Research Data Alliance Association AISBL is seeking a

Communication & Engagement Officer

for a full-time position until 5/2024, with potential for longer employment depending on performance and funds available.

Who are we?

The Research Data Alliance (RDA) - a global organisation - was launched as a community-driven initiative ten years ago by the European Commission, the United States Government’s National Science Foundation and National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Australian Government’s Department of Innovation with the goal of building the social and technical infrastructure to enable open sharing and re-use of data.

RDA has grassroots, inclusive approach covering all data lifecycle stages, engaging data producers, users, and stewards, addressing data exchange, processing, and storage. It has succeeded in creating the neutral social platform where international research data experts meet to exchange views and to agree on topics including social hurdles on data sharing, education and training challenges, data management plans and certification of data repositories, disciplinary and interdisciplinary interoperability, as well as technological aspects.

The Research Data Alliance Association AISBL (RDA AISBL) was founded in 2021 as a European level organizational body of the global RDA. It has a mission to coordinate, sustain and support engagement of the European actors to the RDA, and to further the Open Science in this context in the European level.

The RDA AISBL is officially based in Brussels, Belgium, and operates currently fully virtually across Europe. It is registered as an international non-profit association under the Belgian law.
Candidate profile

We are seeking an independent, enthusiastic, and innovative communication and engagement expert, to support the RDA AISBL to connect to different stakeholders in Europe and globally. The role is connected to several EU-funded projects but has high degree of freedom on the methods and processes to fulfill the operational needs. We are looking for a person who can work in a remote environment efficiently - the RDA AISBL is currently organized as a fully virtual working organization, has enough independence, flexibility and vision to fulfil the different communication needs of an international organization, and can bring new ideas on how to engage with new user and stakeholder communities.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following key competences and experiences:

- Ability to create and use innovative and effective target-audience specific communication and engagement tools in an international environment. Use of social media, communication materials creation (via contracting or self-design), meeting organisation, use of varied engagement methods and advertisement, etc. are valued skills in this position.
- Experience of European or global communications for varied stakeholders in wider research sector (e.g. researchers, companies, policy makers, funding agencies, or other similar stakeholder groups).
- Proven experience of strategic planning and resourcing communication actions for scientific, volunteer, non-profit or similar organisations.
- Able to work in a European Union country during the employment and willingness and ability to work remotely and independently based on agreed goals.
- Able to travel for events and conferences, mostly in Europe, but also globally.
- Excellent English language written and oral skills.
- Ability to start in the position at short notice.

The expert will at initially work in the WorldFAIR project and will contribute to other projects of the RDA AISBL funded by the European Commission. The work also will include general communication tasks related to the RDA AISBL, and the global RDA community. The position can be extended to future projects, as they emerge, via joint agreement.

These roles include:
- Developing communication strategies and plans for projects and RDA AISBL in general.
- Creating and maintaining (project and RDA) brands as appropriate via targeted communication actions, such as websites, social media, and direct engagement with stakeholders.
- Selecting, monitoring, and reporting key performance indicators for communication actions.
- Support the communication and engagement actions in practice, throughout the projects’ lifetimes.
Engaging with a wide variety of target audiences and stakeholders, such as science funding agency representatives, researchers, research performing organisation representatives, RDA members, science publishers and others.

The following additional optional aspects are also appreciated in the candidate:
- Understanding the European research environment, particularly working within the European Commission funded projects.
- Experience European and/or global research data environments, projects, stakeholders and initiatives, particularly in the field of Open Science and Open Data;
- Commitment to the values and Guiding Principles of the RDA.

RDA AISBL is registered as an employer in Belgium, Germany and in Finland. Candidates able to work from these countries are preferred in the selection procedure.

RDA Association offers the expert
- Possibility to directly influence the communication strategy, direction, and methods within the RDA AISBL, and (within the agreed tasks) the projects involved.
- Freedom of a new organisation, with the framework of existing communities in Europe and globally, their connections and community of over 6,000 RDA members in Europe.
- Fully remote organisation, with possibility to influence the working culture, practices and operations within the RDA AISBL.
- A competitive salary.

Application and information

Apply by email to rdaeu.recruitment@rda-foundation.org by 20th July 2022, at 16:00 CEST with

- (PDF) cover letter (addressed to the association director) describing and demonstrating your qualifications and interests regarding the position, how do they respond to the profile, and you salary expectation.
- (PDF) Curriculum Vitae document describing your professional experiences, positions, and your contact information.
- (PDF) Document presenting highlights of previous work of the candidate (with links, if appropriate), and (optionally) contact information for up to 3 references including how they have interacted with the candidate earlier.

Online interviews will be organized within the shortlisted candidates within three weeks of the initial deadline (depending on candidate availability).

For more questions regarding the position or the RDA AISBL, please contact

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also available on call +358 40 770 9729 on 6th and 13th of July between 10:00-15:00 CET