

**RDA Council Meeting**  
**17 October 2025 IDW 2025, Brisbane, Australia**  
**UTC 04:00-09:00**

**Meeting Chairs: Juan Bicarregui, Lee Wilson**

**Attendees:**

1. Juan Bicarregui
2. Sara Garavelli (online)
3. Joyce Gosata Maphanyane
4. Rosie Hicks
5. Wolfram Horstmann
6. Amy Nurnberger
7. Magdalena Szufliita-Żurawska (OA/B)
8. Marta Teperek (online) (RA/B)
9. Mikiko Tanifuji (online)
10. Lee Wilson
11. Mingfang Wu (TAB)
12. Hilary Hanahoe (RDA Foundation Secretary General)
13. Bridget Walker (RDA Foundation (notes))

[Item 1: Conflict of Interest, Agenda approval and actions following meeting of 17 July 2025](#)

*Discussion:*

Conflict of interest expressed by Juan Bicarregui regarding agenda item on plenary meetings due to being the RDA Plenary 27 host, and Hilary Hanahoe regarding agenda item on Legal Entities in RDA due to being a Trustee of the RDA AISBL Association.

Actions from previous meeting: It was decided the Regional Partnership Framework does not need to include the approved RDA Policy on Legal Entities and Regional Constructs<sup>1</sup> but should make reference to the relevant section in the Governance Document. The legal entities text will be integrated into the Governance Document and published together with a clause on the termination of board members, as discussed at the Executive Council meeting.

[Item 2: RDA Foundation Financial Status Update – Amy Nurnberger](#)

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<sup>1</sup> RDA Policy on Legal Entities and Regional Constructs - <https://www.rd-alliance.org/membership/regional-membership/>

### *Discussion:*

Following circulation of the RDA Foundation's financial report for quarter 3 2025, Forecasts quarter 4, and 2026-2028, Council were presented with an update on the financial situation together with an analysis of 2026 Organisational Membership fees and potential impact. Overall, the RDA Foundation has a solid standing with manageable shutdown costs with forecast and confirmed expenditure for 2025 resulting very similar.

The Foundation is trying to build up reserves to maintain operations, but due to the Foundation being a non-profit organisation, further investment, for example in the website, is being considered.

### Item 3: Legal Entities in RDA

#### *Discussion:*

Amy Nurnberger provided an update on the situation with RDA US highlighting that a new mandate within the US is foreseeable but there will be no formal partnership with RDA global beyond 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

#### *Decision:*

RDA US will continue to participate in the Regional Advisory Board despite the lapse in the formal agreement as a recognition of the longstanding support from the US. The RDA US Steering Committee would be contacted to determine who the delegate is.

### Item 4: Risk Registry – Juan Bicarregui

#### *Discussion:*

Council discussed the significant change in risks, i.e. the US situation, and the risks of data continuity, considering the immediate effects already observed through the affected data sources and streams.

Council was provided with possible considerations regarding resilience of data infrastructures for research and the role, if any, the RDA community could play was discussed.

#### *Decision:*

It was decided to revisit the topic at a future meeting and in the meantime to gather contacts from organisations having issues with data continuity.

### Item 5: Plenary Meetings – Hilary Hanahoe

#### *P26 Discussion:*

The theme of RDA P26 was discussed with suggestions for plenary sessions to address research resilience and continuity and to seek keynote speakers from within the RDA community.

#### *P26 Decision:*

The theme of P26 to be changed to ***Data Continuity for Research Resilience*** given the previous discussions on the current global risks of data continuity. A small task group is to be formed with the aim of discussing and deciding on plenary session topics.

#### *P27 Discussion:*

The decision for an in person only event was discussed with much reference to the overall experience of plenaries and the particular focus of RDA group meetings compared to those taking place throughout the year.

#### *IDW 2027 Discussion:*

A brief update was given following the first meeting with the event hosts on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

#### *IDW Events Discussion:*

Council discussed options for the possibility and feasibility of a new model for the IDW events, introducing a joint identity as opposed to the current separate identities of RDA Plenary and SciDataCon.

#### *IDW Events Decision:*

The future of IDW events to be decided early 2026 but there will be no major change with RDA group working meetings maintained and areas of collaboration with the other organisations to be found.

#### *New Component for RDA Plenary Meetings Discussion:*

Council discussed the suggestion for the RDA to be more innovative, allowing space for new ideas, and encouraging RDA community members not already driving an RDA group to get involved. A new structure of *new ideas pitch* breakout sessions was proposed and discussed.

### Item 6: RDA Future EU Funding – Hilary Hanahoe

#### *Discussion:*

Council was presented with a new call from the European Commission on global cooperation for the uptake of open science practices, and a discussion followed on the RDA's suitability, considering its conditions for application.

### Item 7: Microsoft Research Collaboration – Hilary Hanahoe

#### *Discussion:*

Council was presented with an update on the October 2025-March 2026 collaboration with Microsoft executed within the framework of the public-private partnership model<sup>2</sup>, focusing on how Agentic Artificial Intelligence can support data research and highlighting the community consultation focus.

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<sup>2</sup> The Value of the Research Data Alliance to Industry and the Private Sector - <https://www.rd-alliance.org/stakeholders/industry-and-private-sector/>