TU Delft Data Champions - Executive Summary

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Purpose of this document: To provide an executive summary of the plans to launch the Data Champions initiative at TU Delft

# Objective

The objective of the Data Champions programme is to create a community of researchers actively engaged with research data stewardship.

# Why we need a Data Champions programme?

A combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches was identified as the most successful in ensuring institution-wide adoption of good data stewardship practices[[1]](#footnote-1). The Data Stewardship project at TU Delft[[2]](#footnote-2) provides an excellent framework for the development and implementation of discipline-specific policies and workflows for data stewardship. However, in its current framing, the project lacks a defined strategy for researcher engagement.

It is therefore proposed that a Data Champions programme will be created, similar to the programme run by the University of Cambridge[[3]](#footnote-3). **Data Champions will be researchers who are enthusiastic about data stewardship and who will volunteer to act as advocates for their local communities**.

# Outline of the programme

It is proposed that a **local Data Champions community will be created at every TU Delft faculty**. Ideally, there would several Data Champion from every department (ideally a representative from every section). The Data Champions community will be led by the local Data Steward. Alignment, networking and good practice exchange between the local communities will be ensured by hosting a **Yearly Data Champions Symposium**, where Champions from all the faculties will meet to exchange good practice, talk about data stewardship and network with international leaders in data stewardship.

# What we would ask of Data Champions

We would expect the Data Champions to do the following:

* Advisors/mentors to other researchers in their department/section
* Act as an advocate for research data management and sharing at the department / faculty
* Speak to researchers about own experience with data stewardship during departmental and faculty presentations and training events
* Participate in Data Champions meetings at your faculty once every two months
* Participate in yearly one day event for all TU Delft’s Data Champions

# What will be the rewards offered to Data Champions

**Data Champions will volunteer their time** to promote good data stewardship within their communities. Therefore, **it is essential that their efforts are appropriately rewarded**, so that researchers feel incentivised to join the initiative, and motivated to continue volunteering their time.

It is proposed that two dedicated funds are created: a **Data Champions Training Fund** and a **Data Champions Travel Fund**. Data Champions Training fund will allow Data Champions to apply for small funds to organise events and workshops at their faculties to promote data management and sharing. Data Champions Travel Funds will allow Data Champions to apply for financial support to attend international conferences (discipline-specific or related to data stewardship) where they could present their work and network with like-minded colleagues.

# Budget

These are the cost estimates for the programme:

* 10,000 EURO/year for the organisation of the yearly Data Champions Symposium
* 8,000 EURO/year for the Data Champions Travel Fund (1,000 EURO per Faculty)
* 12,000 EURO/year for the Data Champions Training Fund (1,500 EURO per Faculty)

# Supplementary information

More detailed information about the programme [is also available](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Jo6SN860xSEEogrhW9rSjoYzU7_0FI0ipUBaFIWXtMM/edit?usp=sharing).

1. <https://doi.org/10.1101/103895> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://openworking.wordpress.com/2017/08/29/data-stewardship-addressing-disciplinary-data-management-needs/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://doi.org/10.1101/104661> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)