



## RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship - Data Stewardship Landscape Initial Report

### The Challenge:

There is a need for data stewardship to be professionalised and education programs put in place to train the large cohort of data scientists and data stewards required to support the transition to both Open and FAIR data management and research practices. Combined with the lack of sufficient funding, the lack of educational opportunities for data stewards also limits vital developments such as recruiting procedures and the definition of career paths for current and future data stewards. In the meantime, data stewards exist and requests for their help continue to increase. To our knowledge, a coherent approach and dedicated training for data stewardship on an (inter)national level is lacking.



Produced by: **Professionalising Data Stewardship IG**  
<https://rd-alliance.org/groups/professionalising-data-stewardship-ig>

## What is the solution?

The key is to build capacity, enable groups within and across organisations (and countries) to work together and share good practices – so that good data stewardship becomes the rule, not the exception. Hence training and curricula need to accommodate the needs of the researcher, the organisation, the discipline and the data steward. Hence, defining where to start developing data steward curricula and training in reality is anything but simple. We suggest starting by looking at what has been done and gaps in training identified in the literature surrounding the education and role of data stewards. In this way various capabilities and gaps are flagged. As such we aim to provide a footing from which progress can be made towards coherent training and education and possibly national if not disciplinary alignment.

## What is the impact?

The main take-home messages from this review are: 1) Collaborate internationally on certified training; 2) Enable researchers to share their data from the planning stage of their project and 3) Address the increased need for technical skills in data stewardship. The report offers 197 solutions compiled from literature to bridge gaps in data stewardship. The output can be used to identify and recommend learning pathways for data stewards, and to identify use cases to concretize the solutions in order to provide a valuable tool for data stewards. The results of the report could be used to contribute to the Competency Hub pages on Data Stewardship, the continuing work of the EOSC Taskforce or the creation of new educational materials for RDA task group developing curricula. The report will also give valuable information to all who are interested in developing their data stewardship skills needed to better serve the needs of researchers.

**Find out more about the  
Supporting Output from the  
Professionalising Data  
Stewardship IG**



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