Getting Involved in the Research Data Alliance

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Becoming a Member of the RDA

- **Individuals**
  - Agree with the RDA’s Guiding Principles listed at [https://www.rd-alliance.org/about/get-involved.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/about/get-involved.html)
  - Sign up to the Research Data Alliance at [https://www.rd-alliance.org/about/get-involved.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/about/get-involved.html)

- **Organisations**
  - See [https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members/rda-organisational-membership.html](https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members/rda-organisational-membership.html) for information on membership benefits, costs, and expectations
Contributing as Organisational Member

- Organisational Members provide expertise and funding to RDA
- Each Organisational Member is expected to nominate one representative who will become part of the Organisational Assembly (OA)
- Once RDA has more than 36 member organisations, an Organisational Assembly Board (OAB) will be established.
- The OAB advises Council on the directions, processes, and mechanisms of RDA.
- Currently, the OA performs the role of the OAB
Contributing as Organisational Member (cont’d)

As representative of an organisational member, you can contribute in many ways, including by:

- Joining / Initiating BoFs, Working or Interest Groups
- Participating in the Organisational Assembly
- Participating in the election of the RDA Organisational Assembly Board
- Providing advice to Council via the OAB
- Providing input on documents currently under community review (see the “Request for Comments” box on [http://rd-alliance.org](http://rd-alliance.org))
- Adopting RDA Outputs
- Displaying a poster at an RDA Plenary
Contributing as Individual Member

You can contribute in many ways, including by:

- Joining BoFs, Working or Interest Groups
- Initiating BoFs, Working or Interest Groups
- Attending RDA Plenaries
- Displaying a poster at a Plenary meeting
- Providing input on documents currently under community review (see the “Request for Comments” box on http://rd-alliance.org)
- Adopting RDA Outputs
- Standing for election as a TAB member
Starting a New Group

- Any member of the RDA can initiate a new BoF, Interest or Working Group
- Before starting a new group, please have a look at existing Working and Interest Groups at https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups
- If there is a group covering your topic of interest, or closely related to it, please join the group rather than start a new one
- BoFs are meant to gauge interest in the proposed topic and are closely associated with a Plenary
To Start a New Interest or Working Group

- Be an RDA member
- Find a group of interested participants:
  - From 3 or more continents
  - From multiple sectors/disciplines
  - Willing to commit to the group’s goals over the lifespan of the group
- Develop the Charter (IG) or Case Statement (WG)
- All IGs and WGs undergo a review process by the RDA Community, the Technical Advisory Board, and Council before being recognized and endorsed. (See https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html for more detail)
Should this be an Interest Group (IG), or a Working Group (WG)? (See [https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html))

- IGs do not have a specific lifespan and produce important deliverables such as surveys, recommendations, reports.

- WGs have a 12-18 month lifespan and develop and implement specific tools, code, best practices, standards, etc. at multiple institutions (see [https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/goals-and-outcomes.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/goals-and-outcomes.html))

Who will be the 2-4 Co-Chairs? For Group Chair responsibilities, see [https://rd-alliance.org/rda-working-and-interest-group-chairs-roles-and-responsibilities.html](https://rd-alliance.org/rda-working-and-interest-group-chairs-roles-and-responsibilities.html)
Overview of Interest and Working Group Initiation

1. Become a member of RDA
2. Decide to start a new group
3. Start interest or working group?
   - Yes: Find co-chairs and group members
   - No: Interest group
4. Find co-chairs and group members
5. Develop charter
6. Publish charter/case statement on RDA website
7. Review
   - Yes: Group recognized and endorsed?
     - Yes: Group set-up
     - No: Withdraw group
   - No: Withdraw group
To Start an Interest Group

1. Contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org to request the Interest Group Charter template. A Secretariat Liaison will be assigned to your group.

2. The group puts together a short Charter using the template

3. A group co-chair or member then
   - Creates a new Charter and posts this via “New Case Statement”, if there is already an RDA Organic Group for the group, or
   - Creates a new Interest Group via the “Initiate new group” button in the “Working and Interest Groups” menu, then adds the charter to this group as described above, or
   - Emails enquiries@rd-alliance.org to request help with this step

4. Review Process
Interest Group Review Criteria

- 2-4 co-chairs leading the initiative
- Members are international experts
- Ideally, the group spans at least 3 continents
- Group will serve as a platform for communication and coordination around the topic of interest
- Not promoting one specific product or technology
- No overlap with existing IGs / WGs
To Start a Working Group

1. Contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org. A Secretariat liaison will be assigned to your group.

2. The group develops its Case Statement (see https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html)

3. A group co-chair or member then
   - Creates a new Case Statement, if there is already an RDA Organic Group for the group, or
   - Creates a new Working Group via the “Initiate new group” button in the “Working and Interest Groups” menu, then adds the Case Statement to this group as described above, or
   - Contacts their Secretariat liaison to request help with this step

4. Review Process
Working Group Review Criteria

- Are there measurable outcomes?
- Will the outcome(s) of the Working Group be taken up by the intended community?
- Will the outcome(s) of the Working Group foster data sharing and/or exchange?
- Can the proposed work, outcomes /deliverables, and Action Plan described in the Case Statement be accomplished in 12-18 months?
- Is the scope too large for effective progress, too small for an RDA effort, or not appropriate for the RDA?
- Overall, is this a worthwhile effort for the RDA to take on? Is this an effort that adds value over and above what is currently being done within the community?

For more detail, see [https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html)
Review Process

1. Community Review (4 weeks)
   ▪ Please follow the discussion and respond to community comments
   ▪ Revisions may be required
2. TAB Review (2 weeks)
   ▪ Revisions may be required
3. Council Review (2-4 weeks)
   ▪ Revisions may be required
After the Review

- Once the group is recognised, the Secretariat Liaison will help the group establish working, communication, and recording processes.
- Joint activities with RDA affiliates are encouraged.
- Groups are encouraged to meet at RDA Plenaries.
- The outcomes of recognized Working Groups are strongly promoted by Council, the TAB, the Secretariat, and the RDA Membership at large.
Further Information

- Overview of Group Processes: https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html
- WG Goals and Outcomes: https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/goals-and-outcomes.html
- WG Case Statements and Review Criteria: https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html
- List of all RDA WGs and IGs: https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups

Questions or comments? Contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org
Thank You!