

RDA Council Meeting

3-4 November 2022 Dublin, Ireland

Meeting Chairs: Jill Benn, Ingrid Dillo

Attendees:

1. Louise Bezuidenhout - remote
2. Juan Bicarregui
3. Sandra Collins - remote
4. Ingrid Dillo
5. Joyce Gosata Maphanyane
6. Jason Haga - remote
7. Robert Hanisch
8. Edit Herczog
9. Rebecca Koskela
10. Claudia Medeiros - remote
11. Isabelle Perseil
12. Rob Quick - remote
13. Lee Wilson
14. Hilary Hanahoe (RDA Foundation Secretary General)
15. Connie Clare (RDA Foundation Community Development Manager)
16. Bridget Walker (RDA Foundation Operations & Accounts Manager) (notes)

Apologies: Shelley Stall

Conflict of Interest, Agenda approval and actions following meeting of 20 September 2022

Discussion:

Outstanding actions were discussed with update on progress and completion. No Council members expressed any conflicts of interest with the agenda items.

RDA Strategic Plan – General Overview

Discussion:

Hilary Hanahoe provided an overview of the RDA Strategic Plan 2020-2023, summarising the 3 Pillars – People, Processes, Products – and highlighting the overall objective of this meeting to identify the priorities for completion in 2023.

RDA Strategic Plan- PEOPLE Pillar 2020-2022 Implementation Status

Discussion:

Hilary Hanahoe provided an overview of the People priorities as identified in the RDA Strategic Plan 2020-2023 highlighting the achievements and status of each priority. All priorities were confirmed to be ongoing except 4.1.2 which has yet to be started.

4.1.1 Build capacity in global areas where RDA is underrepresented (e.g., Southern hemisphere) to extend RDA's global presence and engage new professionals.

4.1.2 Enhance and build engagement with members from the ECR (Early Career Researchers) and ECI (Early Career Infrastructure people) communities.

4.1.3 Build Communities of Practice (CoPs) to achieve a more fulsome and integrated community, and cultivate the culture of RDA

4.1.4 Formalize the engagement with Regions, and thereby increase regional partners and regional engagement.

4.1.5 Increase engagement with industry, as well as public and private sectors to establish multilateral engagements that support the RDA community and align with strategic plans incorporating open data / science / infrastructures.

4.1.6 Continue cultivating and nurturing the culture of the RDA.

RDA Strategic Plan- PEOPLE Pillar Priorities for 2023

Discussion and Decision:

A summary of the results of Council members' voting on the People Pillar priorities for 2023 was presented by Hilary Hanahoe and the selected priorities are as follows:

4.1.1 Build capacity in global areas where RDA is underrepresented (e.g., Southern hemisphere) to extend RDA's global presence and engage new professionals.

4.1.2 Enhance and build engagement with members from the ECR (Early Career Researchers) and ECI (Early Career Infrastructure people) communities.

RDA Strategic Plan- PROCESSES Pillar 2020-2022 Implementation Status

Discussion:

Hilary Hanahoe provided an overview of the Processes priorities as identified in the RDA Strategic Plan 2020-2023 highlighting the achievements and status of each priority. All priorities were confirmed to be ongoing except 4.2.1.3 which has not yet seen appropriate project funding opportunities.

4.2.1 Financial Sustainability:

4.2.1.1 Pursue more relationship-driven funding to provide optimal sustainable support to the community and its products.

4.2.1.2 Increase the organisational membership of RDA.

4.2.1.3 Respond to appropriate project funding opportunities where they correspond to existing RDA strategic goals.

4.2.2 Increased Professionalisation of the RDA:

4.2.2.1 Professionalising relationships, and enhancing or establishing processes between global and regional areas, to achieve coherence and alignment.

4.2.2.2 Increasing the number of regional members with an objective to create a more geographically balanced organisation.

4.2.2.3 Improving coordination among Working and Interest Groups.

4.2.3 Optimal Processes to Develop and Maintain Relationships with Stakeholders:

4.2.3.1 Facilitating agile responses to evolving data challenges

4.2.3.2 Raising the strategic value of RDA Plenary Meetings

RDA Strategic Plan- PROCESSES Pillar Priorities for 2023

Discussion and Decision:

A summary of the results of Council members' voting on the Processes Pillar priorities for 2023 was presented by Hilary Hanahoe and the selected priorities are as follows:

4.2.2.1 Professionalising relationships and enhancing or establishing processes between global and regional areas, to achieve coherence and alignment.

4.2.3.2 Raising the strategic value of RDA Plenary Meetings

RDA Strategic Plan- PRODUCTS Pillar 2020-2022 Implementation Status

Discussion:

Hilary Hanahoe provided an overview of the Products priorities as identified in the RDA Strategic Plan 2020-2023 highlighting the achievements and status of each priority. All priorities were confirmed to be ongoing except 4.3.1.5, 4.3.2.3, 4.3.4.1 and 4.3.4.2 which have yet to be started.

4.3.1 Collaborative Platform as a Business Model:

4.3.1.1 Keeping the RDA business model and securing its operation by balancing the two pillars, and motivating the volunteers and the staff.

4.3.1.2 Providing a unique platform for funders, and all stakeholders.

4.3.1.3 Offering the opportunity for regular meetings for data-focused global and regional initiatives.

4.3.1.4 Building on the Data Together¹ initiative by inviting other global data projects to the conversation.

4.3.1.5 Building fora for the action around the “Regional Commons”.

4.3.1.6 Turning greater attention to the Southern hemisphere.

4.3.2 Web Presence:

4.3.2.1 Modernising our website

4.3.2.2 Developing custom websites for all Regions.

4.3.2.3 Developing a Global Policy Observatory.

4.3.3 Outputs and Recommendations:

4.3.3.1 Introducing a user-friendly registry for all RDA products.

4.3.3.2 Maintaining the current level of quality assurance for RDA outputs

4.3.3.3 Developing a proactive dissemination and maintenance strategy, including tailor-made solutions for specific regions.

4.3.3.4 Developing a clear process for updating outputs.

4.3.3.5 Identifying new types of outputs.

4.3.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

4.3.4.1 Increasing awareness of, and identifying RDA’s contribution to, the SDGs, with the active participation of all RDA governance bodies.

4.3.4.2 Building SDGs into RDA brand/outputs.

4.3.5 Carbon Footprint:

4.3.5.1 Understanding and promoting this commitment and the associated values throughout the organisation.

4.3.5.2 Building a proactive approach to RDA's carbon footprint management, and implementing this gradually across RDA's operations.

RDA Strategic Plan- PRODUCTS Pillar Priorities for 2023

Discussion and Decision:

A summary of the results of Council members' voting on the Products Pillar priorities for 2023 was presented by Hilary Hanahoe and the selected priorities are as follows:

4.3.1.1 Keeping the RDA business model and securing its operation by balancing the two pillars, and motivating the volunteers and the staff.

4.3.3.3 Developing a proactive dissemination and maintenance strategy, including tailor-made solutions for specific regions and (combined with):

4.3.3.4 Developing a clear process for updating outputs.

4.3.4.1 Increasing awareness of, and identifying RDA's contribution to, the SDGs, with the active participation of all RDA governance bodies.

It was agreed and decided that a field is to be added to the WG Case Statement, IG Charter and Output templates requesting specification of contribution to SDGs.

Engaging with Industry and Next Council Meetings

Discussion:

Hilary Hanahoe presented the concept of an eventual framework for engaging with industry which would work from the current Working Group mechanism to facilitate concrete outputs. This framework is defined in response to the recommendations and priorities defined in the RDA Financial Sustainability Plan and the RDA Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023.

Decision:

Council approved to move forward and once a framework, to be drafted by Hilary, has been created, the framework will be discussed and approved. A thorough review is to be done followed by a Council meeting with assistance from a legal WG.

RDA Strategic Plan 2023- Priorities Refresh & Ideas/Strategy Brainstorming

Discussion:

Ingrid Dillo provided a summary of the Pillar priorities selected during discussions on Thursday 3rd November. Council members discussed and produced ideas for strategic action with the Pillar priorities and assigned themselves with actions for moving forward.

Next Steps for Strategic Plans beyond 2023

Discussion and Decision:

Ideas gathered from the previous discussion point were presented and it was decided Jill Benn, Ingrid Dillo and Connie Clare would plan and organise the priorities in accordance with the time frames and discuss the structure of a 5 year strategic plan for RDA (2024 – 2028)

Financial Sustainability Recommendations – Status

Discussion:

Hilary Hanahoe provided Council with an update on the status of the RDA Financial Sustainability Recommendations showing forecast and actual figures for 2022. Council members discussed the six revenue models: regional engagement, individual membership, organisational membership, grants & donations and plenaries revenue.

Decision:

All Council members voted in favour of not proceeding with an Individual Membership but voluntary contributions for the sustainability of the RDA will be asked for. The mechanism for this will be decided on in time for the launch of the new RDA web platform in 2023.

FAIR Digital Objects Forum Oct 2022

Discussion:

Bob Hanisch gave a summary of recent discussions that took place at the FAIR Digital Object Forum in October 2022.

Decision:

Council agreed that the RDA would not be underwriting the Declaration of Commitment to Action but would propose that the FDO Forum leverage the RDA community through Communities of Practice (CoP) mechanism and set up Working Groups.