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ABSTRACT

This document summarises activities in WP3 during the first 3 months of the project and outlines plans for the next 9 Months and beyond.

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GLOSSARY

| ABBREVIATION | DEFINITION |
|--------------|---|
| ALLEA | The network of all European Academies |
| BoD | Board of Directors |
| BoF | birds of a feather |
| CSC | IT-Center for Science Ltd. |
| EGI | European Grid Initiative |
| ESFRI | European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures |
| EUDAT | European Data infrastructure |
| GSO | Group of Senior Officials |
| HPC | High Performance Computing |
| IG | RDA global Interest Group |
| OA | Organisational Assembly |
| OAB | Organisational Advisory Board |
| OpenAire | Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe |
| RDA | Research Data Alliance |
| RDA Europe | Research Data Alliance Europe |
| SJT | RDA EU 3 WP4 Senior/Junior Team |
| STFC | Science and Technology Facilities Council |
| SyA | Synchronisation Assembly |
| TAB | Technical Advisory Board |
| TRUST-IT | Trust-IT Services Ltd. |
| WG | RDA global Working Group |

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1 Executive Summary

This document summarises activities in WP3 during the first 3 months of the project and outlines plans for the next 9 Months and beyond. It describes activities that have been undertaken to support of the RDA Global bodies and processes under Task 3.1 and activities related to engaging with international funders and policy bodies undertaken in Task 3.2.

The document highlights some specific activities that have been undertaken with the support of RDA Europe, including:

- The RDA Europe Synchronisation Assembly (SyA) which is a discussion platform for those involved in RDA within Europe to share views to maintain the RDA initiative in Europe
- The Organisational Assembly (OA) and Organisational Advisory Board (OAB), where members of RDA Europe have been leading in two areas:
 - mapping the role of the OA in adoption of RDA Outputs, and
 - defining the OAB election process that will become one of the RDA governance documents
- The Technical Advisory Board (TAB) where a member of RDA Europe has recently been elected as co-chair of TAB
- The RDA Council where 4 of the 9 members are now based in Europe
- The RDA Secretariat where support is provided through RDA Europe partners for the OAB, the RDA EU 3 WP4 Senior/Junior Team (SJT) and RDA website
- The RDA Future Directions consultation and analysis
- Interaction with funders from regions other than the EU, US, and Australia
- The development of a financial model for funding RDA global activities that calculates an indicative figure for a funder's contribution to the RDA Foundation based on the funder's relevant budget
- Preparations for two RDA related activities at ICRI 2016 in South Africa
- Planning activities around coordination of interactions between EU and US.

2 Introduction

The purpose of WP3 is to provide support to some of the global activities of RDA. The Objectives of WP3 are:

- Support of the global RDA bodies and processes and synchronise Europe's engagement
- Ensuring Europe stays in a leading position within this global enterprise since a properly operating RDA at global level will strengthen RDA at European level and bring benefit for EU stakeholders
- Engage new regions and global organisations in RDA
- Organise a Cross-Atlantic consultation process to synchronise on RDA related programs
- Monitor the RDA governance structure and work out strategic notes about its development and RDA's sustainability.

WP3 has two tasks. Task 3.1 provides European support to the activities of the RDA Global bodies such as Council, OAB, TAB, and Secretariat. Task 3.2 organises and supports meetings with international research funders, government agencies etc. to engage with other regions and bodies to join RDA.

3 Support of the RDA Global bodies and processes (Task 3.1)

3.1 Synchronisation Assembly

The RDA Europe Synchronisation Assembly (SyA) is a discussion platform for those involved in RDA within Europe to share views to maintain the RDA initiative in Europe. It discusses European priorities for RDA and ensures that those involved in RDA global activities in Europe are aware of the broad European perspective. The SyA is organised jointly by WP2 and WP3.

The purpose of the Synchronisation Assembly is:

1. To synchronise knowledge between major European stakeholders in RDA, especially where RDA in Europe needs to come to consensus;
2. To liaise between RDA Europe and RDA Global;
3. To disseminate information, spread messages, and promote the aim of RDA within Europe and globally; and
4. To ensure that European policy level discussions are being considered by RDA.

Participation in SyA is open to those active in RDA in Europe. Specific invitations to the meeting were sent to: European members of the RDA Council, TAB, OAB, and Secretariat; European WG/IG co-Chairs; RDA Europe Project leadership; Representatives from the EC; Representatives from some other European Initiatives.

There is an open discussion forum for SyA at:

<https://europe.rd-alliance.org/rda-eu-groups/rda-europe-synchronisation-assembly-sya>

First Meeting

The first meeting was held in Paris immediately after the RDA EU 3 project kick-off meeting on 10 Sept 2015. Information about this meeting is available at:

<http://europe.rd-alliance.org/events/rda-europe-events/rda-europe-synchronisation-assembly-10-sept-2015>

Registration to the website is necessary to access some of the materials.

The informal notes of the first meeting are reproduced in annex 1 of this document.

The topics discussed included:

- How best to provide support for Group Co-Chairs at Plenaries and Chairs meetings
- How best to use RDA Europe Senior/Junior team (SJT) in the user support frontline
- The RDA Europe Call for Collaborations
- The RDA Europe Parliament event

Next Meetings

It is planned to have at least one meeting each half year.

The next SyA meeting is planned for March or April 2016

3.2 Council

The project supports European Council members' involvement in Council meetings. The twelve members of Council are:

- Fran Berman (US) Professor of Computer Science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Patrick Cocquet (F) Chief Executive Officer, Cap Digital
- Tony Hey (UK) Chief Data Scientist, Science and Technology Facilities Council
- Kay Raseroka (BOT) IFLA Building Strong Library Associations
- Satoshi Sekiguchi (J) Deputy Director General, AIST
- Michael Stanton (BRA), Director of Research and Development at the Brazilian NREN
- Doris Wedlich (D) Chief Science Officer, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- Ross Wilkinson (AUS) Executive Director, Australian National Data Service
- John Wood (UK) Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities

Topics discussed at Council meetings during these three months include:

- Financial state of the RDA Foundation
- RDA Future Directions Survey
- OA and OAB
- TAB
- Plenaries
- Relationship between RDA Global and RDA regions
- Funder Engagement

RDA Council is responsible for the governance of RDA and since the outset RDA Europe members John Wood and Juan Bicarregui have been central in writing the documents that define the governance structures for RDA. These include: the RDA Foundation Articles of Association, the RDA Governance Document, the TAB Election Process Document, The OAB Election Process Document, and the RDA Foundation Financial model. The latter two of these documents have been worked on during the period reported on here.

3.3 Technical Advisory Board

The Technical Advisory Board (TAB) is a committee of the Council that provides technical expertise and advice to the Council, as well as helping to develop and review RDA Working Groups to promote their impact and effectiveness. Membership of the TAB is elected from the Individual Membership. The TAB is responsible for the technical approach of the RDA Foundation and the development and maintenance of an RDA Technical Roadmap document.

The initial co-chairs of the TAB were Andrew Treloar (Aus) and Beth Plale (US). TAB was partially renewed by election in October 2015 and Francoise Genova was elected as co-chair (replacing Beth Plale.) Francoise visited Andrew Treloar on November 2nd and they discussed the schedule and work programme of TAB for the six coming months. Induction discussions were also organised with the new TAB members to familiarise them with TAB tasks and duties.

TAB meets every two weeks by teleconference, with face-to-face meetings organised at each Plenary meeting.

In general, TAB undertakes the following activities:

- provides technical expertise and advice to the Council
- assists in developing and reviewing RDA Working Groups to promote their impact and effectiveness
- assigns individuals from TB to liaise with each Groups, in particular by attending the sessions and discussing the activities and plans with the chairs
- developing, maintaining, and evolving of the RDA Technical Strategy
- taking care of coherence in building social and technical bridges

During the three months being reported on here, TAB oversaw the complex programming of Working Group and Interest Group sessions at Plenary 6 and organised a meeting with Group chairs. This meeting discussed topics of common interest across groups, shared information about activities, results, and best practices, and exchanged views about how RDA is organised and possible improvements. Discussion was particularly focused this time on outputs and on the post-Working Group phase.

In the near future, TAB will undertake the following activities:

- Several TAB members, including Francoise Genova, will participate in the 4th WG/IG Collaboration meeting, organised by WG Chairs, which will be held in Gaithersburg

(USA) at NIST on December 8th-9th. A session will allow discussion between TAB and the Chairs.

- Preparation for RDA Plenary 7, which will be held in Tokyo on March 1st to 3rd. A template and examples have been prepared to structure the applications for Sessions better and provide useful information for participants afterwards. The Call for Session Proposals was launched on November 18th.
- Address the important question of the post-Working Group phase for Outputs. TAB will present a contribution to be discussed with OAB and Working Group chairs.

3.4 Organisational Assembly and Organisational Advisory Board

The Organisational Advisory Board (OAB) is a committee that provides organisational advice to the Council. Its membership is drawn from the Organisational Assembly (OA) (paying annual dues) that includes the Organisational Members and the Organisational Affiliates (likeminded global organisations with which RDA signs a Memorandum of Understanding). There are currently 34 Organisational Members and 5 Affiliate members¹. It has been decided that the OAB should be elected only when the OA members exceed the number of 36 (3 times the number of OAB, as the OAB is expected to have 12 members). This number was surpassed in Q3 2015, and now the elections are planned to take place after the Plenary 7 in Japan in March 2016. The OA holds a meeting at each RDA Plenary.

OA meetings are held by video-conference on a monthly basis and two sessions are held face to face at Plenaries. The OA meeting enables Organisational Members to help influence directions, hear about progress, and draw up recommendations from the Organisational Members. It provides a forum for Organisational Members to discuss how RDA outputs are to be implemented and deployed.

The co-chairs of the OAB are currently Juan Bicarregui (UK) and Walter Stewart (Canada).

Topics discussed by OAB during these three months include:

- Preparation for Plenary 6 OA meetings
- Future Directions survey
- OAB role in reviewing outputs, driving adoption and forming consensus
- An adoption phase for RDA WGs?
- Value and Engagement of Organisational Members
- News from Working Groups, Interest Groups, and TAB.
- Mapping/clustering of OAB members
- OAB elections
- News from Secretariat

The mapping exercise, led by Leif Laaksonen, undertook a survey of Organisational Members to ascertain their plans for adopting RDA outputs. From the survey, it is clear that the

¹ <https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members.html>

Organisational Assembly and the upcoming Organisational Advisory Board have a sufficiently broad coverage to support the uptake of the RDA Outputs. However, there is a limitation, which was known prior to the survey results, due to the lack of industry regarding commercial utilisation of RDA Outputs. The exercise also identified a number of suggestions for RDA to help promote the adoption of outputs. The results are described in a report that will go to TAB and Council.

The OAB election process was defined and captured in a document that will become one of the RDA formal governance documents. It describes a process similar to that undertaken by TAB but modified to account for the small constituency of votes and candidates. The first OAB elections will be held around the time of Plenary 7.

3.5 Secretariat

As part of the RDA Europe's contribution to the RDA Secretariat, WP3 provides secretarial support for OA and OAB. This support, undertaken by Fotis Karayannis, includes all organisational functions, including scheduling of meetings, preparation of agendas, note taking and minute keeping, planning for face-to-face meetings at plenaries etc. It also includes keeping a task list and briefing of the co-chairs. Herman Stehouwer, as part of the secretariat, is liaising with a number of WG/IGs and does reporting to TAB. Hilary Hanahoe is also part of the secretariat and took in particular responsibility to organize the plenaries.

Occasional support for WP3 activities is also provided by other European members of the secretariat.

3.6 Future Directions

The process of consultation in the development of Future Directions for RDA began at Plenary 4 in Amsterdam and continued with a workshop prior to Plenary 5 in San Diego, and a survey of the membership between Plenary 5 and 6, with progress reported at the Plenary meetings.

Sandra Collins has been a member of the group leading this initiative (with Fran Berman, Ross Wilkinson, and Walter Stewart).

The topics being investigated are:

- How can volunteer efforts be maximally effective and efficiently supported with limited staff support?
- How to coordinate communication to increase RDA's impact with communities, help promote sustainability, improve information dissemination and organisational efficiency, and ensure RDA remains open and welcoming to new members?
- How to increase and improve engagement within the RDA community to drive community cohesion, organisational health, and sustainability?
- How to improve coordination between RDA constituent organisational groups to help the organisation run more effectively and help maximise the impact of volunteer efforts?

Following Plenary 6, an actionable 3-year implementation plan has been developed and will shortly be presented to the RDA Council for adoption on behalf of the global organisation.

3.7 Support for travel to RDA Global Events

In addition to the support provided for the RDA Global activities described above, RDA Europe has also allocated funds to provide financial support for some individuals to participate in the following RDA Global meetings:

- Co-chairs meeting in Gaithersburg in December 2015
- Support for Travel to Plenary 7 in Tokyo, March 2016
- Co-chairs meeting in Nottingham UK in Summer 2016

Further support will be allocated for future meetings in due course.

In collaboration with WP5 it is the task of WP3 to define the criteria for participation and carry out a balanced selection process.

4 Engage with and Represent RDA Europe at International Funder & Policy Level (Task 3.2)

4.1 Interaction with Funders

Interaction from members of WP3 with funders from regions other than the EU, US, and Australia has continued through various channels. Regularly summarizing reports are given to the BoD about the activities.

The G7+O6 Data Working Group reports into the Group of Senior Officials (GSO) on Global Research Infrastructures which in turn reports into G7 Science Ministers. This group has met at the last three RDA Plenaries and these interaction have led to RDA being referred to in the G7 ministerial communique of October 2015 which states:

"Further progress on sharing and managing scientific data and information should be achieved, especially by continuing engagement with community based activities such as the Research Data Alliance RDA."

"We encourage the GSO to continue their work on convergence and alignment of interoperable data management that could accomplish an effective open-data science"

[See https://www.bmbf.de/files/English_version.pdf (page 11) and [https://www.bmbf.de/files/G7_Broschuere_\(3\).pdf](https://www.bmbf.de/files/G7_Broschuere_(3).pdf) (section 5).]

There has also been interaction with the NSF led CRE Group (Funding Group on Collaborative Research E-Infrastructures.)

The group previously called the RDA-Colloquium has been modified and renamed as the RDA Funders Forum. Active discussions are being held with in particular South Africa and Japan.

4.2 Development of a funding model for RDA-F

To support these discussions, a financial model for funding RDA Global has been developed by Juan Bicarregui, Ross Wilkinson, and John Wood.

This model calculates an indicative figure for a funder's contribution to RDA Global based on the funder's relevant budget. It has been used as a basis for discussion in interactions with funders in South Africa and Japan.

4.3 Other Activities

ICRI 2016 in South Africa

A proposal has been worked out by Colin Wright, Peter Wittenburg, and Juan Bicarregui submitted to run two RDA related activities at ICRI in South Africa.

The proposal is to run two events that focus on research data. These would be:

- a Pre-ICRI Day (similar to the DAITF meeting at ICRI 2012 in Copenhagen) to bring together researchers who handle data with data technologists, and
- a session on research data within the main body of the ICRI Meeting that raises awareness of the need to build an effective open-data science environment at a global level.

As well as providing an opportunity to help bring about global convergence and alignment of inter-operable data management, these events would also help develop an understanding of regional data management needs in Africa.

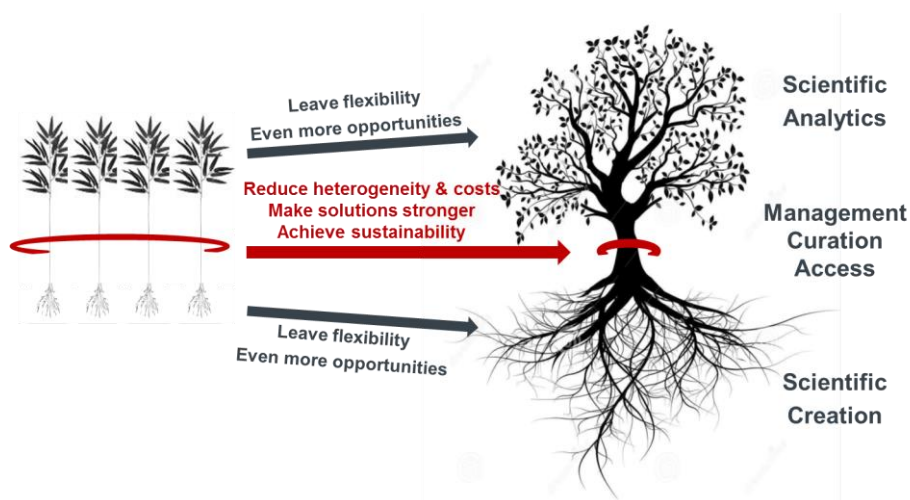
Coordinating interactions between the EU and the US

Discussions have been held with colleagues in the US on how to best coordinate interactions between EU and US. To facilitate a close interaction between these two most active regions in RDA, a subcontract has been agreed on with Alan Blatecky, former director of the NSF Cyberinfrastructure program. The goals for this activity are to synchronize and give advice on the following topics:

- impact strategies for data science between US and EU experts
- possible strategies for fostering uptake and turning RDA results into data practices
- synchronize RDA related programs
- defining areas where industry should become active to provide sustainable technology

During this period, two documents have been drafted. These have been known informally as the “Paris document”² and the “IDDI proposal”³. These activities have stimulated and synchronized global discussions about testing and iteration of RDA results. The issue is that although testing is carried out by different groups asynchronously, common messages need to be identified so that conclusions can be found and acted on globally.

A balance needs to be found between encouraging diversity by supporting many initiatives and coordination to ensure a sustainable ecosystem of interoperable infrastructures. The figure below depicts how, in the area of data management, common components can be identified across disciplines and globally. RDA can help identify such common components – social and technical – to move towards such an ecosystem.



This close coordination between US and EU will be continued in this proactive way and will be extended to include the policy level discussions.

² <https://rd-alliance.org/group/data-fabric-ig/post/paris-paper.html>

³ https://rd-alliance.org/sites/default/files/iddi-v5-short_1.pdf

Annex 1 Notes from first Synchronisation Assembly

RDA Europe Synchronisation Assembly, 10 Sept 2015

Room 106 @ INRA, 147 rue de l'université, 75007 Paris.

PARTICIPANTS:

Juan Bicarregui – STFC
Rachel Bruce – JISC - / Knowledge Exchange
Hilary Hanahoe – TRUST IT
Leif Laaksonen – CSC
Rainer Stotzka – KIT/DARIAH
John Wood – ACU
Jamie Shiers – CERN
Helen Glaves – BGS / ODIP
Donatella Castelli – CNR
Esther Dzale Yeumo Kabore – INRA
Laura Molloy – DCC
Sandra Collins – NLI / ALLEA
Francoise Genova – CNRS
Odile Hologne - INRA
Daan Broeder – CLARIN / EUDAT
Herman Stehouwer - MPG
Simon Hodson – CODATA
Carlos Morais-Pires - EC

1. Introduction to the RDA Europe Synchronisation Assembly Concept

The RDA Europe Synchronisation Assembly (SyA) is a discussion platform for those involved in RDA within Europe to share views to maintain the RDA initiative in Europe.

Purpose

1. To synchronise knowledge between major Europe stakeholders in RDA, especially where RDA in Europe needs to come to consensus;
2. To liaise between RDA Europe and RDA Global;
3. To disseminate information, spread messages, and promote the aim of RDA within Europe and globally.
4. To ensure that European policy level discussions are being considered by RDA.

2. Tour de table: introductions, hopes, and fears for the meeting

The participants' expectations / wishes have been clustered as listed below:

Supporting people active in RDA, including Chairs and Co-chairs:

- How can RDA EU support more effectively Europeans who are active in RDA, e.g. co-chairs of WGs and IGs?

- Need to set up process for practical support for Plenary meetings to ensure European participation and engagement?
- How can we balance the Bottom-up and Top-down?
 - Need to understand how volunteer groups can interact with the “formal structure” of an EC project

RDA Europe in support of the broader community

- How can RDA EU adapt and better address emerging needs of community?
 - How should the RDA Europe project prioritise actions and resources to support RDA activities?
 - How to leverage knowledge and engage with other communities?
- What plans and strategies are there for RDA Europe to engage with other projects that interact with research communities?

Sustainability & Impact

- What practical impact will the provision of infrastructure for RTD & data sharing have? How does RDA Europe fit into that structure?
 - What is RDA delivering? What jobs are being created?
 - What is the relationship between RDA EU & Global and where do the plans for uptake and outputs fit into that?
 - Is it enough that volunteers sustain the outputs?
- How can we maximise dissemination of RDA results?
 - The European RDA community are strong voices advocating data sharing. Can we use RDA Europe project to make these voices stronger by aligning and using similar language?
 - What strategy will be put in place to support non RDA EU players as it is an essential part of sustainability?
 - How to maintain the interest and commitment of a volunteer workforce
- How do we establish priorities for RDA Europe 4 project?

3. Knowledge sharing

Summary of support provided by RDA Europe 2 and 3 projects

Contractually RDA 2.0 & 3.0 can be summarised as:

- RDA Europe 2.0 - €1 million – 7 partners – 18 m (1 Oct 2014)
- RDA Europe 3.0 - €4 million – 12 partners – 30m (1 Sept 2015)

In addition to ongoing communication and outreach activities and stakeholder engagement, RDA EU 3 has a series of new activities to support more the testing and uptake of RDA outputs and recommendations.

RDA Europe Senior / Junior Team

The SJT are a group of RDA Europe 3 partner experts who will join forces to: offer training courses, hackathons, summer-schools in different forms; perform analysis of approaches and solutions in the data domain; provide help, advice on all kinds of data matters, offer support for integrating and adopting RDA Outputs; and create an open Knowledge Base to support these activities.

RDA Europe Call for Collaborations

RDA Europe has allocated funds for collaborations with communities, such as: co-organization of domain workshops or training courses; adoption of RDA outputs, or writing guidelines on RDA outputs focused on domain specialties; or integration into the infrastructure software stack or adaptation of existing software stack to be compliant with emerging RDA guidelines.

Collaborations are expected to be short and focused activities with concrete results produced in about a 6 month time frame and in the order of 15.000€. Proposals should be submitted online at <http://europe.rd-alliance.org/rda-europe-call-application-form>. Deadline for submission is 30 October 2015 17:00 CEST. More information <http://europe.rd-alliance.org/rda-europe-call-collaboration-projects>

JEEE - Joint Effort and Expertise in Europe

JEEE is a collaboration between EDISON, EUDAT, LEARN, OPENAIRE, EGI & RDA EUROPE to: synchronize training agendas to make maximal use of synergies; exchange experts to make maximal use of the available expertise; synchronize clearing house efforts, i.e. profit from each other's analysis and evaluation work; synchronize help, advice and question & answering; and collaborate in creating a joint Open Knowledge Base

RDA EU Parliament Event, Nov. 2015

This is an RDA Europe community response to the Digital Single Market in terms of Open Science, Open Innovation, Open infrastructures with the aim to raise awareness of RDA & data Harvest report. Building on the 5 pillars of the 22nd Sept workshop:

1. Data and computing infrastructures to explore the Human Brain
2. Data and computing infrastructures for open scholarship
3. Service orientation to data and high-performance computing
4. Research Data infrastructures for Environmental related Societal
5. Data & Computing infrastructures for Global Linguistic Resources

We hope to get a series of recommendations for the Digital Single Market seen as a consensus from the community with clear messages. The parliament meeting is planned for 10 November 2015.

Digital Single Market

The DSM concerns: Open Science and the free movement of data; data skills; building trust and strengthening the inclusion of regional expertise in these issues. RDA has relevance to all these issues; however it should produce evidence that research data infrastructures and data sharing are contributing to the economy. Examples of impact, such as the Wheat WG, are critical.

ACTION: RDA Europe should work on generating impact stories that support the claim that it is a contributor to the DSM

Future Directions Update

This exercise will produce a community consensus document with short to mid-term actions for RDA members and operational bodies. There has been consistent feedback that RDA must strengthen communication,

coordination & engagement. Tangible actions include a cohort of 50 volunteers to be RDA ambassadors. What tangible support can be offered to these ambassadors? Need success stories, e.g. how much do communities invest in RDA, what is their contribution?

ACTION: Make an estimate of value of community contribution by making a calculation of time & travel?

Discussion: RDA at Global, Regional, and National levels

Should we organise an RDA Europe event in 2016 to maintain the momentum of the community whilst the plenaries are out of Europe?

- Need to be careful not to create a European plenary in competition with the global ones - RDA is global.
- Could the money be better invested in supporting an EU delegation to attend the outside Europe Plenary meetings?
- Is there a need for RDA national level awareness raising, perhaps through National RDA initiatives?

ACTION: generate a clear table on what the other costs budget is and what it is to be used use for.

RDA WG Chairs meeting in December 2015 at NIST. Is this meaningful in its original structure? The Karlsruhe meeting also had IG chairs to help adopt technical solutions. It was found to be a useful activity.

4. Creating a broad RDA initiative in Europe with the support from the RDA Europe project

Discussion centred on the following questions:

- Do the RDA Global processes work effectively for Europe?
- Are BoFs, IGs, WGs, and Plenaries the right mechanisms for European participation? Anything missing?
- How should RDA support increase and improve the adoption of outputs?
- What happens after a WG finishes?
- How can we broaden the impact of RDA in Europe?

Discussion was introduced by views from: Council (John), TAB (Jamie/Rainer), OAB (Leif/Wolfram), and IGs & WGs (Ester/Helen/Daan). Points raised included:

- **Council**
 - Council is the place for global, regional, member states, policy maker interaction.
 - Should RDA speak on policy?
 - How to work with other organisations, e.g. CODATA.
 - How should RDA influence education, training & skills
 - Streamlining the WG approval process
- **TAB**
 - TAB & OAB overlap in discussions with similar conclusions.
 - Effort is needed to be dedicated to outputs / uptake.
 - Are 12 enough people for TAB?
 - It's not easy to have an overview of the complete picture of the groups and their activities. Categorisation of the groups helps to assign experts.

- TAB and SJT both “follow” the groups? SJT is more of a support role.
- WG/IG Chair meeting with TAB is an essential place to understand & knowledge exchange.
- **OAB**
 - TAB & OAB overlap in discussions with similar conclusions.
 - Activists: orgs as well as individuals and they should have a role / recognition ... through OAB.
 - Still identifying the value of being a member.
 - Democratic process is essential to offer a role and get a volunteer group.
 - But there is currently a lack of diversity of types of organisations (only 36).
 - Connection with industrial organisations not yet available.
 - OAB role emerging - to help to drive adoption through assessing case statements to focus on the adoption opportunities. Consensus forming so outputs are not hijacked for one specific purpose. Relevance to organisations and eventual adoption purposes.
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- **IGs and WGs**
 - Plenary Meetings - there was considerable discussion about the balance of time use at Plenaries:
 - Should we give more time to groups during plenaries?
 - Plenaries are a good place to bring people together. They are currently working as networking meetings rather than working meetings.
 - Should we alternate the plenaries: one outward facing and the next as a working meeting?
 - Could organise 2-day workshops in Europe to solve specific problems.
 - Could include extra rooms for allow meetings to continue outside of official breakout time.
 - Get people prepared before the working sessions, e.g. webinars documentation etc.
 - Continue to develop the guidelines for group chairs.
 - Could support be provided for attendance at plenaries, such as waiving the registration fee or providing travel funds?
 - Should remote on-line participants pay a (small) fee?
 - Adoption of outputs - need to reach community to get support and disseminate; should aim to get support from other international initiatives; should encourage adoption through training:
 - Outputs of WGs need to be maintained to be of relevance, who will do it and how? Can RDA provide a means to help with maintenance?
 - Should there be a follow up on impact of outputs after, say, a year?
 - WG plans to engage with adopters should evolve during process.
 - What are support processes after a WG finishes, more visible on web site?
 - What is the mechanism if a working group wishes to start a new task? What is the process and can it be more transparent?
 - Could coordinate with EUDAT which will implement outputs itself as well as encouraging communities to do so. Support could be available e.g. through coordinating calls for collaboration.
 - Should RDA certify compliance with output?

5. **Establishing European priorities for RDA**

Juan introduced the discussion with a SWOT analysis:

RDA SWOT at 3 years old (Sept 2015)

| | |
|---|--|
| Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large following • Strong Brand with participants • High profile with funders • Timely and Relevant • Good growth • High promise | Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Regional disconnect) • 3 out of 7 continents • Under resourced administration • Bottom-up/Top-down clash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Lack of steer) • Narrow engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Disciplinary engagement • Low industrial engagement • QA process not happening |
| Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast arena to play in • Support from more funders • No competitors at the moment | Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem just too big! • Overtaken by disciplinary solutions • Overtaken by commercial solutions • Irrelevant or incoherent solutions • Disillusionment of participants • Disillusionment of funders |

Need to avoid unrealistic expectations being set of RDA:

- Avoiding disillusionment needs expectation management.
- Perhaps we should produce a charter on what RDA can actually do in the short, medium, and long term. (What is RDA's role and what is not RDA's role?).
- How to avoid RDA being overtaken by disciplinary solutions?
- Some disciplines are moving ahead e.g. bio.
- Which disciplinary building blocks are generic across communities?

6. Developing plans for what future RDA Europe projects should do to support the RDA (global) activities

Carlos presented his vision from what RDA should become over the next 5 years (see slides).

Discussion points included:

- Can RDA coordinate data infrastructure components?
- RDA Europe project can expand in 3 dimensions:
 - From Science to Industry
 - From European to Global
 - From standards and best practice to catalogue of services
- Data Harvest report already discusses many issues.
- RDA should aim not to be too utilitarian
- Opportunity to make virtualisation transparent
 - Research Open Science Cloud is a subset of Digital Single market Cloud
 - European HPC networks need to be integrated into data networks
- What does it mean to be RDA compliant? Reassurance in terms of quality, process, testing,...
 - Is there a role for compliance in public procurement?
 - Including in Service provisioning: catalogue of services with compliance status.
- How to sustainably support RDA as a process and logistically.
- Can RDA become a mainstream background context – the obvious place to solve your problem?

7. **Sum up and planning**

What should the process be for meetings and in between?

- Frequent updates (on a monthly basis)
- Ensure that updates on discussions and requests from previous meetings are noted and communicated
- Engage widely
- Communicate to RDA Global