RDA Secretary General Update for RDA Organisational Assembly
18 June 2020

1. **RDA COVID19 Recommendations and Guidelines for Data Sharing**: a gentle reminder that the version for RDA governance board endorsement was circulated to all OA members on Monday 15 June and feedback and comments are welcomed before midnight UTC on 22 June 2020. Please provide feedback via [Google document](mailto:hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org) (to facilitate the editorial team). For anyone who prefers not to use Google documents, please feel free to send feedback directly to me at hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org. Final publication is planned for 30 June 2020.

2. **RDA Adoption Week**: The wonderful RDA Secretariat successfully organised a complete week of [RDA adoption sessions](mailto:hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org) focusing on the different categories of the RDA Outputs Catalogue. A total of 10 webinars (two per day) are running from 15 – 19 June, aiming to offer different time zones the opportunity to attend. All webinars are recorded and made available after the webinars via the RDA web platform.

3. **RDA 16th Virtual Plenary Meeting Call for Sessions Launched**: the secretariat recently launched the [call for breakouts sessions](mailto:hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org) and it is open until 4 August 2020. The Secretariat together with the P16 local organizing committee are investigating the most efficient and effective technology platform to run the virtual plenary meeting. If feasible, a small, local, physical presence will be facilitated by the Costa Ricans.

4. **RDA in Europe funding**: there are a few changes on the horizon for the RDA in Europe. The current grant finishes at the end of September 2020 and that sees the end of the funding for RDA under a specific RDA focused grant. The next round of funding is due via a call that closed today, 18 June 2020, labelled INFRAEOC-03. RDA in Europe is represented in that grant via the RDA Foundation ASBL (Belgian office) and if the proposal is successfully evaluated, the grant would begin in January 2021. The funding foreseen for RDA covers staff costs to execute activities closely related to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) as well as funding to support European RDA community members for a series of activities.
5. **RDA recognition in Europe**: there have been many references to RDA over the past weeks and months, many related to the COVID-19 work and the secretariat attempts to capture these via the web platform and the social media channels. A few very important mentions are highlighted below:

a. The **European Council Conclusions** on *Shaping Europe's Digital Future*, approved on 9 June 2020, states that “open science principles and Research Data Alliance recommendations are useful for supporting the decision-making authorities in promoting a flexible common approach for the collection, processing and availability of data” and welcomes this in the context of the development of EOSC. This is a very significant occurrence and a very important recognition from one of the highest European Union bodies of the work of RDA.

b. The **European Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP)**, of which RDA has been an active, invited member since its inception in 2014, published their final report in May 2020. On page 12, in reference to the conclusion to set up a “OSPP registry of pilots and implementations of responsible metrics” note “To this end, we are working towards the development of a structured registry (similar in nature to clinicaltrials.gov to ensure full searchability), initiated and shaped by the OSPP and coordinated by the Research Data Alliance (RDA)”. I am currently actively seeking funding, for the RDA Foundation ASBL (BE) initially from the European commission to begin this work, which will have a global perspective.

c. Finally, in preparation for the new European Union funding framework, a Proposal for a European partnership under European Commission’s Horizon Europe funding programme focusing on *European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Partnership* was launched at the end of May and states “**The Research Data Alliance (RDA) has become a recognised actor in the development of standards and good practices for managing research data.**” [...] Many EOSC-projects have already taken concrete initiatives to partner with these organisations and to participate in RDA Working Groups. These relationships will be extended as EOSC reaches new milestones.” A further recognition of the importance of the global RDA community contribution to the European research and open science arena.

For any further information on any of these, or other aspects, please feel free to contact me at hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org.

Thank you to all the RDA Organisational and Affiliate Members, I am very grateful for your continued support, collaboration and cooperation.

*Hilary Hanahoe, RDA Secretary General*