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 Technology), Lorna Wildgaard (University of Copenhagen), Iryna Kuchma (OpenAIRE), Tereza Kalová (University of Vienna), Francesca Frontini (CLARIN ERIC), Celia van Gelder (DTL)
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)
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**
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

**Structure of activities**

**Workstream Minimal Curricula**
- T2 co-leaders
- T4 co-leader
- T1 co-leader

**Workstream Career Paths**
- T3 co-leaders
- T4 co-leader
- T1 co-leader

Co-chairs

Monthly plenary meetings, regular workstreams meetings and writing sprints
• 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

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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
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
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
• 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