



The Research Data Alliance Global Update

Hilary Hanahoe, RDA
Secretary General

*RDA Virtual Plenary
Meeting, RDA Business and
Adoption Session, 21 April
2021*



Vision

Researchers and innovators openly **share** and **re-use** data across **technologies, disciplines, and countries** to address the grand challenges of society.

Mission

RDA builds the **social** and **technical** bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data.

THE RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

www.rd-alliance.org

building the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data

50 FLAGSHIP OUTPUTS

including 8 ICT Technical Specifications (standards)

140+ ADOPTION CASES

across multiple disciplines, organisations

97 GROUPS WORKING ON GLOBAL DATA INTEROPERABILITY CHALLENGES

40 Working Groups
57 Interest Groups

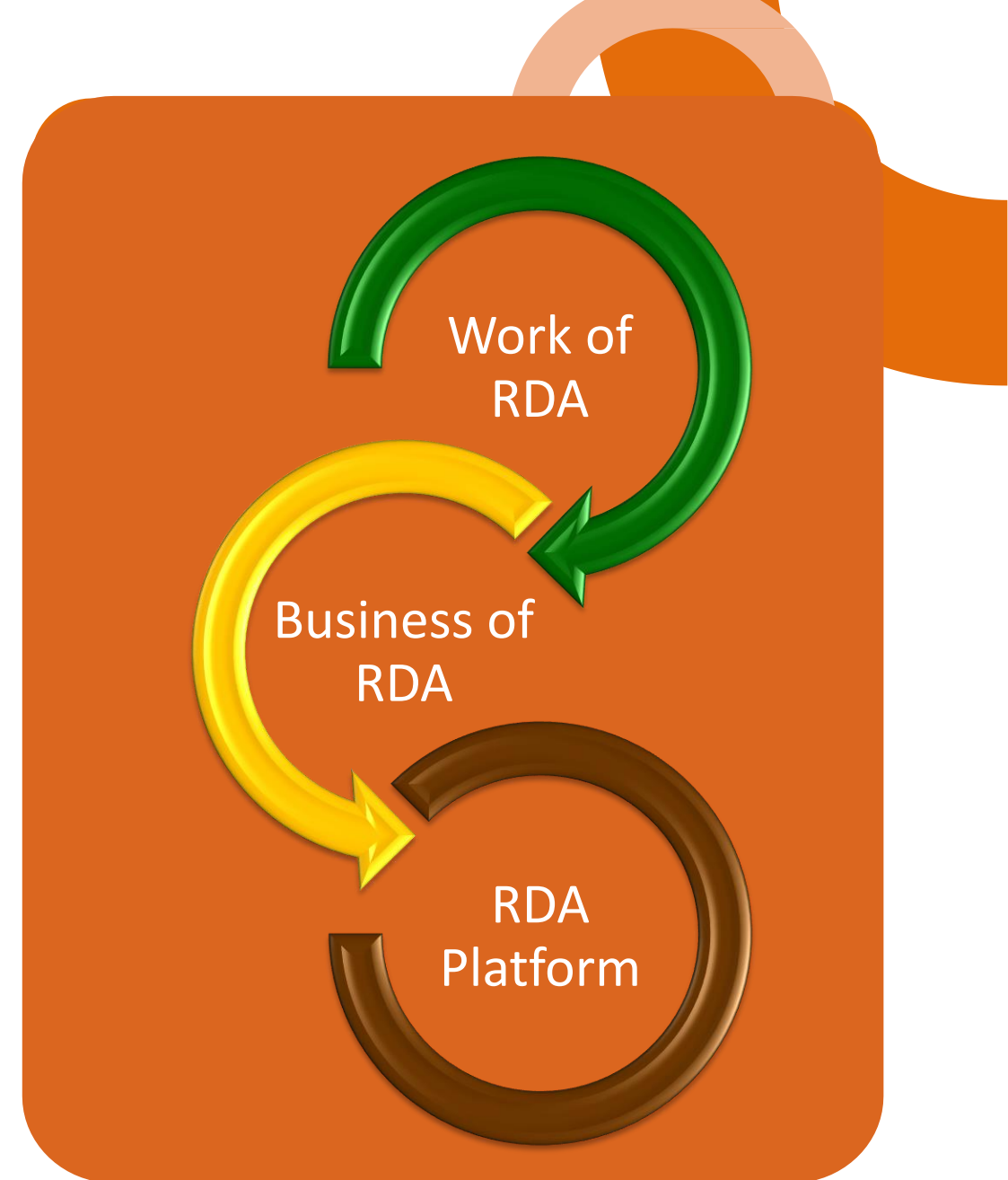
11,615 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS FROM 146 COUNTRIES

69% Academia & Research
14% Public Administration
11% Enterprise & Industry

49 ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS
12 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

The **Work of RDA** performed by the global volunteer community of data practitioners enables representation of all geographies, research domains, and professional cultures.

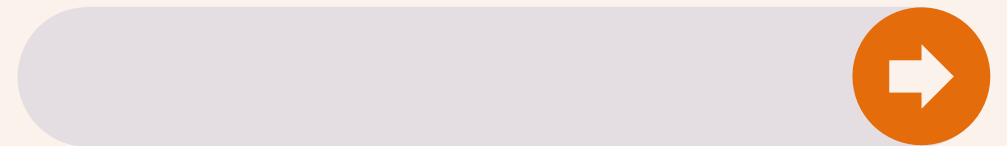
The **Business of RDA** is a lean and agile managerial layer, supporting governance and operations, and vital to securing the organisation's sustainability.



Research Data Alliance

Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023

Presenting the Research Data Alliance's fourth strategic plan, providing direction and vision for the organisation, its stakeholders and community until 2023.



RDA Strategic Phases

**2013-2015
Inception**

**2015-2017
Direction**

**2017-2020
Roadmap**

**2020-2023
Consolidation**

**2023 ->
Strengthening
& Widening**



Unique Selling Points (USPs)

Collaborative, Open, Global Platform

RDA is an enabling organisation offering a global, open, neutral, community-driven, and independent forum serving multiple stakeholders and covering all scientific disciplines and research domains.

Quality Guarantee

RDA's processes, peer review, diversity of review and contribution—which greatly increase the quality of outputs.

RDA is a dynamic and lean structure, a global pool of data practitioners, with an ability and agility to get things done.

**RDA is a
GLOBAL
OPEN
PLATFORM
by design**

RDA Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023

- People
- Processes
- Products

Presenting the fourth strategic plan, providing direction and vision for the organisation, its stakeholders and community until 2023.

People

GOAL
to grow the RDA membership and facilitate engagement of the community, evolving to become truly global and diverse.

PRIORITIES
Building Communities of Practice;
Engaging with public and private sectors;
Building capacity in the global south and Asia.

Processes

GOAL
to bring to completion the processes that provide optimal and sustainable support to the RDA community

PRIORITIES
Ensure financial sustainability;
Increase RDA professionalisation;
Optimise processes to support stakeholder relationships.

Products

GOAL
to improve RDA products in order to attract stakeholders in all sectors.

PRIORITIES
Deploying the platform as a business model;
Enhancing web presence;
Maintaining Outputs and Recommendations.

Financial Sustainability Task Force: Members

Ingrid Dillo (RDA Council co-chair)

Hilary Hanahoe (RDA Sec Gen)

Bob Hanisch (RDA Council member)

Natalie Harrower (RDA EU Regional
Office rep.)

Rebecca Koskela (RDA US Exec Director)

Mark Leggott (RDA Council co-chair)





RESEARCH DATA **ALLIANCE**

Financial Update

Natalie Harrowe
Research Data Alliance

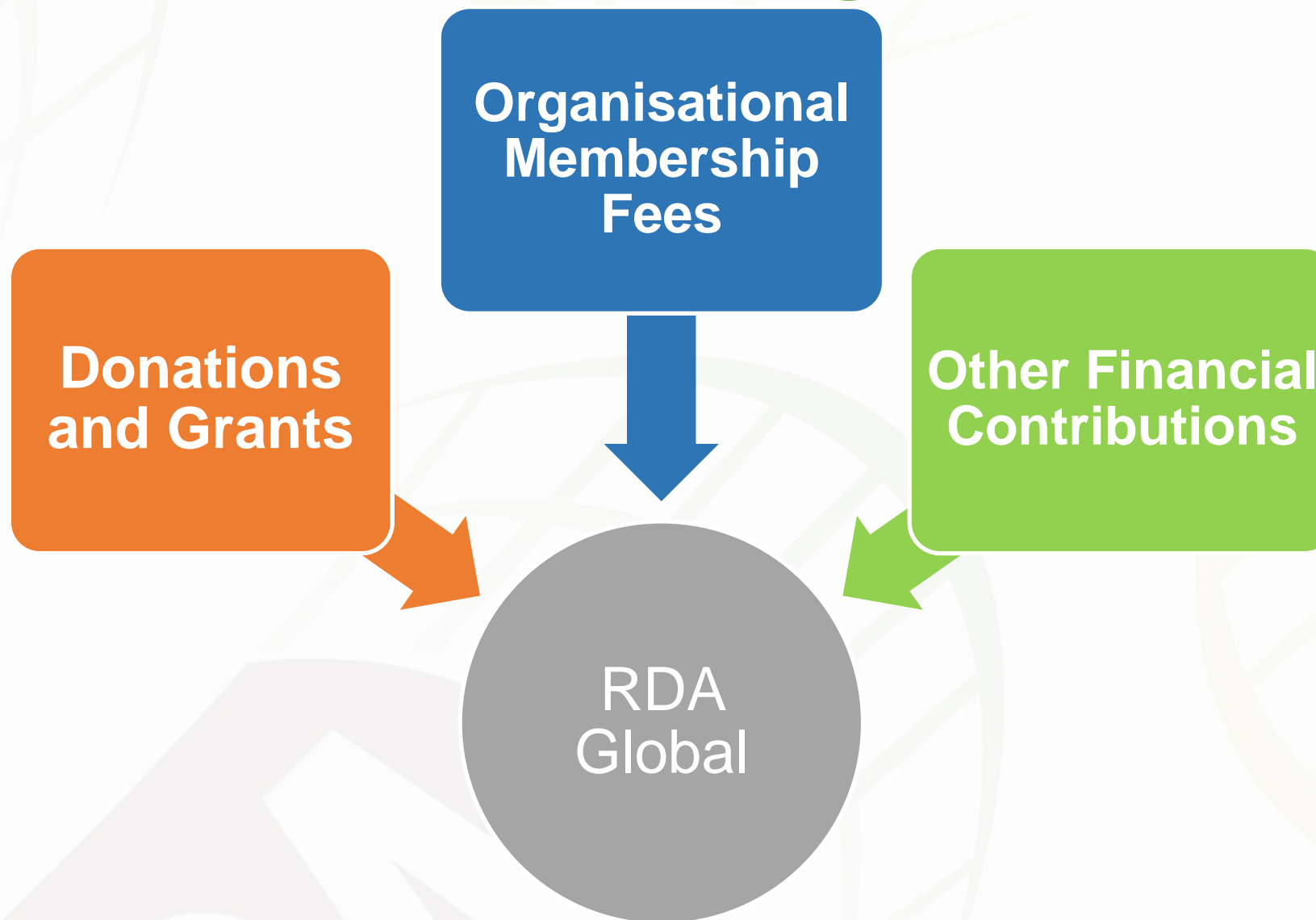
RDA Foundation - Legal Entity

- UK based non profit charitable organisation established in 2014
- official and legal representative of the global RDA community
- provides core business operations of RDA and represents RDA globally
- employs Secretary General and Office Manager
- elected Council members are Trustees and Board members



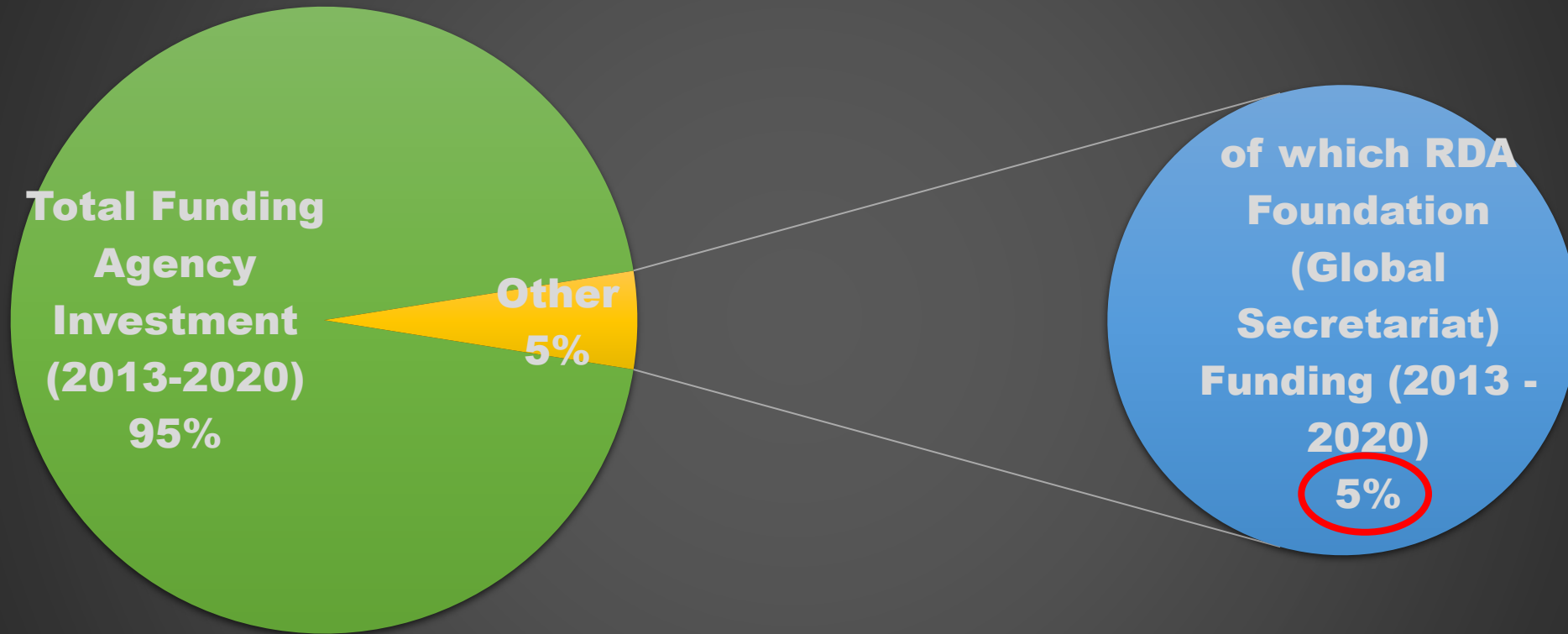


Global funding models 2014 - 2020



RDA Global Funding Investment 2013-2020

Approx. £23 million



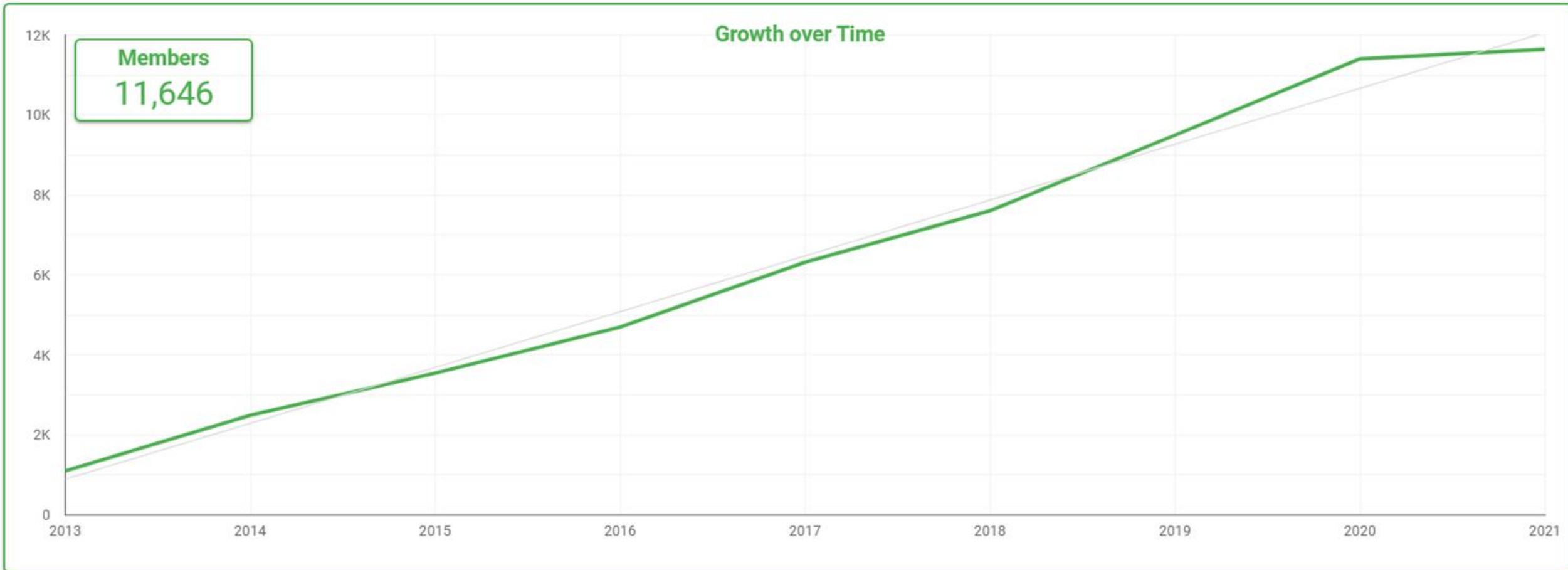
■ **Total Funding Agency Investment (2013-2020)**

■ **of which RDA Foundation (Global Secretariat) Funding (2013 -2020)**

RDA over the years: Community Growth



RDA Worldwide Growth



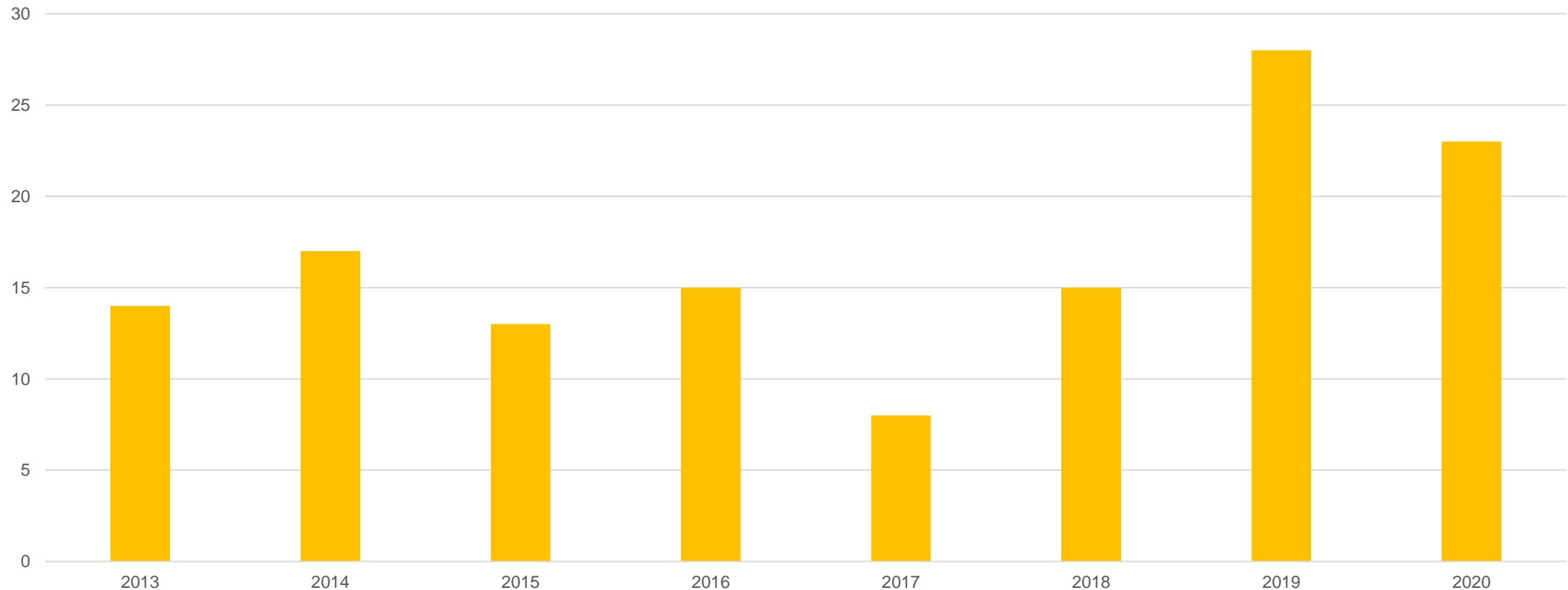
RDA over the years: Organisational Membership growth



RDA over the years: Group growth

2013: 14 groups -> 2020: 133 groups

RDA New Groups (2013-2020)



RDA over the years: Outputs & Adoption

Approx. **50 Recommendations and supporting outputs** released & endorsed.

140+ cases of Adoption

All of this work needs to be managed, supported and maintained.



Financial Figures 2018 - 2020

Hilary Hanahoe

Secretary General

Research Data Alliance



RESEARCH **DATA ALLIANCE**

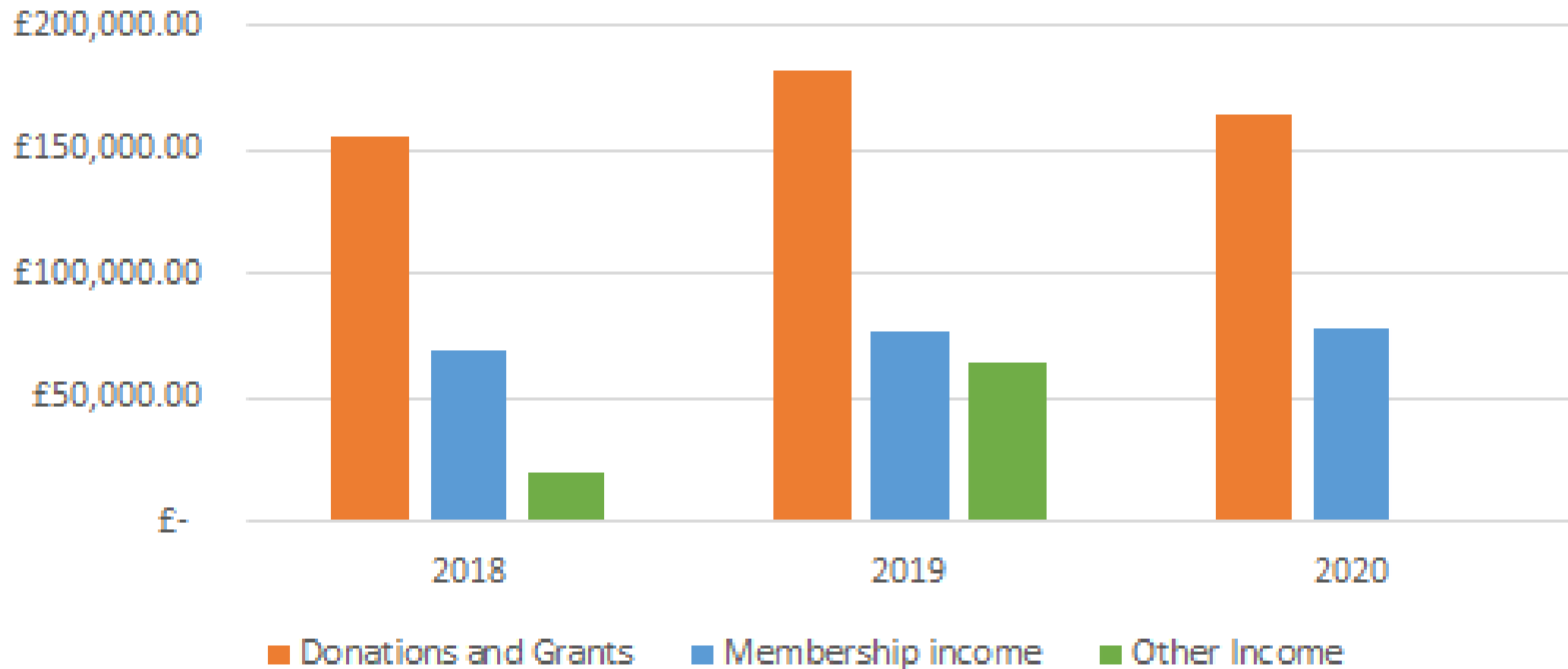


RDA Secretariat: In-kind staff contributions

| Region FTE | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|
| Australia | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Europe | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.65 |
| US | 1 | 1.5 | 1.75 |
| Total In-kind Staff | 2.5 | 3 | 3 |

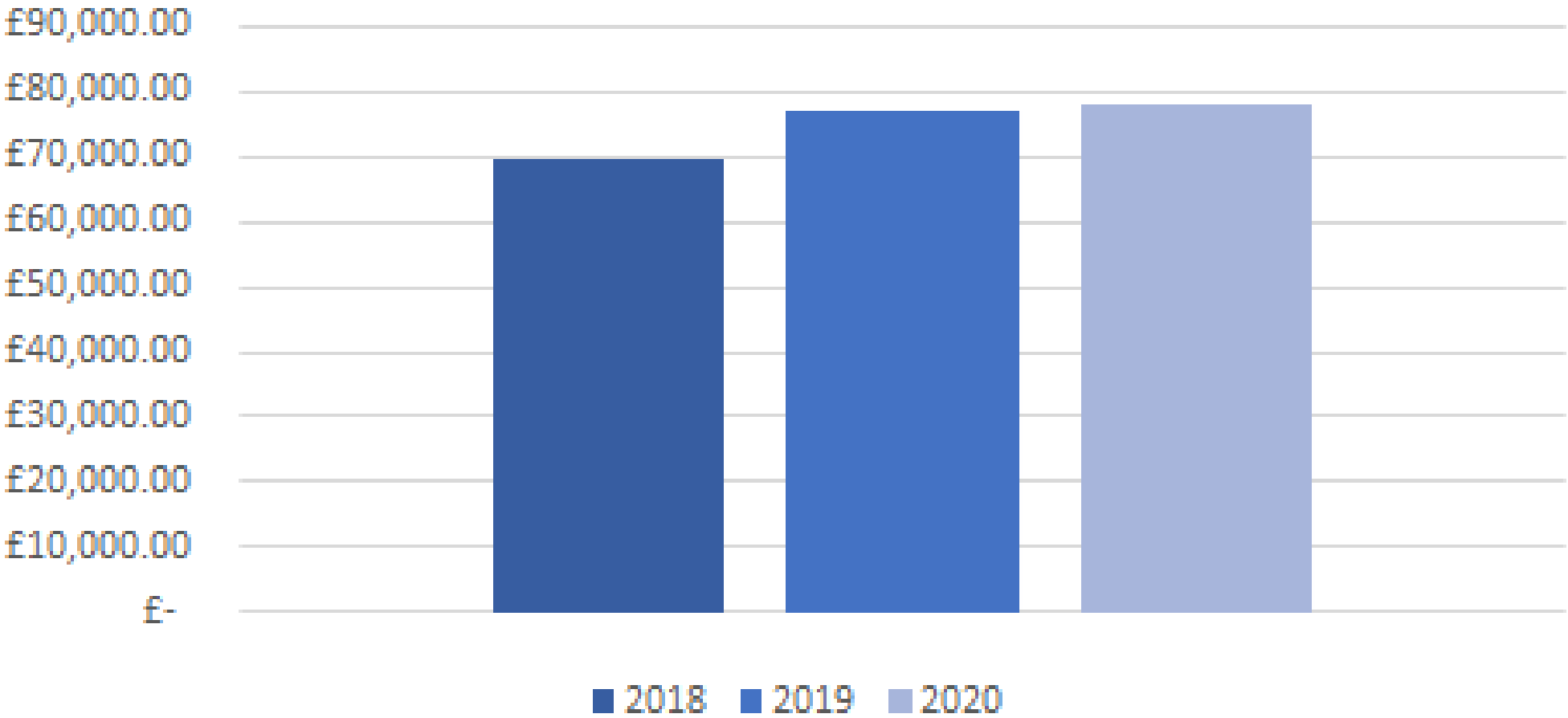
RDA Web Platform: June 2013 – May 2020 supported by EC through RDA Europe grants

RDA Foundation Total Income (2018 - 2020)



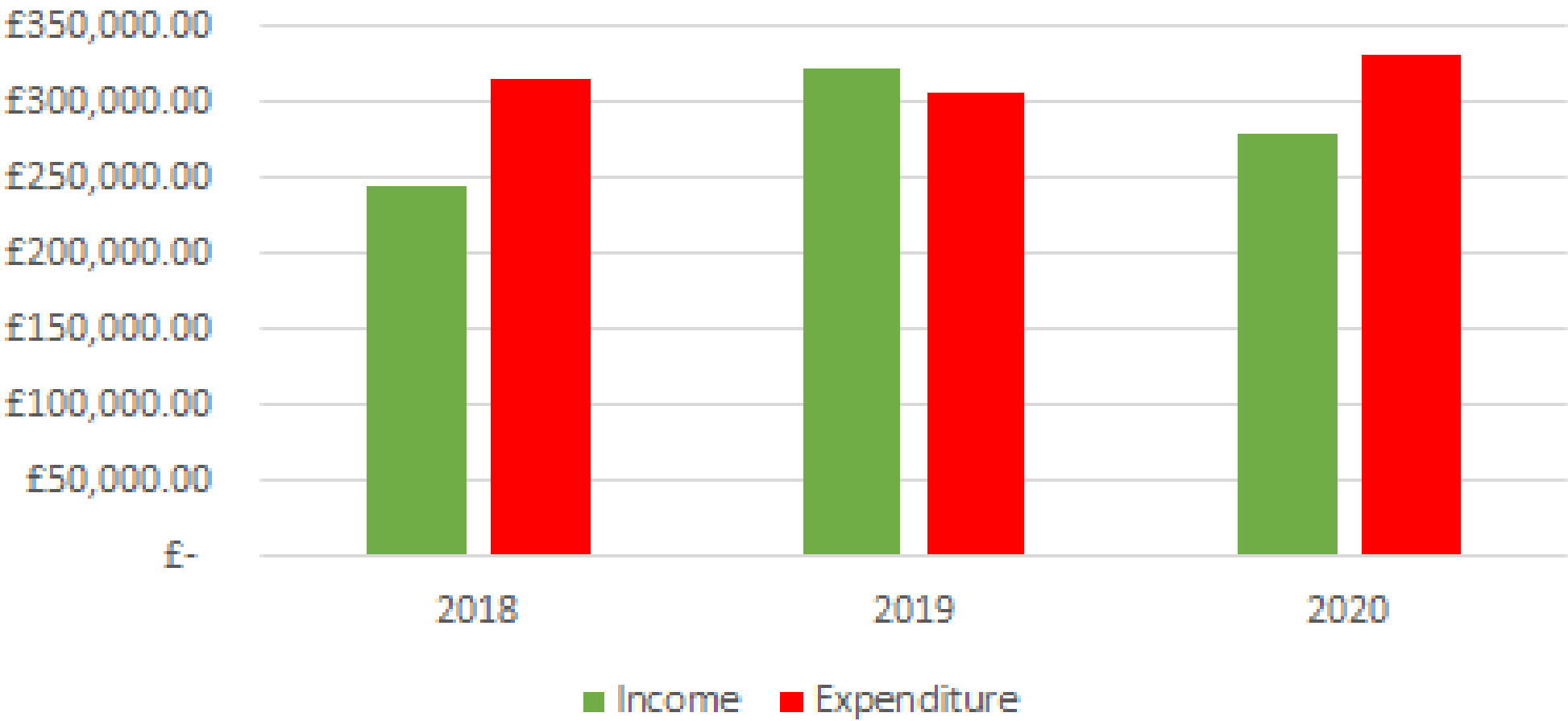


RDA Organisational Membership Fees / Subscriptions (2018-2020)





RDA Foundation Income vs Expenditure (2018-2020)



What does RDA Global need annually?

Core Funding (Systematic):

£400,000

- ✓ Personnel: salaries & travel
- ✓ Fiscal expenses
- ✓ Other: web platform, office costs
- ✓ Bank Reserves

Nice to have (Incremental):

£100,000 - £200,000

- ✓ Increased global personnel
- ✓ Maintenance & research facility
- ✓ Helpdesk
- ✓ Awards, Scholarships, Grants

Regional grants underlying global contributions are FUNDAMENTAL to maintain and grow the community

The Cost of NOT having RDA



- No fundamental **progress towards achieving open science | open research vision.**
- Guaranteed **duplication of efforts.**
- No **open and available community-based solutions, best practices, guidelines and standards** for all stakeholders to capitalize on.
- No **global pool of data practitioners from multiple communities and stakeholders** to call to action.
- No **international cohort to support global interoperability**, essential for the open science clouds, data commons that are being heavily invested in across the globe.

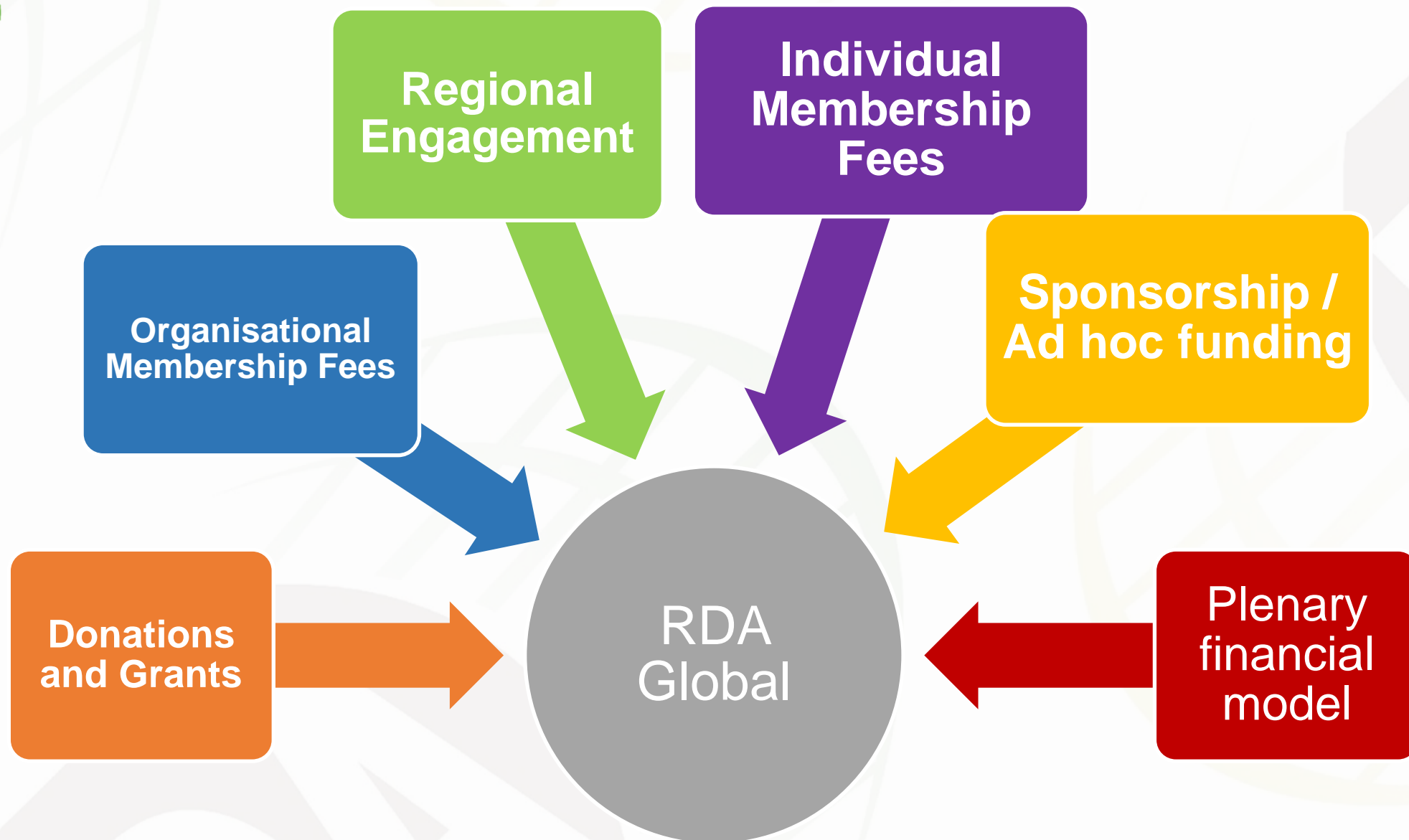
Task Force Focus



- Identification of appropriate and achievable revenue models for RDA business to adequately support the work
- Align financial strategies / plans with the strategic plan and implementation priorities for 2021-2023
- Engage with regional offices / representatives to align revenue and business models
- Continuous cyclic interaction and consultation with stakeholders (Funders, Organisational members, community, governance bodies)



Possible Global funding models 2022 -



Challenges



- Preserve the values and vision – the RDA Guiding Principles
- Protect and nurture bottom up community driven activities
- Maintain and enhance the service to the community
- Maintain and expand the offer and the suite of outputs
- Identify eventual governance body changes





Next Steps

Feb – May 2021: Individual Options:
Data Collection & Proposal

April – June 2021: Stakeholder
Consultation

July – Oct 2021: New model
implications: Regional vs. Organisational
vs. Individual

May – Oct 2021: Governance body
changes

Sept – Nov 2021: Stakeholder
Consultation

2022: New Revenue model Roll out