



# Getting Involved in the Research Data Alliance

Stefanie Kethers  
stefanie.kethers@ands.org.au

research data sharing without barriers  
[rd-alliance.org](http://rd-alliance.org)

# 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>
  - Sign up to the Research Data Alliance at <https://www.rd-alliance.org/about/get-involved.html>
  
- Organisations
  - See <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>)
- 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

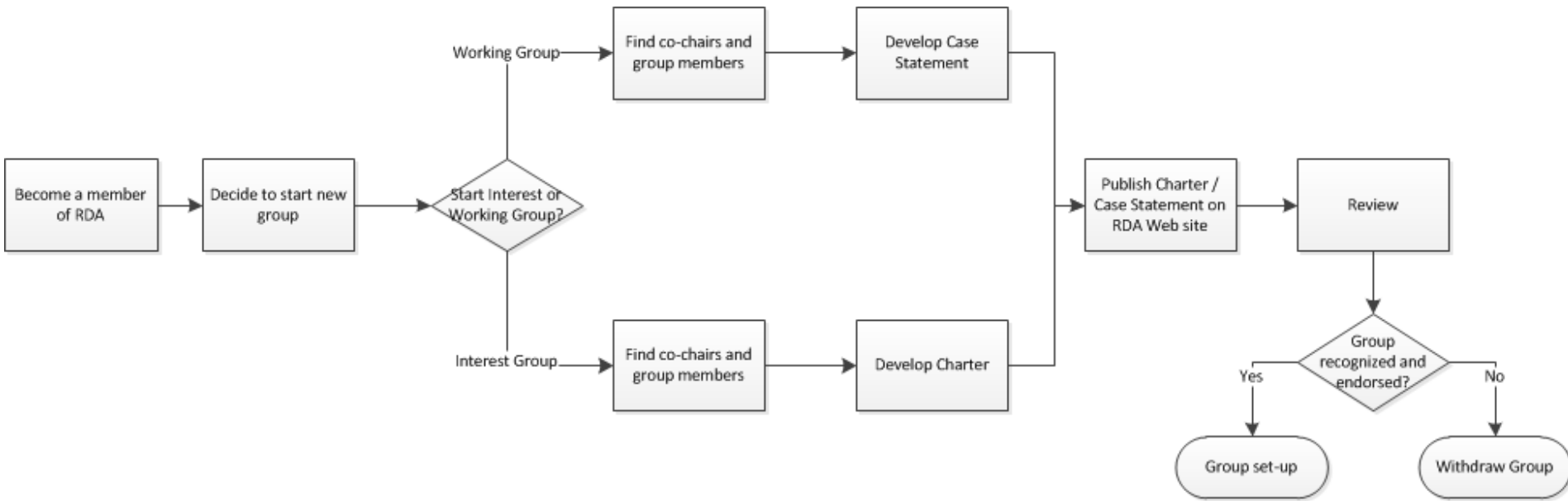
- Be an RDA member
- Find a group of interested participants:
  - From 3 or more continents
  - From multiple sectors/disciplines
  - Willing to commit to the group's goals over the lifespan of the group
- Develop the Charter (IG) or Case Statement (WG)
- All IGs and WGs undergo a review process by the 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)

# Group Decisions

- 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>)
  - 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>)
- 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>



# Overview of Interest and Working Group Initiation



# To Start an Interest Group

1. Contact [enquiries@rd-alliance.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

# 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

- Organisational Membership: <https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members/rda-organisational-membership.html>
- 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>
- Group Chair Primer: <https://rd-alliance.org/rda-working-and-interest-group-chairs-roles-and-responsibilities.html>

Questions or comments? Contact [enquiries@rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries@rd-alliance.org)



# Thank You!