

# Global Open Research Commons Interest Group

## Response to TAB Review of IG Charter

The TAB review requested the following improvements:

*1. The introduction does not provide a clear view on the concept of the 'Global Commons'. It becomes more clear while reading the subsequent sections. Recommend clarifying the introduction to demonstrate the narrowed focus, and that this term is not yet defined. In addition, a Science Commons is not the same as a Data Commons, the latter being a subset of the former. This is not explained in the text and at a minimum needs to be clarified.*

Response: The introductory text tries to clarify the intended scope for Global Commons, based in part on a helpful discussion during the session held in Helsinki.

*2. The objectives statement need not state that it intends to 'differ' from national and continental structures, but could state that it will take note of and build on the best practices in national and continental initiatives.*

Response: The objectives section has been updated accordingly.

*3. A 12-18 month period has been specified just as a WG would do, with explicit objectives for the period. The proposers could explain the outcome/deliverable expected at the end of 18 months, whether it will be a report, a compilation of global initiatives, or something else. Will the roadmap they propose have some implementation plan to come up with guidelines or tools? Given their detailed timeline, it may be worth clarifying why this group is requesting an Interest Group as opposed to a Working Group, or to give a bit more detail on the WG(s), which may be proposed as announced.*

Response: The proposed time period has been removed, in part to reflect reality, and in part to manage expectations. For the proposed initial actions, the nature of the outputs

has been clarified. The WG Case Statements are in preparation, and should be agreed on at P15 in Melbourne.

*4. Mention of UN initiatives missing.*

*Many organisations and platform are mentioned [in the Charter] but not UN [<https://undatacatalog.org/open-data-portals>]. Does GORC intend to address Open Data to Support Sustainable Development Goals?*

*Please also keep in mind the community comment on the importance of semantics, which already gotten a positive feedback from Andrew Treloar. Also have a look to check whether additional comments have been posted after the completion of this initial review.*

Response: With respect to the SDGs, we see the GORC-IG as contributing to the RDA's broader response (discussed at the Plenary in Helsinki) to the challenges provided by the SDGs. See also specific text in the updated Charter.

No additional community comments were noted. The community comment suggested that we engage with Agrisemantics (read the recommendations), Vocabulary Services IG, Metadata IG and related WGs). Elements can also be found in the eROSA "e-infrastructure Roadmap for Open Science in Agriculture". We will do so at Plenary 15.

*5. In addition, there was an implied suggestion that we increase chair diversity Updated Interest Group Charter*

Response: Devika Madalli has agreed to be added as a co-chair from India.

## **Name of Proposed Interest Group:**

*Global Open Research Commons*

### **Introduction**

(A brief articulation of what issues the IG will address, how this IG is aligned with the RDA mission, and how this IG would be a value-added contribution to the RDA community):

This Interest Group is closely aligned to the core mission of RDA as it is inherently engaged in building the social and technical bridges that enable data sharing. It will own the overall remit of coordinating the delivery of a Global Open Research Commons and monitor progress made within related RDA Working Groups and other initiatives to achieve this goal. Indeed, the scope is so large that the Interest Group is expected to run for several years and coordinate across many Working Groups, primarily those that are convened within this RDA IG forum but also aligning with existing WG/IGs of relevance.

The coordination of data infrastructure on various levels (country, continent, discipline, sector) is on the increase. So called “Open Science Commons” or “Data commons” or “research commons” provide a shared virtual space or platform that provides a marketplace for data and services relevant to research. Examples include the European Open Science Cloud, the Australian Research Data Commons, the African Open Science Platform, open government portals and initiatives outside traditional research contexts.

To [quote](#) Bruce Caron:

Commoning describes a different future where open repositories of science objects (ideas, methods, data, software, workflows, models, and results) are stewarded by active communities of commoners. Real costs are internalized and also shared, as are tools and other assets, including patents. The goal is to optimize the use of these shared resources within an economy of use that contributes to their long-term maintenance. Science becomes more general, generous, and generative.

Coordinating across initiatives to enable a network of interoperable research commons is the goal of this Interest Group, providing a neutral place where people have conversations about Open Science Commons. It will function in a similar vein to the funders forum – space will be given to raise topics of mutual interest, track trends and reach consensus on priorities. The Group will work to reach a shared understanding of what a “Commons” is in the research data space; what functionality, coverage and characteristics does such an initiative require and how can this be coordinated at a global level? The IG Chairs will also proactively look outside the RDA community to connect with parallel initiatives in other spaces, whether in national / regional contexts or in other fora such as the OECD, G7 Open Science Working Group, CODATA, GO-FAIR and others.

The Interest Group will help to coordinate and steer initiatives, assisting implementers to maintain focus while also providing wider context and meaning. It will encourage and facilitate global collaboration, helping to minimise data silos and adoption of standards and protocols to facilitate a cross-country and cross-discipline global open science commons. The Group will necessarily be large and diverse, representing many different stakeholder groups, sectors and countries. Our aspiration is the Chairs should ultimately come from a diverse number of locations given the breadth of remit and need for genuine global engagement.

In forming this Group, the co-chairs have drawn on existing thinking documented in the following:

- Principles for Open Scholarly infrastructures  
<https://cameronneylon.net/blog/principles-for-open-scholarly-infrastruct...>
- Elinor Ostrom's Principles for Managing A Commons  
<https://www.onthecommons.org/magazine/elinor-ostroms-8-principles-managi...>
- The International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC)  
<https://www.iasc-commons.org>
- [EGI/Open Science Commons](#)
- [Initial report](#) on the NIH Data Commons Initiative
- Bruce Caron on [Scholarly Commons Design Patterns](#)

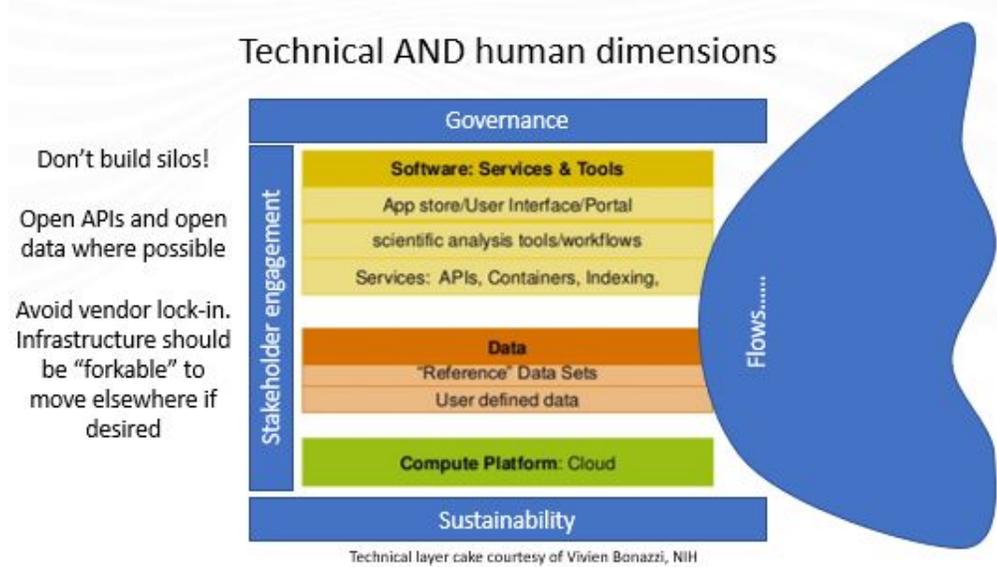
### **User scenario(s) or use case(s) the IG wishes to address**

(what triggered the desire for this IG in the first place):

This proposal builds on three previous BoF sessions at earlier plenaries which analysed current practice and articulated the need to define areas of overlap which are well-suited to greater coordination and interoperability. The field is now at a stage of maturity where we need to agree on definitions and define a typology to help coordinate work and identify what can be done collectively and what has to be done on an individual basis to progress work in related WGs.

Some very preliminary work on a typology was presented at the G7 Open Science Working Group in Paris. This draws together the technical layers proposed in NIH data commons work with human factors that also need to be considered. The key initial task for this Interest Group will be to reach consensus on the core components to be addressed.

# Define a typology of the OS Commons



Existing Open Science Commons initiatives with which we have engaged include the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC), the African Open Science Platform (AOSP), NIH Data Commons, Canada's National Data Services Framework (NDSF), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) initiative. We intend to connect to other organisational or discipline-specific commons such as the Australian Biocommons,<sup>1</sup> the Data Commons for Food Security<sup>2</sup> and CSIRO's Managed Data Ecosystem.

Previous BoF sessions (noted below) have presented some Commons initiatives and progressed discussion to a stage where we have begun identifying key characteristics of the commons to advance a typology and define initial pilot cases for WG activities.

- [Towards a Global Open Science Commons](#) 11th RDA plenary in Berlin in March 2018
- [Delivering a Global Open Science Commons](#) at International Data Week in Gaborone in November 2018
- [Coordinating Global Open Science Commons initiatives](#) 13th RDA plenary in Philadelphia in April 2019
- [Open Science Commons](#) at 14th RDA Plenary in Helsinki in October 2019

## Objectives

(A specific set of focus areas for discussion, including use cases that pointed to the need for the IG in the first place. Articulate how this group is different from other current activities inside or outside of RDA.):

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bioplatforms.com/biocommons>

<sup>2</sup> <https://iasc-commons.org/cs-open-air>

The objectives of this Interest Group will take note of, and learn from, activities occurring within identified national/regional structures. In so doing, it seeks to promote coordination and coherence across national/regionally funded initiatives, and prevent silos forming - a critical objective since all research is global.

The initial activity of the IG will be to articulate the coverage of Commons initiatives in the research data and open science space to provide an overarching framework to structure and guide work. Reaching consensus on what is and isn't a Commons will help to focus activity and avoid mis-application of the concept by those keen to respond to trends.

Within the EOSCsecretariat project, effort is allocated to engage internationally and promote coherence. Within the ARDC, one of the strategic themes is Coordination and Coherence, and this is not restricted to Australia. Since RDA is recognised as the global forum for discussing such data issues and has coordinated the initial 3 BoFs in this field, these efforts will be encouraged to contribute to and align with the forthcoming IG and WGs.

## **Participation**

(Address which communities will be involved, what skills or knowledge should they have, and how will you engage these communities. Also address how this group proposes to coordinate its activity with relevant related groups.):

Participation in the Interest Group will be as broad as possible to cover at least the following knowledge and groups:

- Those involved in running existing Open Science Commons, including national/supra-national, disciplinary, institutional and other sector initiatives e.g. government portals
- Funders, national ministries and policymakers (addressing research infrastructure policy and research policy) such as OECD, Science Europe and national funders
- Research organisations
- Research data service providers who contribute to Commons initiatives
- Researchers and end users
- Parallel bodies in other sectors relevant to this work e.g. International Association for the Study of the Commons

We will pursue links with the National Data Services IG to ensure close collaboration and alignment. A joint GORC/NDS-IG meeting is being held at Plenary 15. Mark Leggott has been brokering discussions and acting as a liaison between the two initiatives, and will recommend a merger.

The Funders Forum is also a critical body of relevance to this Interest Group. We will provide updates for their meetings and explore opportunities for joint sessions with the Funders IG.

## **Outcomes**

(Discuss what the IG intends to accomplish. Include examples of WG topics or supporting IG-level outputs that might lead to WGs later on.):

There are four key outcomes on which we expect to deliver or make significant progress towards initially.

- Consensus and alignment around the description/vision of a Commons
  - output: agreed definition/description
- A typology of Open Science Commons to provide a framework for activity
  - output: consensus typology
- A roadmap for global alignment between Global Open Science Commons. This will present an overall trajectory and support the definition of related working groups
  - output: agreed roadmap
- One or more initial Working Groups to conduct focused activity
  - output: successful WG Case Statement submission

Work began on defining a typology for data commons at RDA in Philadelphia and continued in Helsinki.

## **Mechanism**

(Describe how often your group will meet and how will you maintain momentum between Plenaries.):

Chairs will meet every two months, with the meetings being open to contributions from anyone who wishes to participate. A schedule will be published online. Standing items for the meeting include updates from each national/regional or domain initiative and reviewing progress on related WG activities.

## **Timeline**

(Describe draft milestones and goals for the first 12 months):

An initial session of the Interest Group was run at P14 in Helsinki. At this we advanced the typology for the Commons and brainstormed a roadmap for the first 1-3 years. We also clarified the scope, changed the name of the group, and identified possibilities for Working Groups to take forward specific activities. These WGs will be further defined at the meeting at Plenary 15.

Other related events were originally planned to advance this work. These included:

- Sessions on examining Open Science platforms and Research Infrastructures at the CODATA conference in Beijing, China, in September 2019 (attended by Pascu)
- The [EOOSC in an international context](#) workshop on Tuesday 22nd October at the RDA plenary, Helsinki (attended by Leggott, Hanisch, Treloar)
- [EOOSC Symposium](#) on 26-28th November in Budapest (specifically international panel)

In addition to these, here is one initiative still on the workbench within the UN - an UN “global open science” policy forum (UN aims to develop the initiative in view of the 75th UN birthday with the key target the recognition of the need of open science/science commons as a building block for the SDG’s). It was announced in the UN OS conference last 19 November (see agenda at <https://research.un.org/c.php?g=961229&p=6989510> , slides and recordings at <https://research.un.org/conferences/media>. One of us (Pascu) will follow up with the UN Library chief in due course to see how we could learn from, and contribute to, this initiative.

## Potential Group Members

(Include proposed chairs/initial leadership and all members who have expressed interest):

### Proposed Chairs

Andrew Treloar, ARDC, Australia

Sarah Jones, DCC, Scotland

Corina Pascu, European Commission, Belgium

Vivien Bonazzi, Deloitte, USA

Devika Madalli, Indian Statistical Institute

Rep from Asia (Kazutsuna Yamaji, NII, Japan) *to be confirmed*

Rep from Africa (Omo Oaiya, WACREN, Ghana) *to be confirmed*

Rep from International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) *to be confirmed*

### Interested Members

There is a growing list of members joining this group. The current list can be seen at <https://www.rd-alliance.org/node/64798/members>