **Overall feedback on Alex' talk:**
 - It is wonderful to see that there is so much support available for aspiring regions! It feels very encouraging and welcoming
 -

European Partner and Committed countries

- France [Link to slides](#)
 - Highlights the importance of RDA having a voice nationally, and France having a strong voice within the formal RDA structure.
 - Partnership with RDA falls within the national Open Science strategy.
- The Netherlands [Link to slides](#)
 - Sees a lot of benefits and opportunities of being formally recognised as an RDA region. But also felt the moral responsibility for formally supporting the community from which many individuals and organisations have been benefitting for years
 - Sponsored by NWO (funder) recognised 'moral responsibility' to support
 - 23 things, meet every 3 months to review, <https://23things.sites.uu.nl/>
 - **RDA-NL is organising an in-person meetup** for community members in The Hague on June 12th. Please register in the below form if you're interested in joining us, or if you'd like more details. Hope to see many of you there! 🇳🇱
<https://forms.gle/KJUKgVXx79JUzVtU7>

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- UK [Link to slides](#)
 - Again support coming from a funder (UKRI)
 - Broad support for open research data in the UK (government, funders and the wider research community).
 - Recently established a dedicated forum to ensure alignment with international initiatives, including the RDA
 - The UK has also been a huge supporter of RDA even before its launch in 2013 and the legal headquarters of the RDA are kindly hosted at STFC.
 - Large investment in the UK in Digital Research Infrastructures: <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/creating-world-class-research-and-innovation-infrastructure/digital-research-infrastructure/>
 - Sees RDA as crucial to the international sustainable human infrastructure
- Ireland
 - Again, links to national strategy, National Action Plan for Open Research <https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/ff36jz222>
 - Neutral space for conversations

Why establish a formal partnership with RDA?

Ireland participated in the RDA Europe node (2018-2020) to broaden engagement and support for EU participation in RDA. The National Library of Ireland took the lead while the Digital Repository of Ireland, a longtime supporter of RDA, helped with the set-up and delivery of key activities. The node brought forward a particular focus on data management in galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAM) sector, as well as the social sciences and digital humanities, through its series of events and ‘Meet the Expert’ lectures, spotlight interviews, and other publications. Following the end of the node agreement, DRI was in a position to take over the node activities and align these with the broader goals for building research capacity in Ireland through the National Open Research Forum (NORF) and the National Action Plan for Open Research (2022-2030). Meanwhile GLAM activities have moved over into another Interest Group proposed in the last Plenary session, and also carrying on and broadening the activities of the former Archives and Records Professionals for Research Data IG. RDA continues to be a valuable place for cross-disciplinary, and cross-national exchange of ideas.

Our priorities and activities

DRI took over the national RDA in Ireland group in early 2023 and has hosted a session for “Newcomers to RDA” specifically for Irish participants. The group also sponsored a co-located event for this Plenary, aimed at bringing together conversations about PIDs that could help action an engagement plan for Ireland’s developing national PID strategy [unfortunately postponed to November]. We aim to continue to use the group to connect more national-level data conversations with international developments through the RDA.

The activities we would like to be organised at the European level

The RDA in Ireland group has the potential to be a single connector group for national-level coordination and support, bringing conversations together that are happening in different places in support of Open Research. It would be interesting to hear from others how to encourage that capacity and sustain it.

- Portugal

Why we consider relevant the establishment of a formal partnership with RDA

By the time our RDA Europe node run (2018-2020) it became clear that researchers from various fields and experts in charge of RDM at research-performing organisations in Portugal were interested in getting in touch with RDM best practices but did not find the right channels. The activities in the node engaged people from different areas and the participation in RDA plenaries helped them meet their communities and get in touch with relevant materials and experiments.

The end of support for the RDA Europe nodes interrupted this path and in late 2021 conversations between Hilary Hanahoe and an element of the board of the Portuguese science funding agency FCT resulted in a signed MoU that was expected to lead the way for new support in a model similar to the node. This was unfortunately discontinued due to changes in the agency and the difficulty of enacting the partnership. As coordinators, we consider that a new take on the idea of a very light infrastructure for the RDA liaison in Portugal should be attempted.

Our priorities and activities

- Identification of clear lines of support by RDA to the Portuguese research communities;
- Re-enactment of the connection with the Portuguese science funding agency FCT;
- Re-organisation of the node coordination: recruiting new elements and taking advantage of voluntary work in a manner similar to the node support group.

The activities we would like to be organised at the European level

The most important aspect for the activation of a strong national instance of RDA is a clear charter of RDA activities that can be articulated with the generic activities of a funding agency. Examples of this are resources for data management in national calls and requirements for data management in work performed under PhD scholarships.

Country contributions

Please post your contribution along the following lines:

- *The country name*
- *Why you decided or could decide to establish a formal partnership with RDA*
- *Your priorities and activities in a few words*
- *The activities you would like to be organised at the European level - **Feedback on Alex' talk.***

Community contributions

Please post your contributions along the following lines:

- *Indicate your name and country if you wish*
- *The activities you would like to be organised at the national level*
- *The activities you would like to be organised at the European/continental level -*

Feedback on Alex' talk

- *Really valued the RDA France webinar. Would be great to see more countries / regions doing similar presentations. Thats a great inspiration re sort of activities which could be done at a regional level*
- *Ideally, it should be not only regional representatives talking to one another, but the entire communities working together*

Anne CT (France) : Just a note : incredibly interesting to listen; I thought I knew a lot on RDA in Europe... and learn a lot! How could we have European exchanges between nodes increased : we can learn a lot from other nodes; what we do in that session could be increased ?

- *RDA Europe is planning to reach out to all "legacy" nodes and to develop tailored plans how to re-engage with them/better support them*

Francoise: reactivating champions/ambassadors of RDA within the regions

- Repeat session: <https://rdavp22.events.whova.com/Agenda/3707216>

[From a past perspective of being in a TG trying to reach out to the wider community for engagement in an activity]: is there a way to help facilitate a better bridge between RDA IGs/WGs and the wider community via these regional/national nodes to help disseminate/reach out? (esp to step beyond the Euro-centric barriers that can often occur)

Anne CT :

- Organise language-based communities within RDA (eg. French speakers from France, Africa, Canada, Switzerland etc.) could gather together around RDA plenaries.
Lowering language barriers could stimulate participation

Ville Tenhunen (EGI Foundation). Thank you for these presentations. It is good to hear about the current state of these initiatives. One question or comment for RDA Europe; In Europe we have a lot of nationally, locally or EC funded projects where realisation of data

management procedures and mechanisms has been implemented or executed. Is there any initiative to collaborate with these projects or their partners (RDA members) to discuss harmonisation of these habits (such as vocabularies, metadata, PID, models etc.) or experiences in data architecture/infrastructure/management implementations in Europe. Or is it just an EOSC issue?