



FAIRsFAIR

Fostering Fair Data Practices in Europe

FAIRsFAIR Data Steward instructor training series: our approach and some observations

Elizabeth Newbold, Science and Technology Facilities Council
Open Science Fair, September 2021

Data Steward Instructor training

Objective: Support a range of communities in their activities aimed at FAIR data uptake and compliance, deliver data stewardship training

Data stewards: Support staff from research communities and research libraries, and those managing data repositories. Data stewards typically vary in the tasks they cover.

Three main areas where we see data steward roles:

- embedded and operational
- generic and advisory
- policy, strategy, and coordination

<https://www.fairsfair.eu/competence-centre>

Data Stewardship/Data Stewards training

Original Plan

- Run in parallel with the CODATA-RDA Data Science Summer Schools
- Separate strand for Data Stewards instructor training – first week common curriculum, second week ECRs and Data Stewards split.
- Data Stewards and ECRs would work together, learn together and understand each others roles

Pilot programme for data stewards ran in 2019. Initial assessment plans for changes for 2020. But then covid.....

- Complete re-think/re-design of delivery
- Change of format – not just to online but also length and structure
 - support staff can't spend two weeks to attend a training
- Split the ECR data science and data stewards strands - concentrated on dedicated instructor training

Pilot trainings delivered in November and December 2020 and discussions with different regional groups

Data Steward Instructor Training – where we are now

- Train-the-trainer activities aimed at instructors who will be delivering training within their own institutions
- Aimed at data stewards/ data support roles (generic and advisory roles) in universities and other research institutions
- List of topics to chose from - topics can be swapped around
- Three half days spread over one week e.g. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Materials shared in advance – “flipped” learning approach
- “Homework” to be completed in between times
- Discussion forum for each day using [FAIRdata Forum](#)



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 **GHENT UNIVERSITY**

 **EOSC-Synergy**

 **EOSC-Pillar**

FAIRsFAIR, EOSC-Pillar, EOSC-Synergy and Ghent University Instructor Training Workshop

7th, 9th and 11th of June

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 **NORF**
NATIONAL OPEN RESEARCH FORUM

 **EOSC-Synergy**

FAIRsFAIR, EOSC-Synergy and NORF Data Steward Instructor Training

12th, 14th and 16th of July

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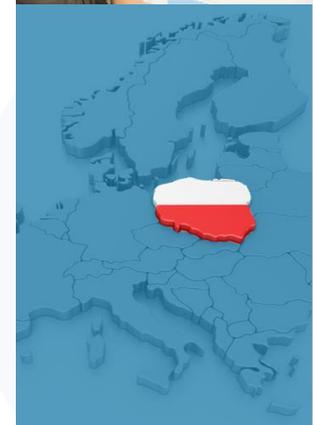
 **MOST DANYCH**

 **EOSC-Synergy**

 **POLITECHNIKA GDAŃSKA**

FAIRsFAIR EOSC Synergy Data Steward Instructor training at Gdańsk University of Technology

6-10 September 2021



Workshop make-up

- Around 30 attendees
- From multiple institutions in one region/country
- Strong emphasis on team work
- Encourage members to get to know each other
- Build communities



Example: Aims and Learning Outcomes

Aim

This workshop aims to introduce participants to the key concepts and drivers for Open Science, Research Data Management (RDM) and FAIR data, to consider the existing local support service they can leverage and to identify areas where collaboration with peer institutions on support provision will be beneficial.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Be able to explain some of the political drivers for RDM, FAIR and Open Data
- Be able to explain the difference between FAIR and Open Data to researchers
- Be able to develop training courses to be run at their own institution using open learning resources
- Understand the range of skills and knowledge associated with data stewardship
- Collectively identify areas where collaboration on service provision is most beneficial
- Have set training goals for the next six months
- Have established a peer network

Example: Programme Overview

Day 1: Introduction and key messages

- Introduction to RDM, FAIR and Open Science
- Introduction to pedagogy
- Course development activity
- Introduction to Data Management Plan (DMP) exercise

Day 2: Data Stewardship skills and knowledge

- Understanding Responsible and Open Research: Roles for Data Stewards
- Group discussion (DMP case studies)

Day 3: RDM service development and optimisation

- Introduction of RDM service models and functions
- Group discussion (RDM service development)
- Training activity based on RISE model
- Group activity to consider future goals and next steps

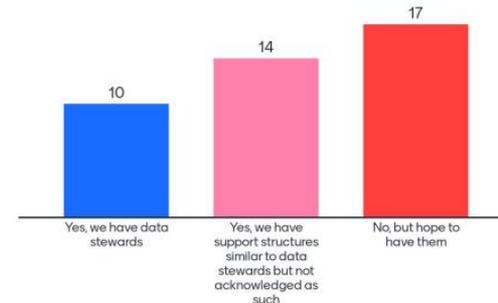


Some observations - landscape

- Universities are employing data stewards/ related roles or thinking about it
- Not necessarily called data stewards – **variable job titles**
- Need to teach a **set of skills** rather than training for specific role

Does your institution employ data stewards or similar support?

Mentimeter

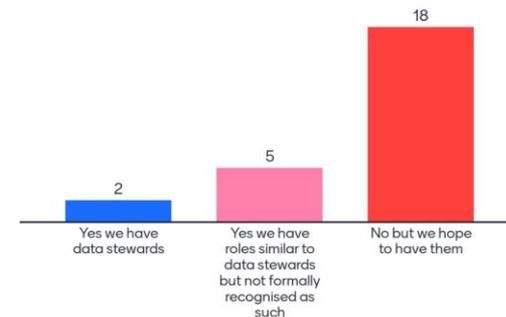


Example feedback from events

Does your institution employ data stewards or similar support roles?

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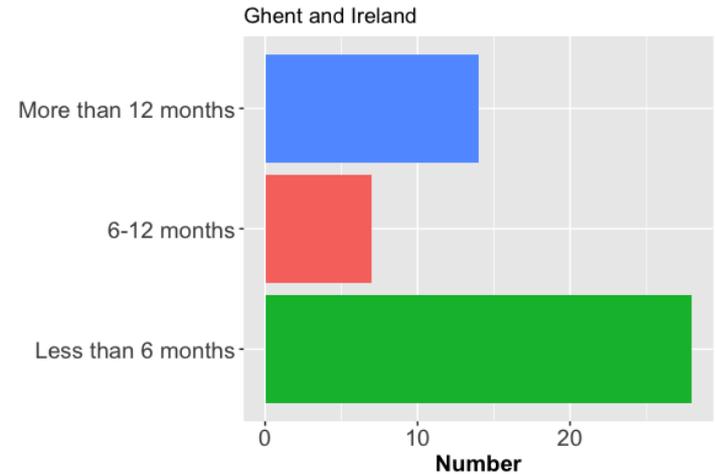
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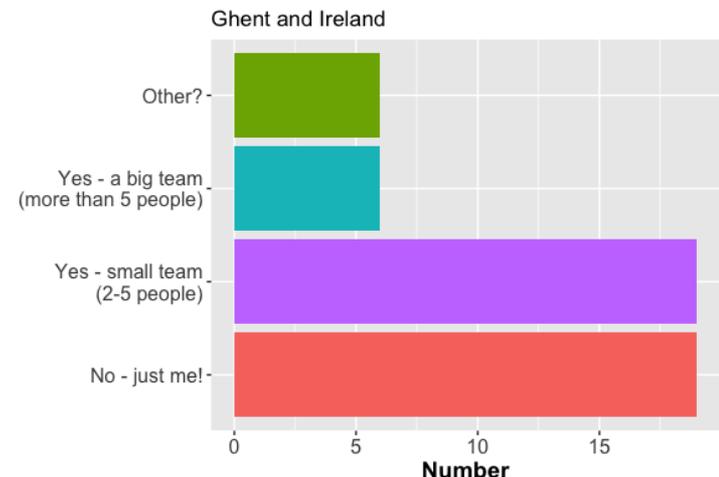
Some observations - landscape

- Often working in **small teams** or **singleton** posts
- People **new** to the role
- Need for training and **community building** to support emerging roles
- Desire to bring people together from different organisations to **share experience** and **knowledge**

How long have you been in the data steward role?



Are you part of a data steward team?

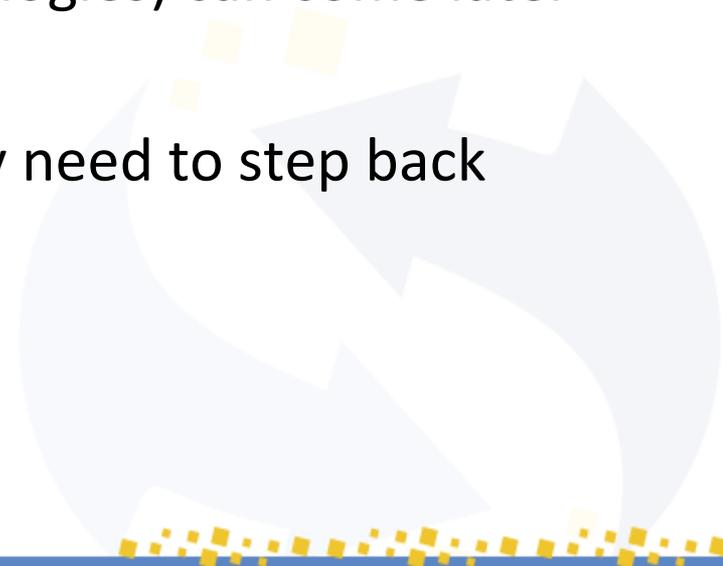


Other findings

- Many people are doing Data Stewardship but with a different title
- Clear demand for practical advice, e.g. Data Management Plans
- Role requires significant amounts of training/communication
- Interest in Ontologies but requires a much bigger amount of training necessary
- Different regions have different levels of contact with community.

Lessons learnt

- **Focus on community building**
 - people need to know that there are others in the same situation down the road from them
- **Focus on “all the data stewardship they can use”**
 - More advanced topics (e.g. ontologies) can come later
- **Remind them of pedagogy**
 - In the rush to communicate they need to step back and think about design





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Data Steward Instructor Training Workshops

29 November 2021

10 December 2021

<https://fairsfair.eu/events/fairsfair-eosc-synergy-data-steward-instructor-training-workshops>

Deadline for applications October 15, 2021

THANK YOU

