Research data alliance - RDA
an organisation towards social and technical bridges to enable the
open sharing and re-use of data
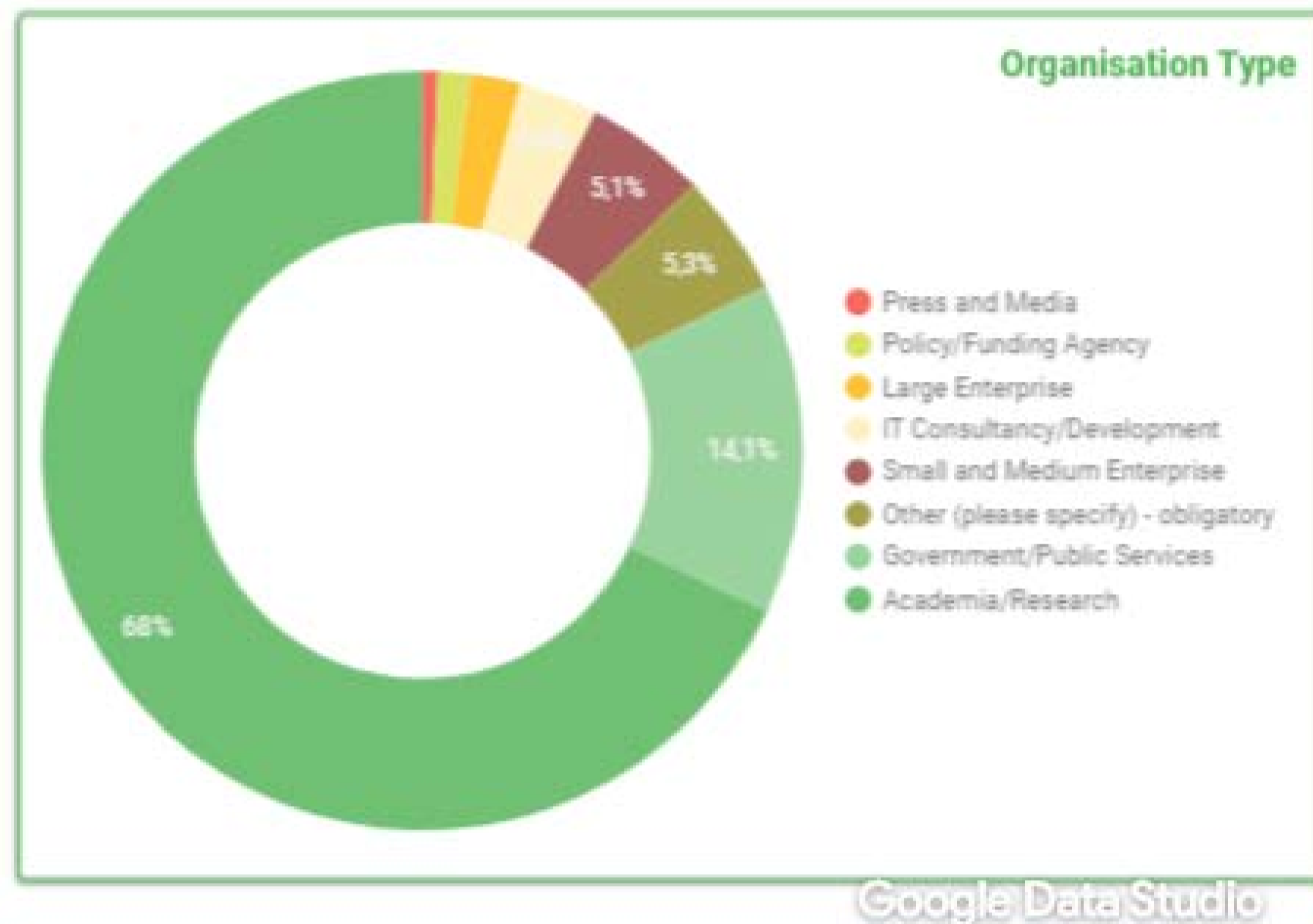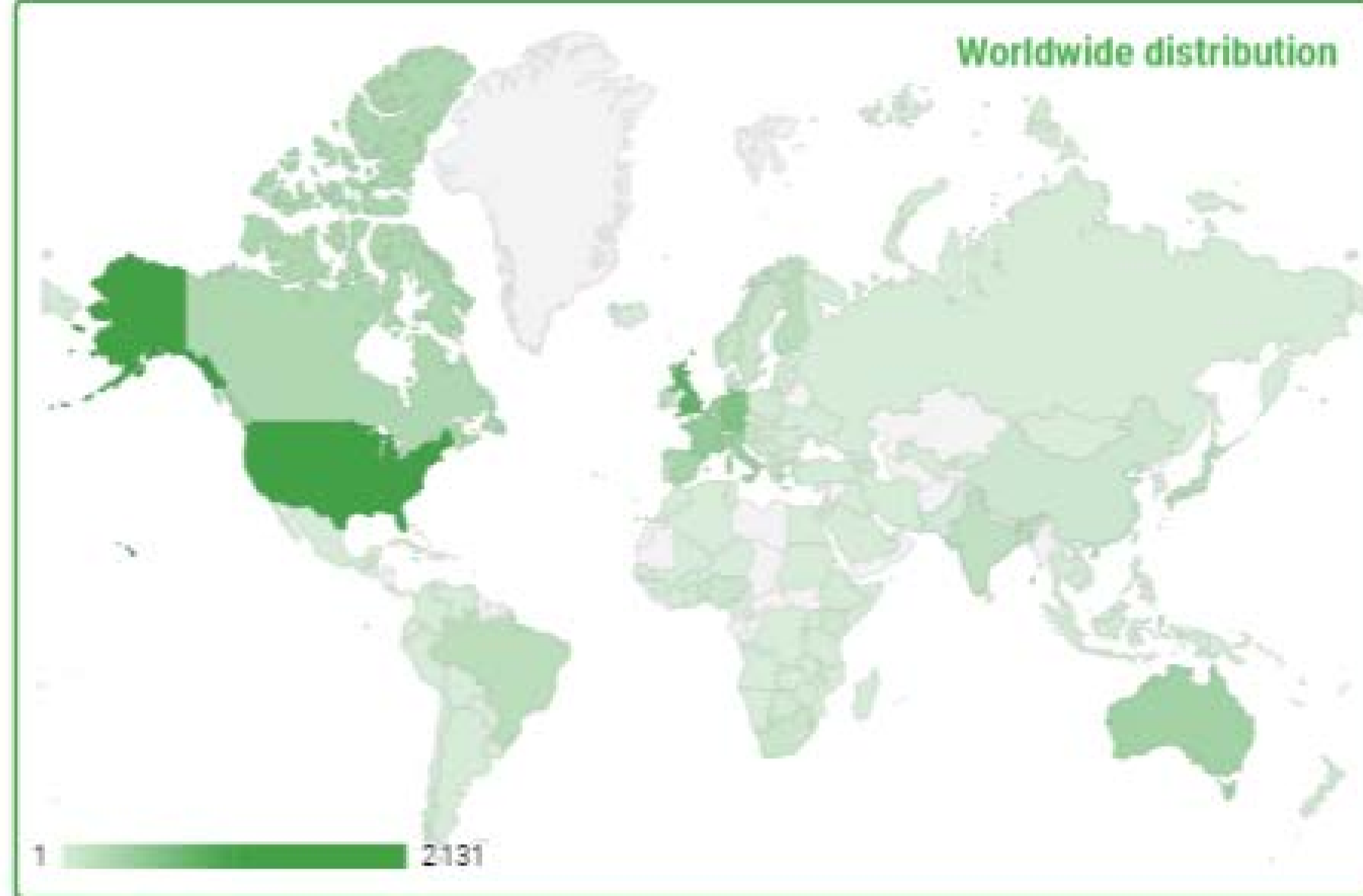### with full credit to FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data requirements.

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The Research Data Alliance

With **over 9000 members from 137 countries**, RDA provides neutral space where its members can **come together to work towards Research Data Sharing without barriers.**

Text mainly from RDA website.
www.rd-alliance.org/about-rda

The Research Data Alliance (RDA) was launched as a community-driven initiative in 2013 by the European Commission, the United States Government's National Science Foundation and National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Australian Government's Department of Innovation with the goal of building the social and technical infrastructure to enable open sharing and re-use of data.

RDA has a grass-roots, inclusive approach **covering all data lifecycle stages in all science domains**, engaging *data producers, users and stewards*, addressing data exchange, processing, and storage. It has succeeded in creating the *neutral social platform where international research data experts meet to exchange views and to agree on topics including social hurdles on data sharing, education and training challenges, data management plans and certification of data repositories, disciplinary and interdisciplinary interoperability, as well as technological aspects.*

Worldwide distribution

Organisation Type

5,7%
5,3%
14,1%
68%

- Press and Media
- Policy/Funding Agency
- Large Enterprise
- IT Consultancy/Development
- Small and Medium Enterprise
- Other (please specify) - obligatory
- Government/Public Services
- Academia/Research

The RDA Vision and Mission

- **The RDA Vision:** Researchers and innovators openly share data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.
- **The RDA Mission:** RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data.

RDA at large and RDA Europe

RDA addresses the need for open and interoperable sharing of research data and builds the social, technical and cross-disciplinary links to enable such sharing on a global scale.
An RDA Europe branch has been developed (https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-Europe); **Launched in March 2018, RDA Europe 4.0 is mandated to become the centrepiece for an EU Open Science Strategy, through a dedicated open cascading grant process. T**hanks to EU H2020 funding a network of national nodes (10 countries so far), specific actions (early career program, experts, adoption grants) and RDA ambassador program (https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-disciplines/rda-europe-ambassadors) were set up.
French node (https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-france): CNRS in charge, supported by Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation (MESRI) in the Framework of the National Plan for Open Science.
Participation in RDA is open to anyone who agrees to its guiding principles of *openness, consensus, balance and harmonization*, with a **community-driven, non-profit approach**. Individual membership is free: https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register

RDA Recommendations and outputs

RDA Outputs are the technical and social infrastructure solutions developed by **RDA Working Groups or Interest Groups** that enable data sharing, exchange, and interoperability. They have an important impact on:
- Solving data sharing problems
- Adoption in infrastructure environments by individuals, projects and organizations

To improve global data sharing, exchange and interoperability, **RDA works on raising awareness and expanding the adoption of these outputs across all regions of the world**.

Working groups (WG) and Interest groups (IG)

RDA Members come together through focused Working Groups and Interest Groups, formed by experts from all around the world – from **academia, private sector and government**. https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups
They can be domain or technology specific, address any of the dimensions of the FAIR data principles : Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (Wilkinson et al.The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. SciData. 2016 15;3:160018).
They can address policy aspects as well as technical ones;
e.g. https://www.fairsfair.eu/articles-publications/fairsfair-top-rda-working-and-interest-groups

Working Groups & Interest Groups: what's the difference?

Working Groups

Working Groups are short-term (18 months) and come together to develop and implement data infrastructure, which could be tools, policy, practices and products that are adopted and used by projects, organizations, and communities. Embedded within these groups are individuals who will use the infrastructure and help in making it broadly available to the public.
As of October 2019, RDA boasts 32 working groups.

Interest Groups

Interest groups are open-ended in terms of longevity. They focus on solving a specific data sharing problem and identifying what kind of infrastructure needs to be built. Interest Groups can identify specific pieces of work and start up a Working Group to tackle those.;
As of October 2019, RDA boasts 55 interest groups.

MEMBERSHIP Members: **9100**
Becoming a member of RDA is simple and open to both individuals and organizations
Register now

RDA Groups WG & IGs: **87**
Discover what RDA Working and Interest Groups and all other Groups are up to and find out how to join them. **Explore Groups**

RDA Plenaries

RDA Plenaries are meetings held every six months in different places around the world. They are exciting and productive events that bring together a unique community of data scientists, librarians, computer scientists, open data actors and domain scientists. Plenary meetings are special working events that really help move the community forward in creating tangible deliverables that improve data sharing across disciplines, technologies, and countries.
https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries

Recent/Next plenary meetings:
RDA 13th Plenary Meeting – 2-4 April 2019, Philadelphia, USA. *"With Data Comes Responsibility"*
RDA 14th Plenary Meeting - 23-25 October 2019, Helsinki, Finland. *"Data Makes the Difference"*
RDA 15th Plenary Meeting - 18-20 March 2020, Melbourne, Australia.

Solutions and benefits for organizations performing research and their staff

- RDA offers a **neutral forum** for research data interoperability;
- RDA is a **global platform** and **network** offering unique interactive and collaborative opportunities;
- RDA groups produce **guidelines, tools, methods and infrastructures for locating, understanding and reusing data**;
- Access to an international forum facilitating **harmonization integration and/or implementation** of standards and methods for interoperability;
- Opportunities to partner with expertise to augment **specific communities of interest** and corresponding data interoperability solutions;
- A means of **managing institutional risk** regarding data management and data quality obligations;
- Access to an extraordinary **network of international colleagues and organizations.**

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