

Research Data Alliance (RDA) policy on RDA regional legal entities and other “RDA” constructs

A regional RDA is a geographically based branch of the RDA committed to the RDA’s guiding principles and directly contributing to achieving the RDA’s vision and mission as well as global sustainability¹. Regional RDAs are approved and recognised in negotiation with the RDA Secretary General and the RDA Council and must have a signed partnership agreement or a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the RDA Foundation.

Creation of RDA Legal Entities

The global RDA (legally represented by the RDA Foundation (the global legal entity)²) is the officially recognised representative of the RDA community³. There are some exceptions for regional RDA instances that have been approved by the RDA Council⁴. Organisations, associations, alliances, etc. using or referring to the RDA name, logo (and versions of that logo) must have a written agreement with the RDA Foundation outlining the scope, objectives, duration and eventual in-kind and / or financial contribution of the relationship.

Regional RDAs

The global RDA does not decide the level on which RDA Regions should be formed. It is for individual countries or consortia in the regions to define what model best suits their context and culture. This decision should remain flexible and open to change as circumstances require. RDA Regions are categorised under four types, with specific opportunities and benefits:

- Interested region: Interest in joining RDA as a national / regional partner
- Engaged Region: National / Regional group (web space) publicly available and dedicated regional representative(s) to animate
- Committed Region: MoU for national group signed
- Partner region: Partnership Agreement signed with RDA Foundation and official representation on RDA governing board (RAB)

¹ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/how-rda-works/>

² <https://www.rd-alliance.org/about/rda-foundation/>

³ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/about/>

⁴ RDA Europe Office was established as a legal entity in 2020 to ensure eligibility for funding opportunities in the European Union

DESCRIPTION	INTERESTED	ENGAGED	COMMITTED	PARTNER
Regional Advisory Board (RAB)	-	-	-	+
Regional Assembly (RA)	+	+	+	+
Dedicated Regional group web space & mailing list	-	+	+	+
RDA Branding & Logo Agreement	-	-	+	+
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	-	-	+	-
Partnership Agreement	-	-	-	+

www.rd-alliance.org

RDA engaged, committed and partner regions have a section on the RDA web site, set up and facilitated by the Secretariat. As per Council decision in 2017, in order to adhere to RDA communications and trademark processes and policies, **no external web sites (on different domains from www.rd-alliance.org and rda-foundation.org) should be registered, established and/or published.**

RDA Regional logos can be generated if part of the written agreement and are a replica of the RDA brand with the region indicated in blue underneath (example shown).



Complete details on the RDA Regional Partnerships and Regional Advisory Board and Regional Assembly are available in the Research Data Alliance (2022): RDA Regional Partnership Processes Document, Version 2.2 Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.15497/rda00059>

RDA Endorsements

As appropriate, the RDA endorses or supports events, products, statements, and occasionally proposals and projects. Unless otherwise noted, the Secretary General, where necessary in consultation with the Council Co-chairs, decides whether to endorse something. Endorsement allows the use of the RDA logo and includes help with promotion and coordination but does not include any financial support from the RDA Foundation.

RDA Logo Usage (text currently available at <https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-endorsement-and-logo-usage-guidelines/>)

The RDA logo and other related brands are registered trademarks of the Research Data Alliance Foundation. To ensure consistent adherence to the [RDA's Guiding Principles](#), permission is required to use the RDA logo and branding. Permission is granted by the Secretary General (or designee) in consultation with the Council co-chairs. Typically, logo use is granted along with endorsement of a product or activity (see below). Requests to use the logo should be sent to [enquiries\[at\]rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries[at]rd-alliance.org).

In the following situations, explicit permission is *not* required, but notification of the use is appreciated.

- Current Organisational Members and Affiliates may use the logo on their web sites and other promotional material to demonstrate their support of the RDA.
- Organisations that adopt RDA Recommendations may use the logo on relevant media to indicate they are using RDA Recommendations in a particular product or service (i.e. a sort of “powered by RDA” concept).
- Current, endorsed Working Groups and Interest Groups may use the logo on materials related to official Group activity such as meetings outside formal Plenaries, RDA product promotion, community engagement activities, etc.
- Official Regional RDAs (with a valid, approved partnership agreement) may use their version of the logo as they see fit as long as the logo user adheres to the RDA's Principles.

The RDA encourages broad use of the RDA logo to promote RDA products, activities, and principles, but retains the right to deny usage in any situation deemed inappropriate by the Secretary General in consultation with the Council co-chairs.