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- Skills for the European
- Open Science
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Data Stewardship: Professional Networks for Lifelong Learning

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Forum Gestão de Dados de
Investigação

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Supporting

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Skills4EOSC Project Objectives

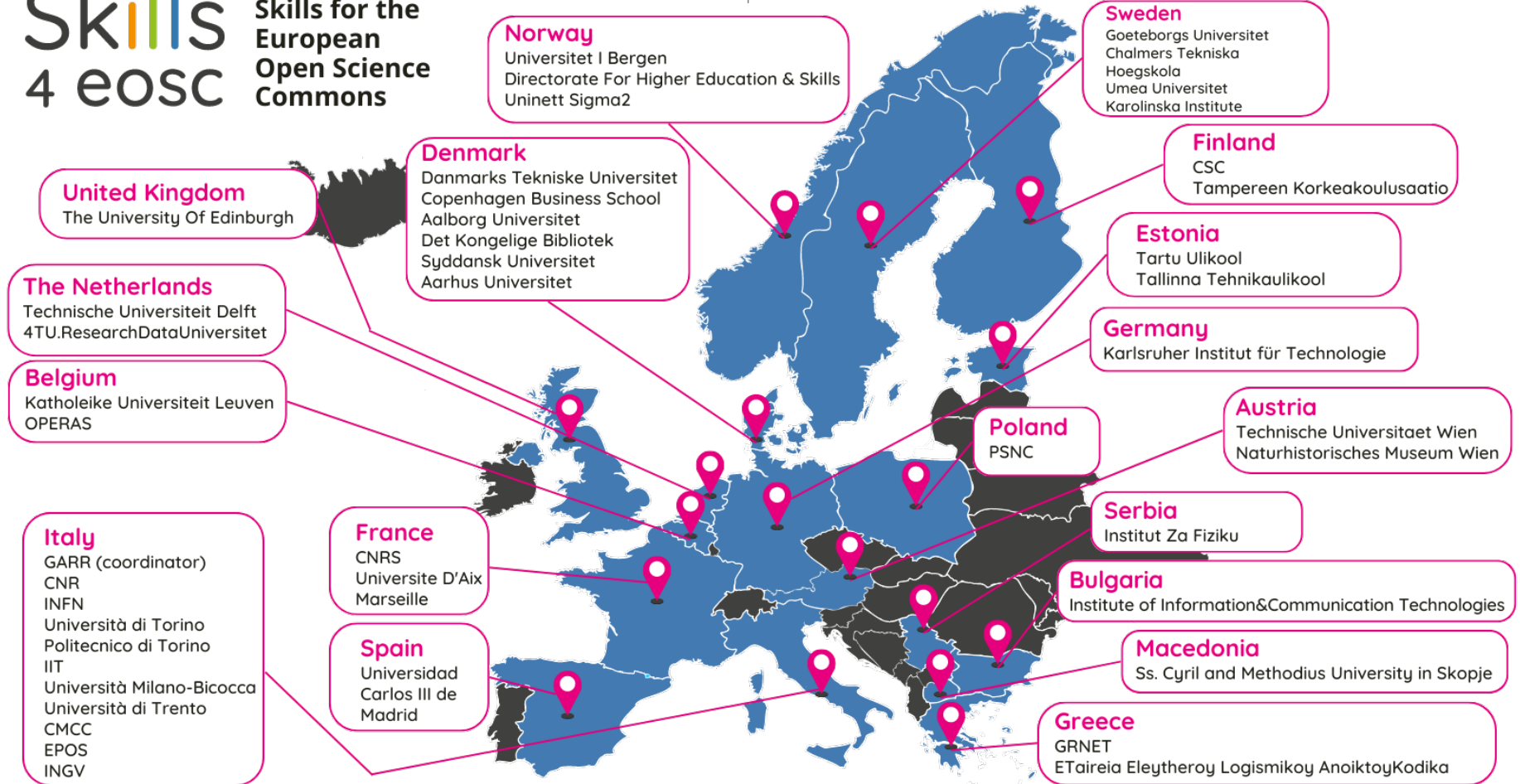
Advance Open Science (OS) skills by unifying the current training landscape into a common and trusted pan-European ecosystem

Closing 3 gaps

1. Lack of Open Science and data expertise
2. Lack of a clear definition of data professional profiles and corresponding career paths
3. Fragmentation in training resources.

Skills4EOSC Project Partners

18 countries
44 partner institutions



Skills4EOSC Work Packages

- 1 – Project Management
- 2 – OS career profiles, skillsets and material: landscaping, certification and QA
- 3 – OS training for evidence-based policy and public administration
- 4 – Curricula and learning paths for OS-ready institutions
- 5 – OS skills for RIs and thematic communities
- **6 – Professional networks for lifelong learning**
- 7 – European Competence Centres and user support networks
- 8 – Synergies, stakeholder engagement, advocacy and communications

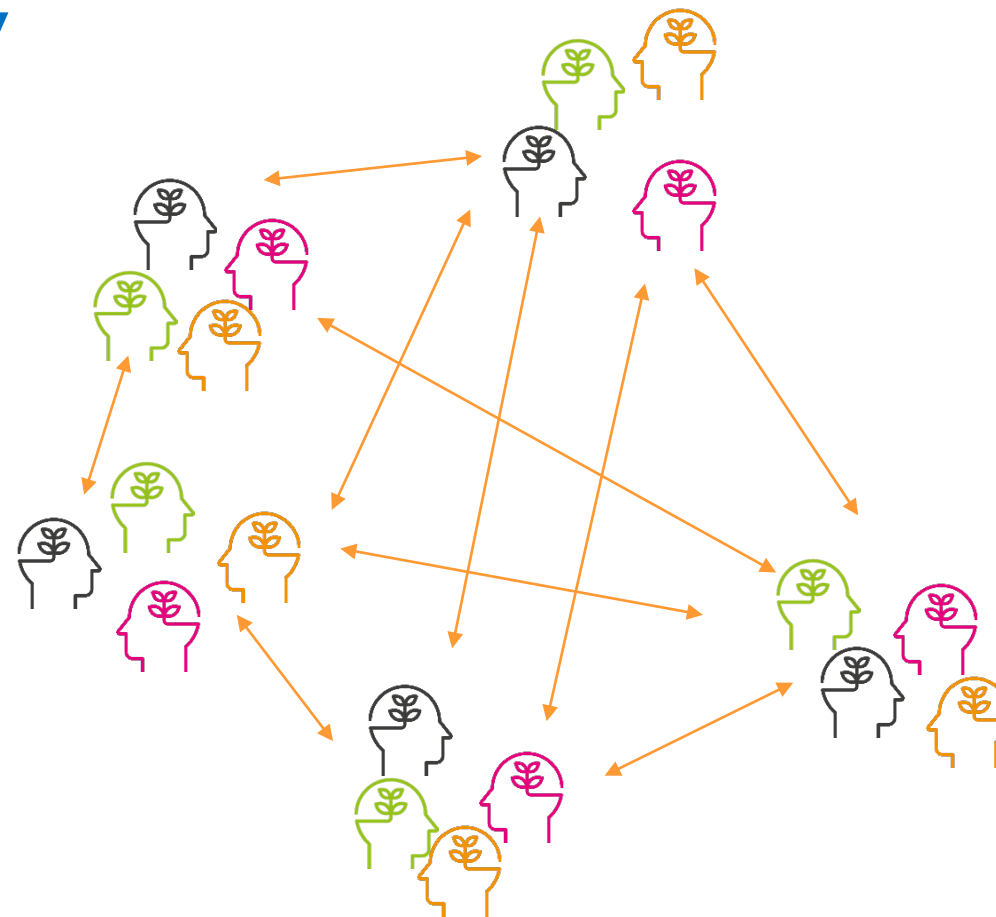
Professional Networks for Lifelong Learning - Task 6.3.1

- Harmonising and fostering the creation of new Data Steward Networks



Network/Community

- Deficit in formal training
- Solutions through discussion
- Cross-pollination of ideas
- Exchange of good/best practices
- Resource dissemination
- Platform for new opportunities
- New developments, etc
- Shape own identity/role
- Amplify voices/raise awareness





Role of Skills4ESOC

- Professional Profiles
- Identify gaps – where networks do not exist
- Stakeholder engagement in context – is network feasible/desirable
- Coalesce initiatives – bringing local efforts together
- Advocacy and facilitation
- Tools – Network Starter Kit, etc
- Harmonisation of networks – cross pollination of ideas, etc as in previous slide
- National Competence Centres – support and sustainability



Who is a Data Steward?

The "data steward" is a professional figure competent for supporting researchers in the responsible planning and managing of research data throughout its life cycle.

Overall, the "data stewards"

- have prior knowledge of how data is collected and managed in a specific research domain, perhaps because they have a PhD in that field;
- have advanced concepts of programming, database management, research infrastructures, data security, legal and ethical aspects of data management and sharing;
- have good communication, educational and organisational skills;
- have or wish to pursue a career path that combines research and research support

The concept, functions and activities of a data steward very often depend on the institution where they are employed. Nevertheless, the underlying theme is that the data steward is a figure with (at least one or more) transversal skills in the management of research data (disciplinary, IT and technical, legal) and very often acts as a bridge between researchers (i.e. producers and users of research data), infrastructures, and research organisation.





New Data Steward/RDM Networks

- Skills4EOSC & new network initiatives
 - **Italian network**
 - **University of Bologna, Skills4EOSC, ICDI**
 - **Nordic network**
 - Umea, SND, CSC, UiT, HKDIR...
 - **Irish network**
 - University of Cork, with support from NORF
 - **Portuguese network**
 - University of Minho, ISCTE, ...



Development of the Italian Network

- Skills4EOSC EU Survey: Mapping of professionals supporting RDM in Italy
 - “Definition” of Data Steward
 - 11 Questions with multiple choice options, 1 free text
- In your institution, are there professionals responsible for the research support functions that we have described in the definition of ‘data steward’?
- Are these figures formally identified as “data stewards”?
- What is the role of the "data stewards" or equivalent figures within your institution?
- At which level of organisation are they framed?
- What kind of training do the "data stewards" or equivalent figures have within your institution?
- What kind of support do the "data stewards" or equivalent figures provide within your institution?



matjeacock_iStock



Development of the Italian Network

- 55 Respondents, 40 institutions
- Kick-off meeting 7 November – 50 attendees
 - Who is a Data Steward? What is the organisational profile?
 - Sustainability of roles (career paths, permanence vs project-based)
 - Capacity and training for thematic/discipline-specific RDM
- **Support from ICDI (Designated Skills4EOSC National Competence Centre)**
 - Infrastructure and hosting
 - Event organisation
 - Publicity and advocacy

Development of the Italian Network

- Pilot Skills4EOSC DS Network Starter Kit
- Volunteer-led: Valentina Pasquale - IIT, Giulia Caldoni - Bologna
- Mailing list – main communication, later Slack channel
- Online meeting every 2 months,
 - Topic of interest presentation
 - New and newsworthy, e.g. developments, opportunities, new tools
 - Trainings
 - Collaboration, workshops, etc
- Existing website
- Also See DTL DSIG (link below)

Data Steward Network Starter Kit*

- Identifying (as) a Data Steward
- Conceptualising a new network
- Growing/sustaining an existing network
- Do we need a (new) network – benefits
- Member research
- Roles and responsibilities
- Theoretical background
- Practical steps and things you need
- Case studies
- Etc...

*Horton et al., 2023





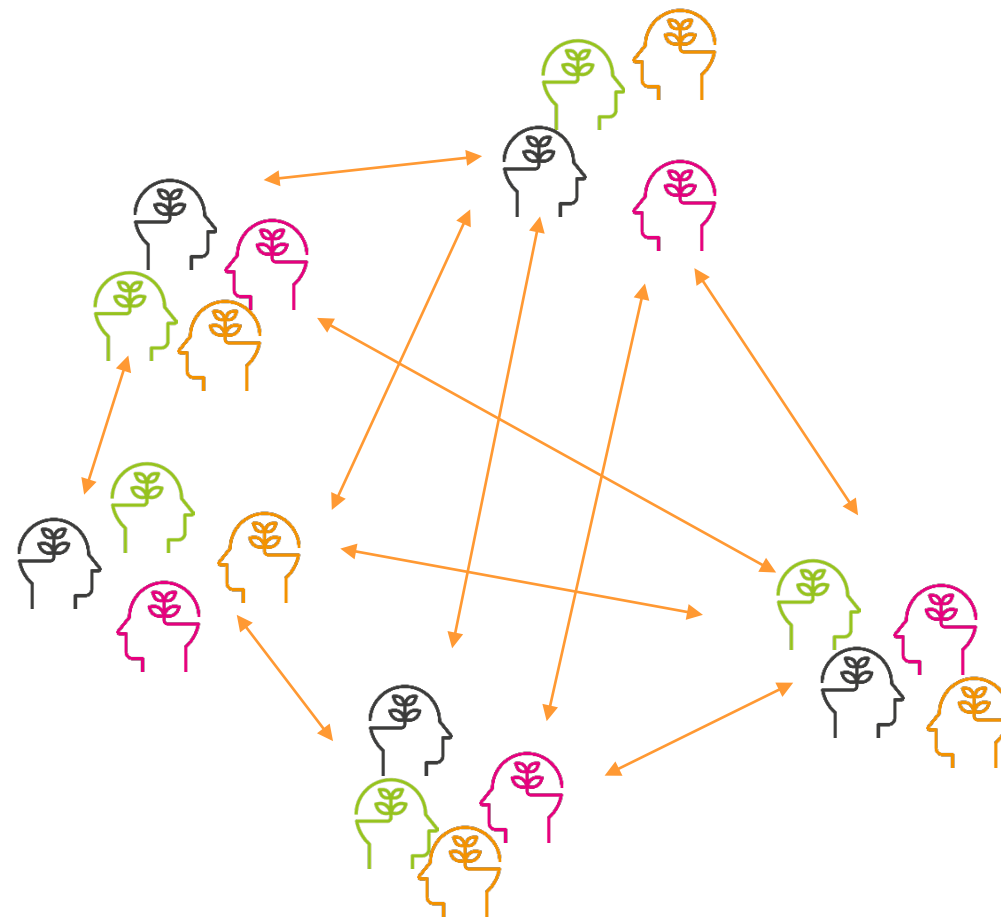
Networking and Knowledge Exchange

- Harmonisation – a community within the RDA PDS IG
 - A space and community where data stewards and others working in RDM can seek and offer support to each other, addressing commonalities and collaboration, etc.
 - Support the conception and creation of new national/regional DS and RDM networks
 - Encourage and facilitate the exchange of ideas/knowledge across networks for example, so that newer networks can adapt/adopt ideas from more established ones
 - Encourage the “twinning” of DS/RDM networks globally to encourage and facilitate exchange of ideas, etc to help establish new network initiatives
 - Disseminate relevant information and developments in RDM and data stewardship
 - Host a session at (at least) one RDA plenary per year

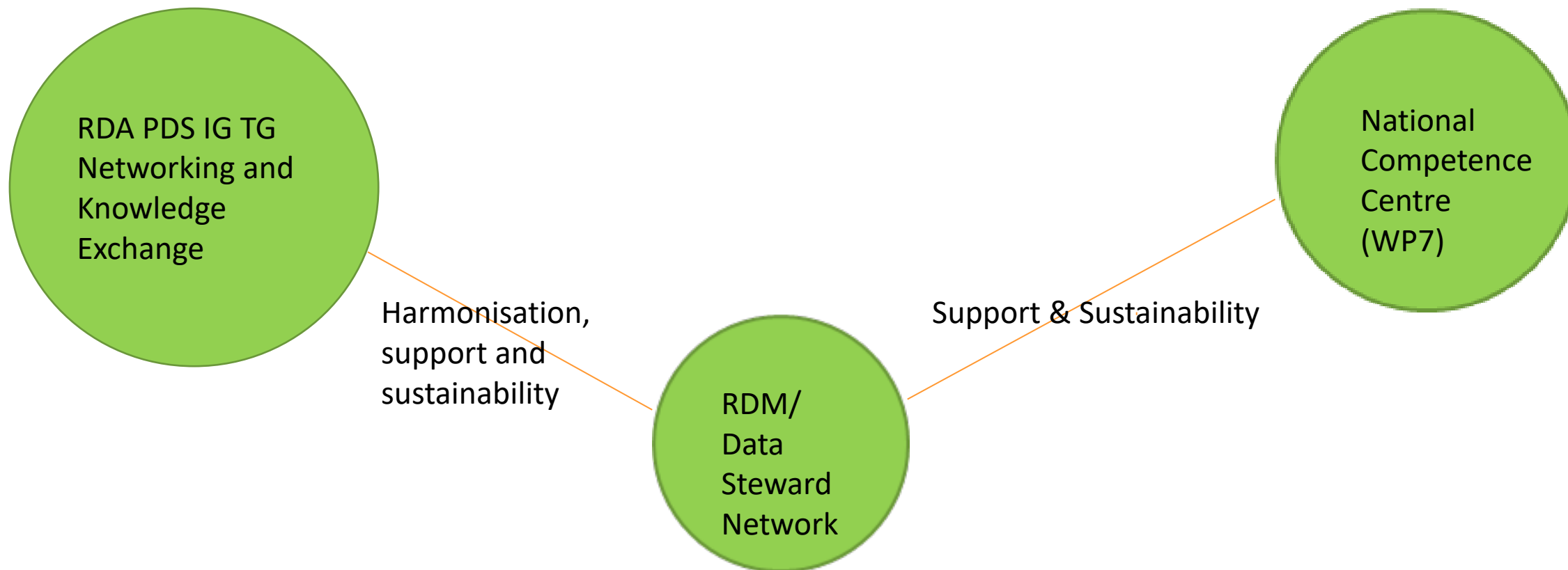


Sustainability

- RDA Task Group
- Skills4EOSC Outputs
 - Network starter kits
 - Professional profiles
 - Curricula and learning paths
 - Fellowship programme
- National Competence Centres/ National Nodes
 - Training (of trainers)
 - Infrastructure, hosting, event organisation
 - Dissemination of information/developments/tools
 - Allocation of available appropriate funding
 - Coordination point, promotion and advocacy



Sustainability



Links and Resources

- [D6.1 Mapping of Professional Networks](#)
- [D2.1 Skills4EOSC Open Science career profiles](#)
- [D6.1 Skills4ESOC Data Steward Network Starter Kit](#)
- [RDA professionalising data stewardship IG](#)
- [DTL Data Stewards Interest Group \(Netherlands\)](#)
- [Elixir UK \(life sciences only\)](#)
- [D7.1 Competence Centres Landscape & User Support Activities](#)

- [Skills4EOSC Fellowship Programme](#)



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Thank you! Questions?

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