



Research Data Alliance Association in Europe



What is RDA Association?

- 🌐 Increase knowledge of RDA Association
 - What are we?
 - Who are we?
 - What do we do?
 - What can we do?
- 🌐 Present the new RDA TIGER project
- 🌐 Find out how the RDA Association could help YOU





Research Data Alliance Association



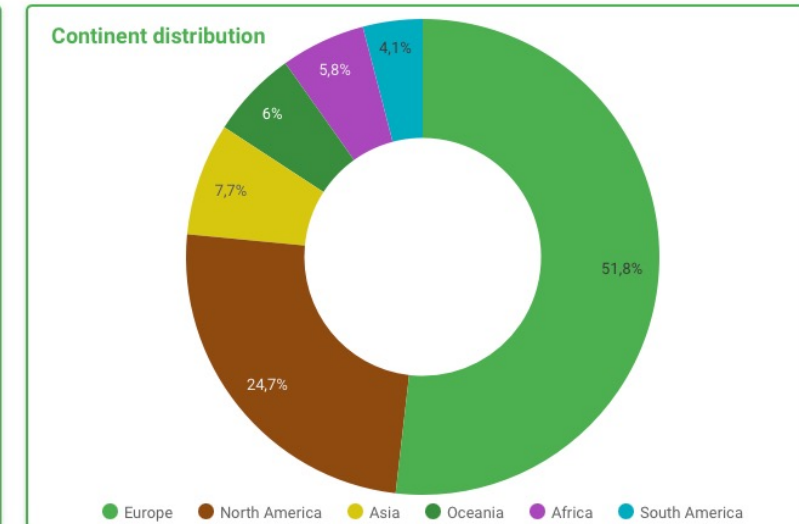
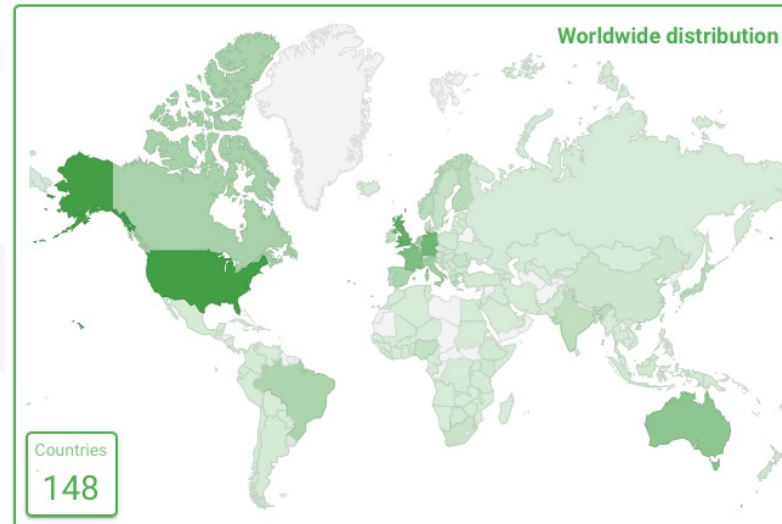
History of the RDA in Europe

RDA has traditionally been very strong in Europe

- One of the main organisers of RDA in general was the European Commission
- Supported by a linked projects and initiatives, building up the global RDA community and engaging with the European partners

RDAs membership is very European:

- 51,8% of all members are from region of Europe
- Most of the organisational members are from Europe
- Most of the Regional Assembly members are European





Need for European RDA Association

- Projects with different organisations coordinating, is not very feasible model for RDA in the long run.
 - **RDA Foundation** was found in 2015 as the legal entity responsible for Global RDA secretariat. It is an UK non-profit charitable organisation.
- However, different regions have their own communities, and coordinating one of them (EU) from the global office is not feasible.
 - Additionally, after Brexit, the Foundation can not receive EU grants
- This led to founding of RDA Association ASBL 2020 (later RDA AISBL 2021) to help coordinate the European activities and support for RDA



RDA Association AISBL

- 🌐 Founded in 2021 as AISBL, **Non-profit international Association** under the Belgian law
 - Independent association (no legal/financial dependence on RDA Foundation)
- 🌐 Official name: “Research Data Alliance Association AISBL”
- 🌐 Based in Brussels, Belgium,
 - no actual office at the moment, but uses *EOSC Association* offices for meetings, etc.
- 🌐 Works as a fully remote organisation
 - Employees in Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy*, Ireland and Switzerland
 - Very low overhead, administratively and financially
- 🌐 Naming still bit varied: RDA Europe, RDA-A, RDA European Office, RDA Association...



RDA Association mission and vision (under development)

Vision (same as RDA):

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

Mission:

“Inspire, cultivate and support **European** communities, organisations and individuals to develop and implement globally agreeable solutions to enable open sharing and re-use of data through the Research Data Alliance (RDA).”



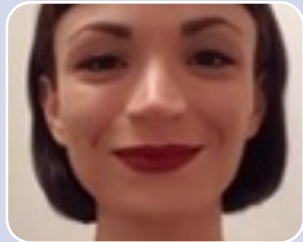
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Financial officer
(part time,
contractor)
(Belgium)

- 4 full time, 1 part time
- Almost all work on external projects, only Director and FO have some tasks for the Association directly
- Remote work, with advantages and disadvantages
- Additional staff hired short-term with contractor / consultant basis



Board of the Association



Hilary Hanahoe



Ingrid Dillo,
President



Edit Herczog



Sandra Collins



What does the RDA Association do?

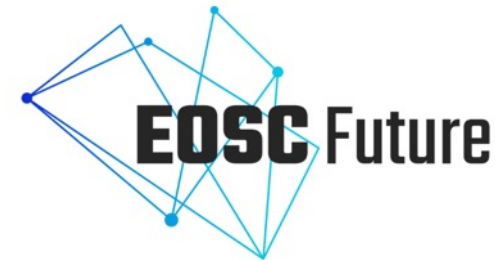


Current Activities (2022)

- Three main projects from the European Commission Horizon programme(s). All related to Open Science, Open Data, and connected to European Open Science Cloud.
 - EOSC FUTURE
 - WorldFAIR
 - FAIRImpact
- Additional recent activities
 - providing in-kind support in context of these projects to the RDA Secretariat e.g. on plenary preparation, communication activities related to 10 year anniversary
 - Collaboration with EOSC Association on mapping Key Exploitable Results from recent EOSC projects – particularly to find out how to further them in RDA.
 - Supporting creation of CoARA (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment)



EOSC FUTURE and RDA Association



- EOSC FUTURE is a major project (40M€), “*implementing the European Open Science Cloud*”, Coordinated by Athina/Technopolis. 2021-2023
- RDA Association main tasks in WP10 (**communication/engagement**):
 - Managing, preparing and supporting the **Cascading Grants** for RDA support (total of 1M€ of grants)
 - Mini-Projects
 - RDA Ambassador programme
 - *Widening EOSC Awareness and Engagement in underrepresented communities* (transferred to linked third party DRI (Ireland))
 - *Synchronising EOSC with Global Open Science Initiatives* (GORC WG/IG)
 - *RDA Maintenance facility* (contracted to DANS)
- Additional smaller tasks in interoperability (standardisation), strategic coordination, portal development



RDA Calls and engagement



- 🌐 Public calls: <https://eoscfuture-grants.eu>
- 🌐 All evaluated by independent expert evaluation group
- 🌐 Small projects (5k€-50k€)
 - Cross disciplinary science adoption grants
 - Optimizing RDA Open Science Frameworks (in EOSC context)
 - RDA Open Call for RDA Working Groups
 - RDA Open Call for RDA Communities of Practice
 - RDA / EOSC Future Call for Interoperability Framework Contributions (OPEN)
- 🌐 RDA Plenary support (Gothenburg)



RDA ambassadors



Create incentive for researchers to share their data FAIRly

- Sofie Meeus is a researcher and data steward at Meise Botanic Garden...

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Broadly train linguists in the methods of open science

- Helene N. Andreassen is a Senior Research Librarian and head of...

[\[Learn more\]](#)



16S rRNA gene microbial community data - A dedicated database

- Dr. Stephanie Jurburg, Postdoctoral Researcher, German Centre for...

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Domain Ambassador for catalysis

- Pedro Mendes, assistant professor at Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal...)

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Domain Ambassador for Ethics & Law

- Francis P. Crawley, Executive Director of the Good Clinical Practice...

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Domain Ambassador for social sciences

- Geta Mitrea, is a lecturer at University Stefan cel Mare of Suceava...

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Open science and FAIR data management practices into the arctic data community

- Jonas Koefoed Roemer, Data Manager and Analyst at Aarhus University

[\[Learn more\]](#)



"Ask Me Anything" style events on FAIR implementation and Open practices in Science

- Sara El-Gebali is the co-founder of FAIRPoints

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Information about RMD tools developed for the MSE community

- Marek Cebecauer, head of the Czech Working Group for Material...

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Domain Ambassador for human immunogenetics and health ethics

- Anne Cambon-Thomsen, French medical doctor specialised in human...

[\[Learn more\]](#)



Domain Ambassador for standards, repositories and policies

- Allyson Lister, FAIRsharing Content & Community Lead at the...

[\[Learn more\]](#)





FAIRImpact



- FAIR-Impact is a medium sized EOSC related project that “focuses on expanding FAIR solutions across the EOSC”, and is based on the work in the successful FAIRsFAIR initiative. Coordination by DANS (NL), 2022-24
- RDA Association works on the **Interoperability** Work Package (legal, organisational, semantic, technical)
 - Bridging the knowledge & development on of RDA groups to to the FAIR-Impact & EOSC
 - Connecting to other initiatives and developments (e.g. WorldFAIR)



WorldFAIR

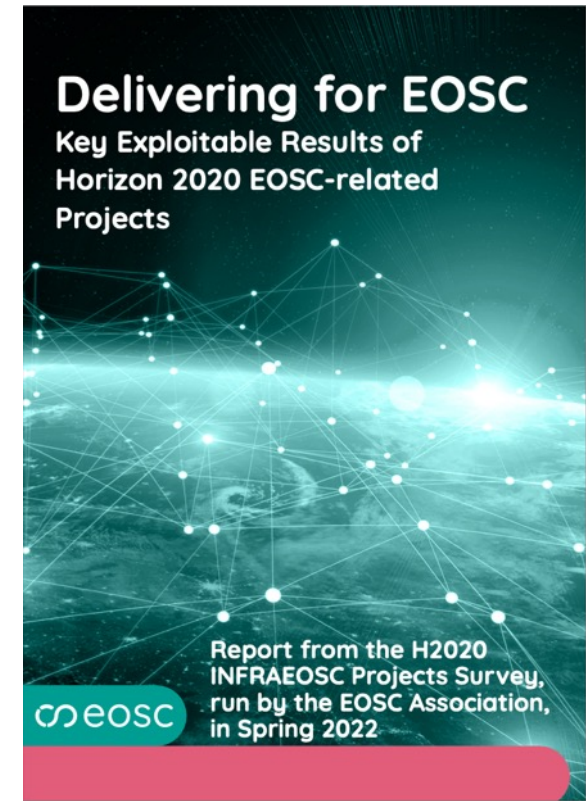
- Series of Case Studies from a wide range of fields
 - Creation of FAIR implementation profiles
- Truly international, most partners outside of EU
- Coordinated by CODATA with RDA-A support. 2022-2024, small project
- RDA-A main tasks in **Communication and Engagement**
- Additional support to WPs via external consultant hire





Support to RDA activities & European initiatives

- Communication with the Commission on RDA issues
- Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) - RDA provided the template for their activities, and RDA-A has interest to support joint activities.
- Secretariat support (comms, meetings, etc.)
- Joint action with EOSC Association on EOSC project output mapping





Overview

- Non-Profit association supporting European level RDA activities, and providing support for the global RDA from European perspective
- Most of the activities now connected with EOSC
- Highly EC-project based (3 major projects underway)
 - Sustainability?
 - Project-specific goals limit the strategic support for RDA
 - Activities: 3rd Party support, liaisoning, engagement, landscape information, communications
- Creation of Association strategy and long-term plans underway
 - Not intended to replace any national activities or global secretariat – We try help the Europeans to work together in RDA!
- This event is the first active step towards understanding stakeholders
 - YOU are a key stakeholder for us!



RDA TIGER project





Background / Call



- Based on the HORIZON-INFRA-2022-EOSC-01-04 call
 - EOSC Partnership call (i.e. close collaboration with EOSC association/projects)
 - Coordination & support action
 - *“Support for initiatives helping to generate global standards, specifications and recommendations for open sharing of fair research data, publications and software”*
- Strong intent from the EC to keep supporting RDA
 - Policy priorities include:
 - EOSC
 - Research Assessment
 - Research outputs / quality evaluation in wider sense
- Not so clear support for national level RDA activities



Problem mapping



● Prior to submission in April 2022, we conducted internal analyses of the challenges in RDA Working Groups (in & out of RDA)



WG chairing takes a lot of time and effort

Output creation can be challenging and would need support



Some WGs would need (small) additional funds for tasks (testing, adoption, etc)

Sometimes you only get the RDA “usual suspects”
Sometimes due to lack of knowledge, sometimes due to lack of funds



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Project main idea



- “Provide **services to facilitate and support** well-defined Working Groups between key European and international initiatives, resulting in concrete alignment, harmonisation, and standardisation of Open Science developments and technologies globally”
- Service provision for the Working Groups
 - lower barrier to start the WG work,
 - quality-of-life improvements, added efficiency, visibility
 - improved quality of outputs, more impactful outcomes
 - Increased attractiveness of RDA WGs as a tool to solve issues globally



RDA TIGER Core info



- 3 M€ budget
- 3 years, 1/2023-12/2025
- Partners:
 - RDA Association
 - CODATA
 - KNAW-DANS
 - NL EScienceCenter
- Coordination & Support Action
- Full name “Research Data Alliance facilitation of Targeted International working Groups for EOSC-related Research solutions”



Service-based support



- 🌐 WGs can apply to get specific services provided for them
- 🌐 We intend to provide a wide range of services, ranging from facilitation to travel grants
- 🌐 Not all supported WGs will need all of the services
- 🌐 Service content is developed during project time
 - Pre-selected WGs provide first pilot development as co-design joint activity



Who can get the support?



The selection of the services is based on the Selection board activity

Members from Consortium, RDA, EOOSC, etc.

Transparent selection process

Service extent (e.g. amount of travel grant) part of decision process

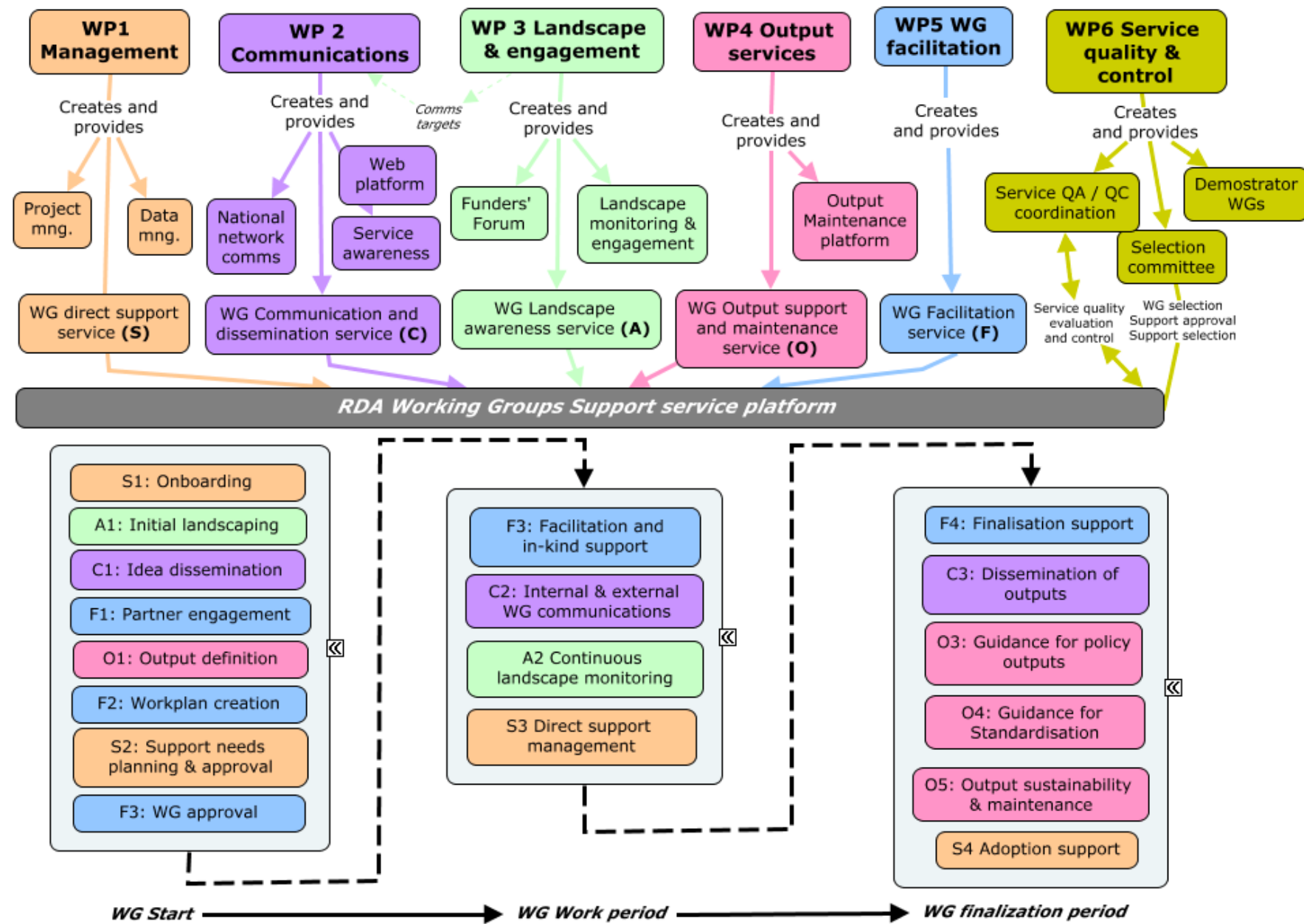
Based on the call priorities, main impact areas:

- Mechanisms and tools for creation, sharing, management and re-use of research outputs (e.g. data, software, publications, workflows, protocols, and methodologies);
- Facilitating scientific multidisciplinary cooperation;
- Efficient handling or providing seamless access to large volumes of research outputs;
- Increasing FAIRness, openness and quality of scientific research in Europe and globally;
- Creation of more meaningful monitoring and research evaluation mechanisms, enabling better reproducibility, validation and re-use of research outputs, or improving pathways for communication of science to the public.



Note:

- 1) WG applicant nationality does **not** matter, but
- 2) Priority is given to WG with **some** connection to EOOSC





Direct support to WGs



- The RDA TIGER can give limited direct grant support for WGs (*Cascading Calls* mechanism)
 - Grants given directly to a 3rd party to support the actual main activities of the WG, and adoption. Up to 60k€.
 - Minor grants meant for travel purposes for key WG personnel to participate in the WG meetings. Typically only part of the travel costs can be covered.
 - Hiring of external experts for specific tasks, such as data analysis, report writing help, editing, graphic design, IPR consultancy, or workshop organisation.
- These support grants are managed by RDA Association



Communications and engagement



Working Group services:

- WG idea dissemination to potential members
- WG internal and external communications
- WG output communications

General communications

- Service awareness (dissemination to potential applicants)
- Communication support for RDA
- RDA Websystem direct support (funding)

RDA Association responsible

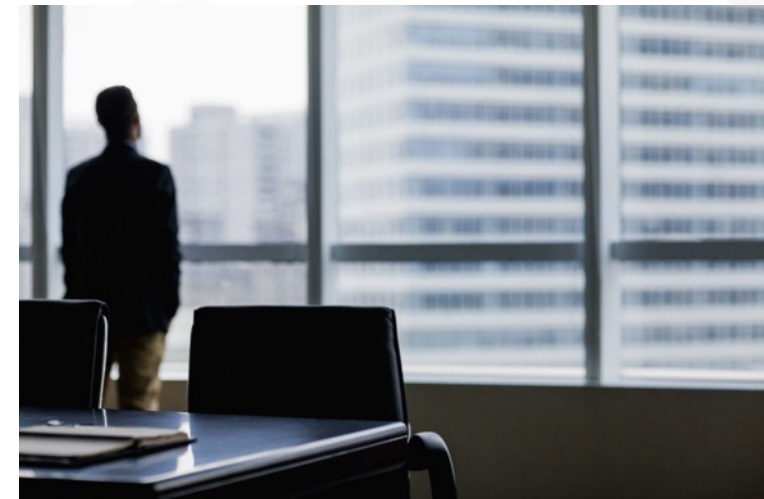




Landscape monitoring and engagement



- 🌐 Trying to solve “who should be in the RDA group? And how do we get them to join?”
- 🌐 Continuous mapping of the Open Science landscape, intending to cover key areas of the RDA TIGER. In and outside of the typical RDA environments
- 🌐 Provides WGs services:
 - Initial landscape analysis (starting WG)
 - Landscape monitoring (during WG work)
- 🌐 RDA Association and CODATA responsible





Facilitation and coordination of WGs



- Intended to provide in-kind help for the WG operations, lowering the workload of members (“experts should be able to be experts”)
- Facilitation services include
 - Partner engagement
 - Workplan creation
 - WG facilitation (working time), meetings, tools, practicalities, support
 - Finalisation services (“last mile support”)
- RDA Association, CODATA and eScienceCenter (ReSA) responsible





Output support



- Provides guidance and tools for the WG output creation and maintenance.
- Major part is the RDA Maintenance Facility (work started in EOOSC FUTURE)
 - New platform (developed by DANS) for output annotation, and connectivity to wide range of other digital entities (graph database)
- Guidance on output creation, formating, etc
 - Policy oriented outputs (target audiences, forms, communications)
 - Technical outputs (standardisation pathways, communications)



Service development & quality control



- All services are created together with pilot WGs
 - Two existing ones: GORC, National PID strategies
 - Four potential new ones
- Services are intended to be created for long-time use
 - Inclusion of key performance targets
 - Service quality monitoring and user satisfaction
 - External training for project staff
- Managed by RDA Association





Is there anything for RDA National Networks in Europe?



- Due to call limitations, there was relatively little direct support to be provided for national networks
- Communication WG includes
 - potential use for “translation services” to communicate RDA outputs/WG documents to national languages (limited budget)
 - Communication with European National Networks to coordinate their actions



RDA TIGER in nutshell



- Provides RDA with potential new services improving the efficiency and attractiveness of RDA Working Groups
- Practical service provision starts in 2023, and will be more mature by 2024
- RDA Association will be open about the provided services, and the service provision will be evaluated transparently