TAKING RESEARCH DATA INFRASTRUCTURES ACROSS NEW FRONTIERS

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Objectives

It is widely known that data volumes and complexity will increase in science and other areas of life and that data will become the key resource to tackle the big challenges in the world. Neelie Kroes formulated that "Knowledge is the engine of our economy. And data is its fuel.". Therefore the Riding the Wave report of EC's HLEG stated that we need global collaboration in overcoming the hurdles for easy data sharing and interoperability. We need to start now to build the components and bridges we will need in a few years to manage volumes and complexity. This is the motivation behind RDA and RDA/E is the European branch of it funded by the European commission through the iCORDI project.

RDA Europe (europe.rd-alliance.org) is the European plugin into global RDA activities. The Research Data Alliance (http://rd-alliance.org) aims to facilitate the global research data sharing and exchange. This international effort encourages increasing interest among people who wish to participate to global research data initiatives. There is a parallelism of community based harmonization approaches, including worldwide active communities, stimulated by answering the big scientific and societal challenges and driven by the need to address cross-disciplinary challenges.

On-going activities:

The RDA Europe strategic vision is to make an important contribution to the development of policy for the management and curation of scientific data, leading to a common policy that drives the development of a wider global infrastructure.

To achieve this vision, RDA Europe will be driven by the RDA Europe Forum comprising experts on policy for the management and curation of data, collectively making strategic recommendations fostering the convergence of data integration, interoperability and infrastructures. Three key pillars underpin the RDA Europe combined top-down/bottom-up approach:

An analysis programme: assessing data organisation techniques and solutions emerging from various scientific communities that can motivate common approaches.

A prototype programme: coordinating activities between important projects and communities by supporting cross-infrastructure experiments on interoperability.

A workshop programme: investigating the convergence of data infrastructure with particular focus on a broad set of scientific disciplines.

Results:

The RDA Europe Forum brings together 10 experts, chaired by John Wood, RDA Council & Secretary General Association of Commonwealth Universities, that help policy makers define strategic plans and provide input to the Research Data Alliance (RDA) process. For this purpose it defines recommendations to foster the convergence of data integration, interoperability and infrastructures.

Divided into four main themes the prototyping programme has entered a second phase as consolidated as well as new prototypes are aligned more strongly with the RDA Working and Interest Group efforts and the Alliance overall activities. The work to analyze the data organizations of various communities has proceeded and produced many useful analyses to be fed into the RDA process. The RDA Europe Collaboration platform is supporting the effort to collaborate, pursue excellent science, foster convergence, and avoid duplication. RDA and RDA Europe are working towards capturing requirements and issues standing in the way through international forum exchanges, analysis and an extended workshop programme.

URL: http://europe.rd-alliance.org