

Data Stewardship Curricula and Career Paths

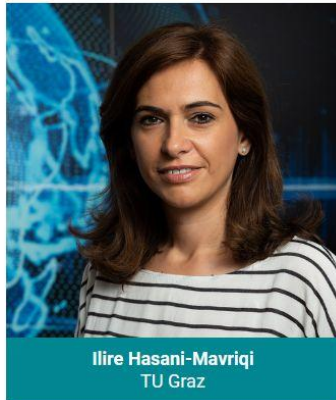
EOSC TF One Year After
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16 | 11 | 2022 by Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi (Graz University of
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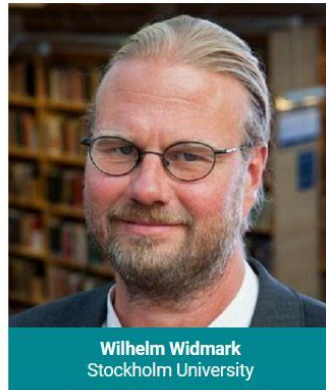


Data Stewardship Curricula and Career Paths

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- 25 members (5 new members in 2022)
 - experts from 18 European countries and main stakeholder groups: universities, national organisations/initiatives/infrastructures, EOSC related projects, research infrastructures
- Co-chairs: Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi, Vera Matser (until April 2022), Celia van Gelder (from April 2022)

Goals

Focus: Data Steward role and their core activities

- Work on data stewardship job roles and curricula to ensure these are **recognized** and **aligned across Europe**
- Develop recommendations for potential career paths taking into account appropriate **recognition and rewards for data management activities**
- Actively engage with stakeholders and build on previous work: **build, connect & consolidate**
- Identify (existing and new) **use cases implementing** data stewardship curricula and career paths
- Ensure a **co-creation** process between **theoretical** development and **implementation** examples

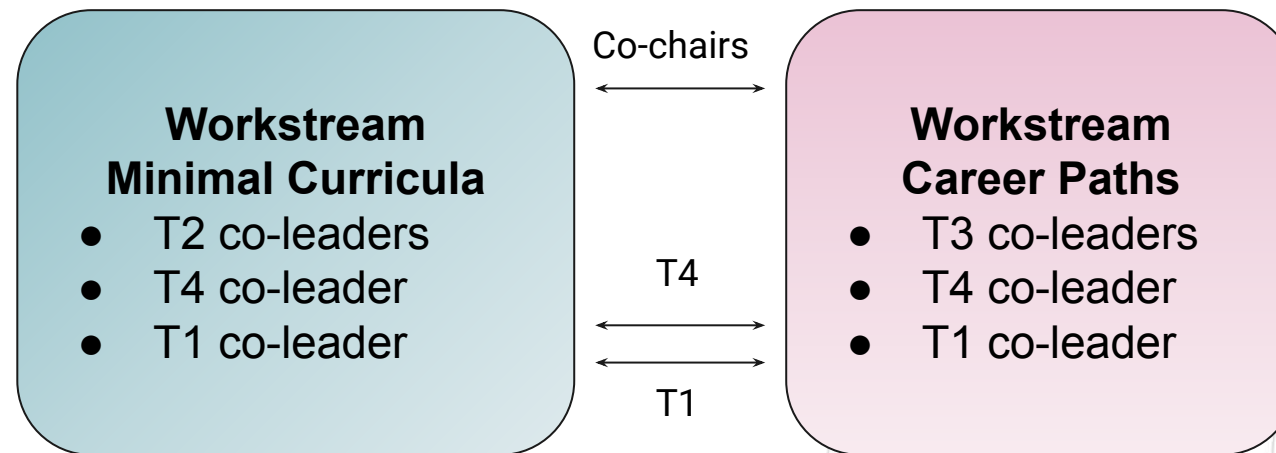
Structure of activities

T1: Stakeholder management and dissemination

T2: Definition of a minimal data stewardship curricula

T3: Career paths for Data Stewards and associated roles

T4: Implementation examples using use cases



Monthly plenary meetings, regular workstreams meetings and writing sprints

Current results: Alignment

- Captured all the good practices, implementation examples, use cases, recommendations for all stakeholders
- RDA Interest Groups (joint sessions):
 - RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship IG ([Data Stewardship Landscape Initial Report](#))
 - RDA Education and Training on handling of research data IG ([Models of Data Stewardship Survey Initial Report](#))
- EOSC-A TFs: Research careers, recognition and credit and Upskilling countries to engage in EOSC
- Communication and coordination with Skills4EOSC project, particularly Task 4 “Training for data professionals”
- Initiatives or projects implementing recommendations from the Digital Skills for FAIR and Open Science report : e.g. the universities through EUA and EU alliances (UnaEuropa) and Institutional Networks (The Guild, LERU)

Current results: Data stewardship curricula

Task overview and literature review

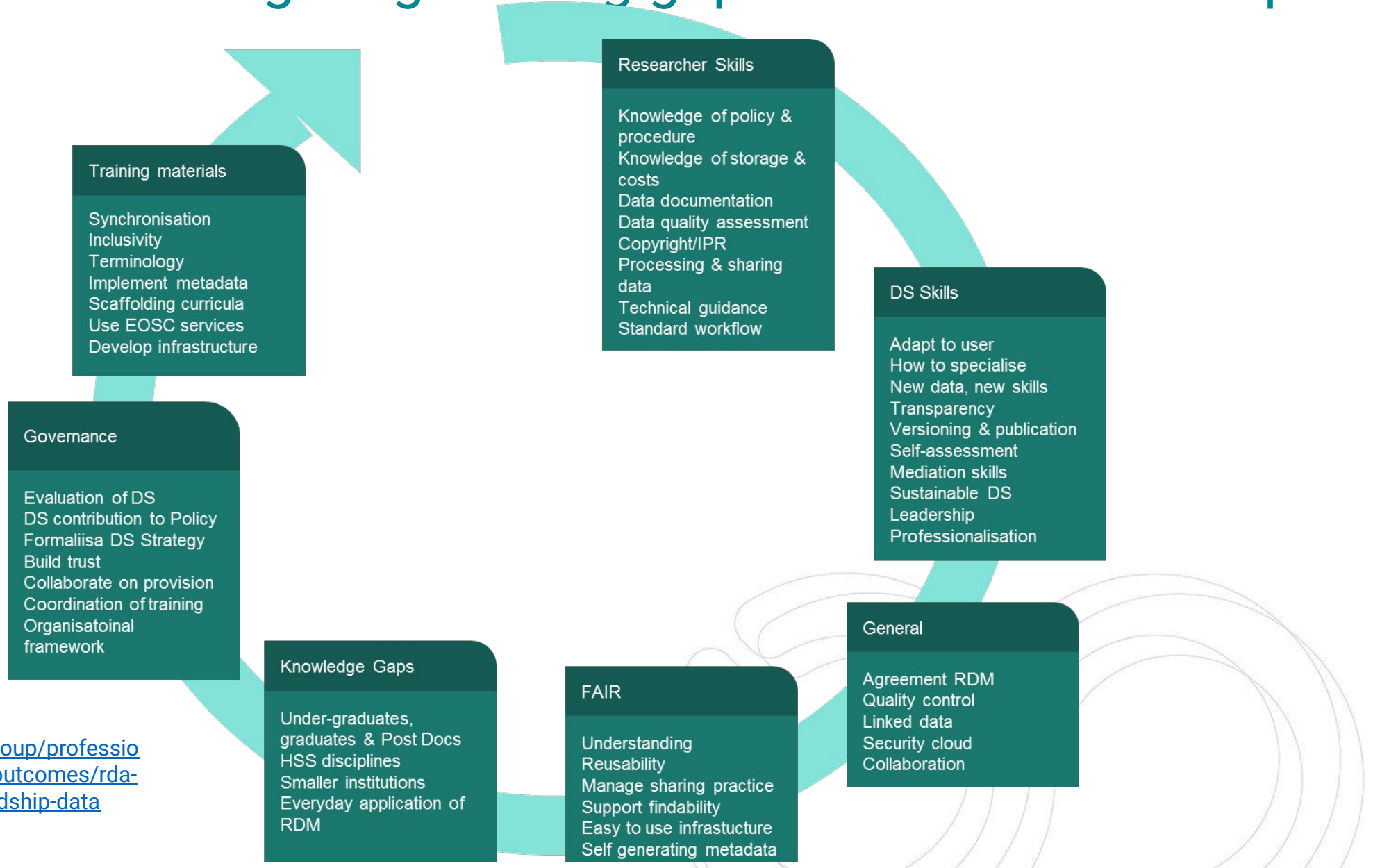
- **Data Stewards roles**, their **core activities**, possible **specialisations or extension activities**, and the **context** in which these roles operate
- Define **levels of training needed** by the different Data Steward roles
- Produce guidelines for a **Data Stewardship curricula**, which could include university curricula as well as short training

Literature review outlining:

- **Skills, roles and competencies**
- **Context: models & landscape**
- **Training and curricula**



Main findings of the RDA landscape study investigating training gaps in data stewardship



Current results: Data stewardship curricula

Milestone report

Applying the following lenses:

- National perspective: Policy Makers & funders
- Institutional: RPOs
- RIs & e-infras

Each chapter of the report will give (per stakeholder/lens) a consolidation of relevant reports and their outcomes/recommendations/challenges/best practices, complemented by use cases/case studies that TF members are contributing from their organisations/perspectives

National/institutional use cases/case studies so far: Austria, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK

Current results: Data stewardship career paths

State-of-the-art

Premise: Alongside appropriate capacity building, data stewardship careers have to be created to attract the right kind of people, so that data stewards can be **hired** and **retained** by institutions

First insights from the **State-of-the-Art Report on Data Stewardship Career Paths**

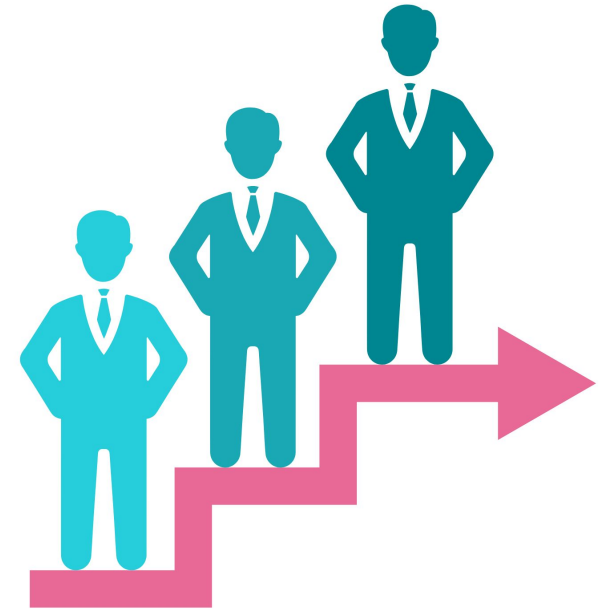
- Very few (empirical) sources available on career paths of data stewards
- Most organisations focus on hiring and training of new data stewards
- Developing sustainable career paths is not being addressed in a systematic way
- The distinctions among various roles and titles still unclear (data librarian/manager/steward ...)
- Data stewards are rarely seen on the same level as researchers → frustration with the role
- A strong (academic) background in a specific domain seen as crucial to the role
- Data stewardship roles require technical skills – typically not part of most curricula

Current results: Data stewardship career paths

Relevant Areas for Further Study

Studies on data stewardship career paths should take into account (a selection):

- Educational history (including whether they have a PhD)
- Employment history
- Official job title
- Role in institution (embedded/disciplinary vs. generic)
- Research role vs. a support role
- Leadership and training opportunities
- Satisfaction with salary and future prospects
- Overall job satisfaction



Next steps

- Submit for review the state-of-the-art report on data stewardship career paths
- Finalize the first draft of the report on minimal curricula and start the consultation process
- Aligning with and building on the surveys from:
 - RDA IG Professionalising Data Stewardship
 - OpenAIRE Task Force Data Steward
- Joint session with Skills4EOSC project



Contact

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- <https://www.eosc.eu/advisory-groups/data-stewardship-curricula-and-career-paths>

