Organizational Update and Request for Assistance

Dear RDA Individual Member,

The OAB Task Force (TF), responding to a request from the RDA Council, has prepared the attached invitation to join RDA as an Organizational Member. In this document the OAB TF is addressing the important concept of RDA Organizational Members. To succeed RDA needs to utilize, among other things, two interlinked capabilities:

- a sustainable financial model for itself, and
- visibility and uptake of its output

The RDA is a volunteer based organisation. However the RDA will need adequate support, which will require paid staff and leadership. The suggested approach avoids a model where RDA needs to charge a substantial fee for meetings or require paid membership for attending meetings or even participating in any way, as is the case in some other organizations. The goal of the proposal is to make it easy for individuals to participate and to maximize global input into the RDA output.

Our proposed sustainability plan builds on Research Data Alliance Colloquium (RDAC) support, supplemented by Organizational Members and small meeting fees. This approach should be sufficient for the coming years and will be reevaluated and altered periodically as needed to find multiple and new approaches to financing RDA activities and promoting the uptake of its output. RDA needs, for the starting phase, a relatively small amount of reliable income and the government sponsors (RDAC) need to know RDA has a plan to supplement and/or refine them over time and RDA needs to avoid to putting up financial barriers to the participation of individual members.

The keys to RDA’s success will be the researchers and engineers who formulate and resolve the problems RDA needs to address. However the RDA needs organizations to adopt the output. Getting agreements in Working Groups and postings on the RDA web site doesn’t mean they will automatically get used. So RDA needs organizational buy-in to help with uptake. Organizational Members are critical to the
success of RDA; they will be instrumental in developing and implementing global
data exchange systems. RDA needs to create a flourishing landscape where
organizational members have advantages as paying members and also feel that they
have a greater stake in the success of RDA.

We very much value your views, input and collaboration in attracting new
Organizational members to RDA. The OAB TF kindly asks you to distribute the
within your institute and other institutes you think might be interested in joining
RDA as an Organizational Member.

For further questions please feel free to contact:

Juan Bicarregui (juan.bicarregui@stfc.ac.uk) and/or
Leif Laaksonen (leif.laaksonen@csc.fi)

The completed Organizational Member Application form can be returned to the mail
address:

| enquiries@rd-alliance.org |

Kind Regards,

OAB Task Force

Source:

This message has gone through mail to all Individual Members of RDA, who have
registered through the RDA web site (www.rd-alliance.org).