



Getting Involved in the Research Data Alliance

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research data sharing without barriers
rd-alliance.org

Becoming a Member of the RDA

- Individuals
 - Agree with the RDA's Guiding Principles listed at <https://rd-alliance.org/get-involved.html>
 - Sign up to the Research Data Alliance at <https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register>

- 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 and Organisational Affiliate is expected to nominate one representative who will become part of the Organisational Assembly (OA).
- OA members have elected an Organisational Assembly Board (OAB).
- The OAB advises Council on the directions, processes, and mechanisms of RDA.

Contributing as Organisational Member (cont'd)

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

- Participating in the Organisational Assembly
- Standing for / participating in the election of the OAB
- Providing advice to Council via the OAB
- ... and as an individual member (see next slide)

Contributing as Individual Member

You can contribute in many ways, including by:

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

Vote in the TAB Election!

Name	Region	Role	Discipline
Karl Benedict	Americas	Data Technologist	Natural sciences
Paul Uhler	Americas	Data Policy Maker	Social Sciences
Devika Madalli	Asia and Oceania	Other	Social Sciences
Helen Graves	Europe and Africa	Data Manager	Natural sciences
Ralph Müller-Pfefferkorn	Europe and Africa	Data Technologist	Engineering and technology
Mervyn O'Luing	Europe and Africa	Data User	Natural sciences
Giacomo Pongiglione	Europe and Africa	Data User	Medical and Health Sciences
Rainer Stotzka	Europe and Africa	Data Generator	Engineering and technology
Tobias Weigel	Europe and Africa	Data User	Natural sciences

More Information

- <https://rd-alliance.org/tab-member-election-2016>
- Meet the Candidates: <https://rd-alliance.org/tab-elections-2016-candidates>
- More on the process and balancing criteria: <https://rd-alliance.org/tab-elections-september-2016-%E2%80%93-explanation-process-and-balancing-criteria>

How to Get even more Involved...

Starting a New Group

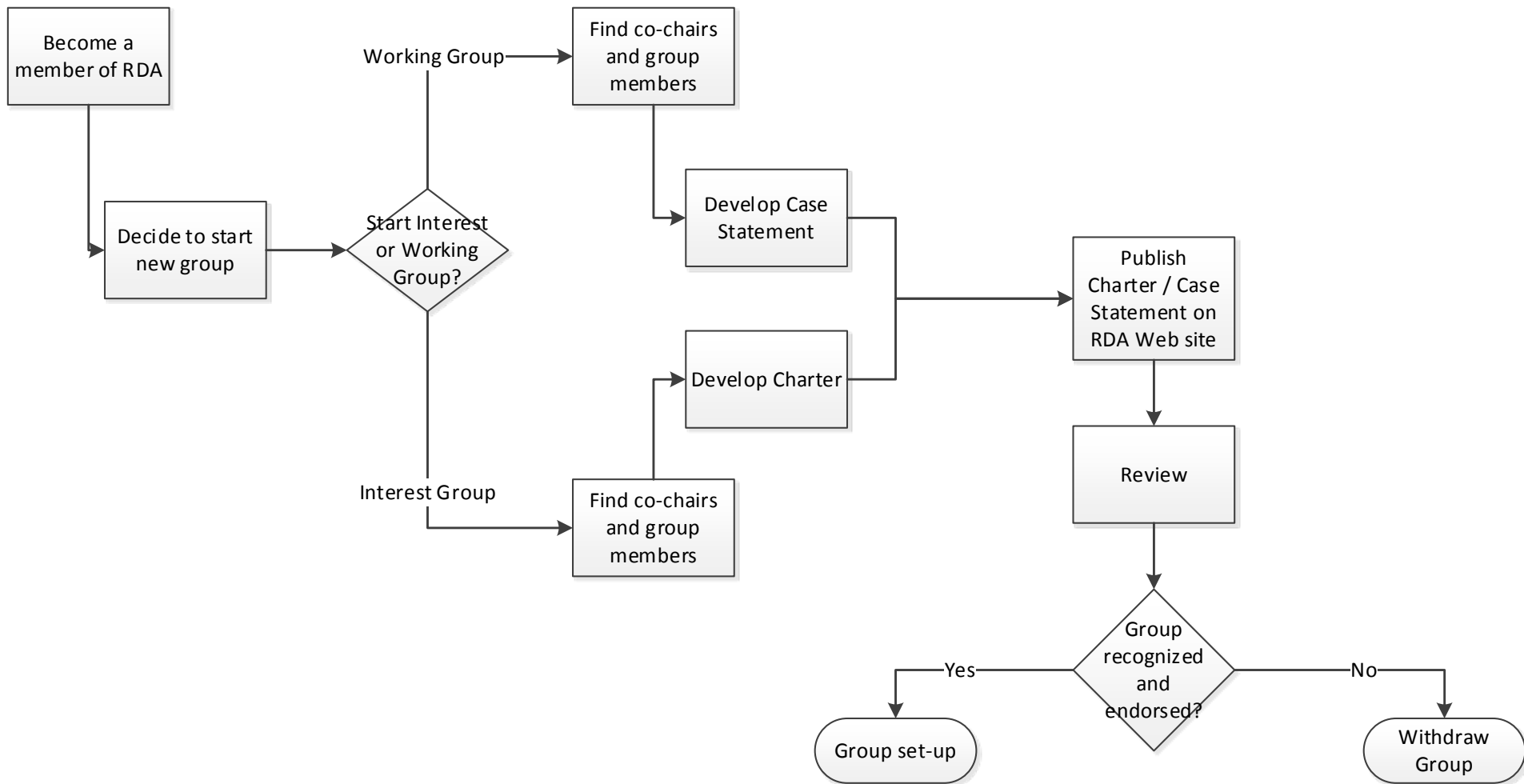
- Any member of the RDA can initiate a new BoF, Interest or Working Group
- Before starting a new group, please have a look at existing Working and Interest Groups at <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups>
- If there is a group covering your topic of interest, or closely related to it, please join the 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>)
 - 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 Working and Interest Group Initiation



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>

1. Community Review and Initial TAB Review (4 weeks)
 - Charter / Case Statement will appear in “Request for Comments” box on RDA Homepage
 - Please follow the discussion and respond to community comments
 - TAB will start their review process in parallel
2. Final TAB Review (2 weeks)
 - Revisions may be requested
3. Council Review (2-4 weeks)
 - Revisions may be requested

- 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.
- Working Groups report on their outputs at RDA Plenaries after ~12 and ~18 months
- The outputs of recognized Working Groups are strongly promoted by Council, the TAB, the Secretariat, and the RDA Membership at large.

- RDA “Primer” for Newcomers: <https://rd-alliance.org/rda-newcomers-some-notes>
- Organisational Membership: <https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members/rda-organisational-membership.html>
- List of all RDA WGs and IGs: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups>
- 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>
- Group Chair Primer: <https://rd-alliance.org/rda-working-and-interest-group-chairs-roles-and-responsibilities.html>

Questions or comments? Please contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org

Thank You!

If you have more questions
or would just like to have a chat,
come to the Newcomers' lunch table
today at Katie Mullen's (down the escalator)