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Connecting Innovators: Networks Supporting Data Management Excellence

Open Science Communities & Data Stewardship Networks

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- Skills for the European
- Open Science
- Commons

www.skills4eosc.eu

Building a Sustainable Future for Open Science:
Skills4EOSC Competence Centres Workshop

11 June 2025

Networks Supporting Data Management Excellence

Work Package 6
Professional Networks for Lifelong Learning

Mapping of Professional Networks

Starter Kits for Professional Networks

Data Stewardship Networks

Open Science Communities

Harmonisation and Creation New Professional Networks

FAIR for Health & Technology

FAIR for AI

Museum Curator Network for FAIR Data

Fellowship Programme

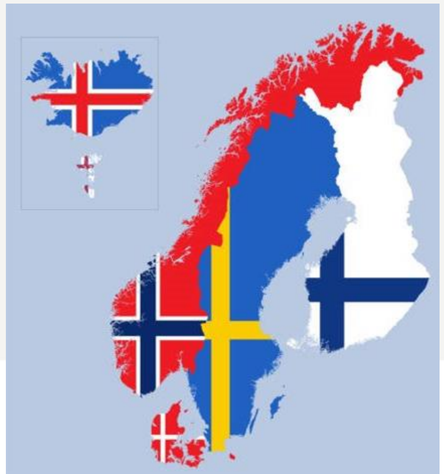
New Open Science Communities 37 (21 in Europe)

Incubator Program (IP)	New OSCs
March-June 2023	Umeå, Coimbra, Athens, Sheffield, Hannover, Copenhagen
January-April 2024	Sussex, Parkstad, North-Africa, Rochester, Lund, Aalborg, Madrid, Innsbruck
September-December 2024	Quebec, Ghana, Biobío, New Orleans, Pelotas, Zürich, Vienna, Lima, Estonia, Valencia, Santiago
January - May 2025	Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Ethiopia, Iran, Katowice, Kaunas (Lat), Mainz (Ger), Morocco, Paris, Romania, S Africa, Victoria (Can)

Task leads:
Loek Brinkman, DANS
Anita Eerland, Radboud University

Data Steward Networks

All images



Network	Launch	Membership	Support/Affiliation
Italy CIDS	November 2023	172	Italian Computing and Data Infrastructure
Hungary HDSN	October 2024	40	KIFU Pro-M?
Portugal PDSN	March 2025	70	Re.Data with Foundation for Science & Technology (FCT-FCCN)
Nordic Countries NDSN	July 2025	> 300	Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration (NeIC)

Comunità italiana dei Data Steward

Cosa è e come partecipare

Italian Data Steward Community

Bringing together the italian data steward

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Why a community of data stewards in Italy?

Data Stewards put Open Science principles into practice and are a key role for the European Open Science Cloud. They work with stakeholders to establish, govern and maintain processes to collect research data, make it usable for research objectives, facilitate its transformation into research output, assist in quality assurance, and support informed decision-making on its openness for reuse according to ethical, legal and social expectations.

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

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ICDI

2023

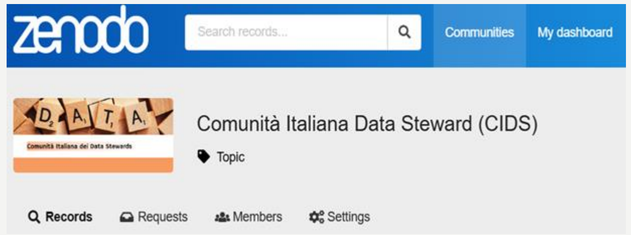
Data experts are already working as data stewards but they are hired with different roles.

A survey and a call for interest

2024

Kick off meeting

More than 50 data support professionals
from all regions,
both from Universities and Research Infrastructures



2025

1 year of activities and more

172 people subscribed to the mailing list @June 1st

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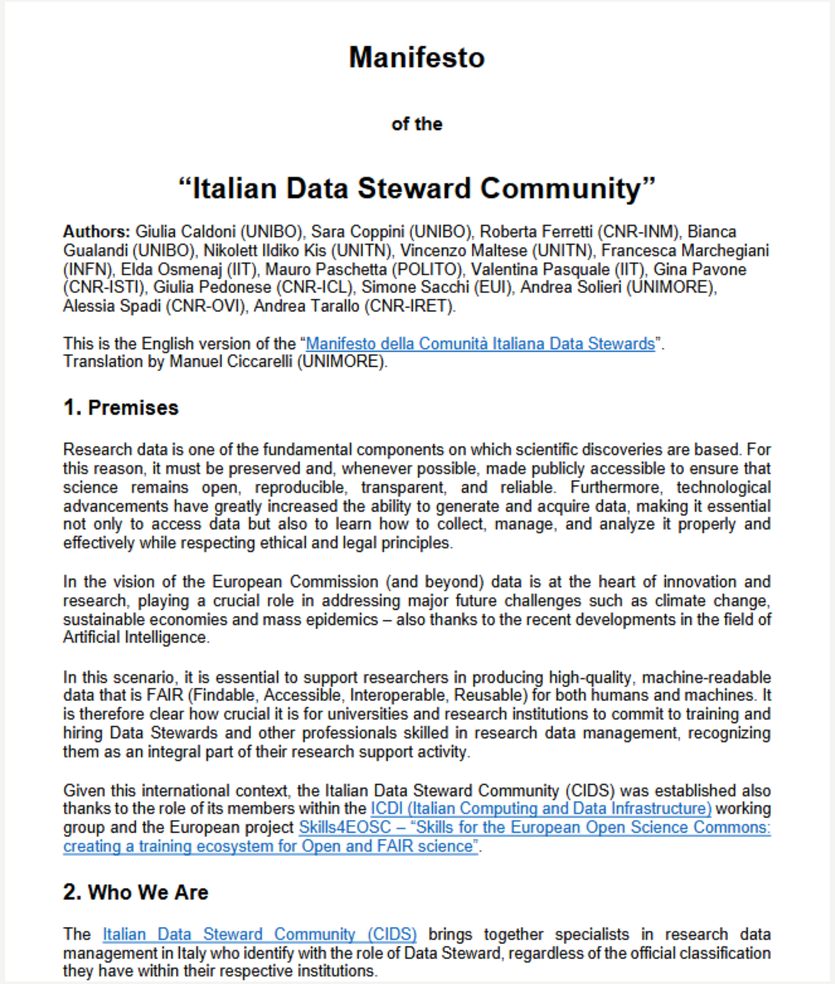
Manifesto



Manifesto

of the

“Italian Data Steward Community”

Authors: Giulia Caldoni (UNIBO), Sara Coppini (UNIBO), Roberta Ferretti (CNR-INM), Bianca Gualandi (UNIBO), Nikolett Ildiko Kis (UNITN), Vincenzo Maltese (UNITN), Francesca Marchegiani (INFN), Elda Osmenaj (IIT), Mauro Paschetta (POLITO), Valentina Pasquale (IIT), Gina Pavone (CNR-ISTI), Giulia Pedonese (CNR-ICL), Simone Sacchi (EUI), Andrea Solieri (UNIMORE), Alessia Spadi (CNR-OVI), Andrea Tarallo (CNR-IRET).

This is the English version of the “Manifesto della Comunità Italiana Data Stewards”.
Translation by Manuel Ciccarelli (UNIMORE).

1. Premises

Research data is one of the fundamental components on which scientific discoveries are based. For this reason, it must be preserved and, whenever possible, made publicly accessible to ensure that science remains open, reproducible, transparent, and reliable. Furthermore, technological advancements have greatly increased the ability to generate and acquire data, making it essential not only to access data but also to learn how to collect, manage, and analyze it properly and effectively while respecting ethical and legal principles.

In the vision of the European Commission (and beyond) data is at the heart of innovation and research, playing a crucial role in addressing major future challenges such as climate change, sustainable economies and mass epidemics – also thanks to the recent developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

In this scenario, it is essential to support researchers in producing high-quality, machine-readable data that is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) for both humans and machines. It is therefore clear how crucial it is for universities and research institutions to commit to training and hiring Data Stewards and other professionals skilled in research data management, recognizing them as an integral part of their research support activity.

Given this international context, the Italian Data Steward Community (CIDS) was established also thanks to the role of its members within the ICDI (Italian Computing and Data Infrastructure) working group and the European project Skills4EOSC – “Skills for the European Open Science Commons: creating a training ecosystem for Open and FAIR science”.

2. Who We Are

The Italian Data Steward Community (CIDS) brings together specialists in research data management in Italy who identify with the role of Data Steward, regardless of the official classification they have within their respective institutions.

Aims of the community

- Creating opportunities for knowledge-sharing and skills-development
- Supporting the adoption of good practices for research data management
- Raising awareness of the role of Data Steward

DIRECT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY

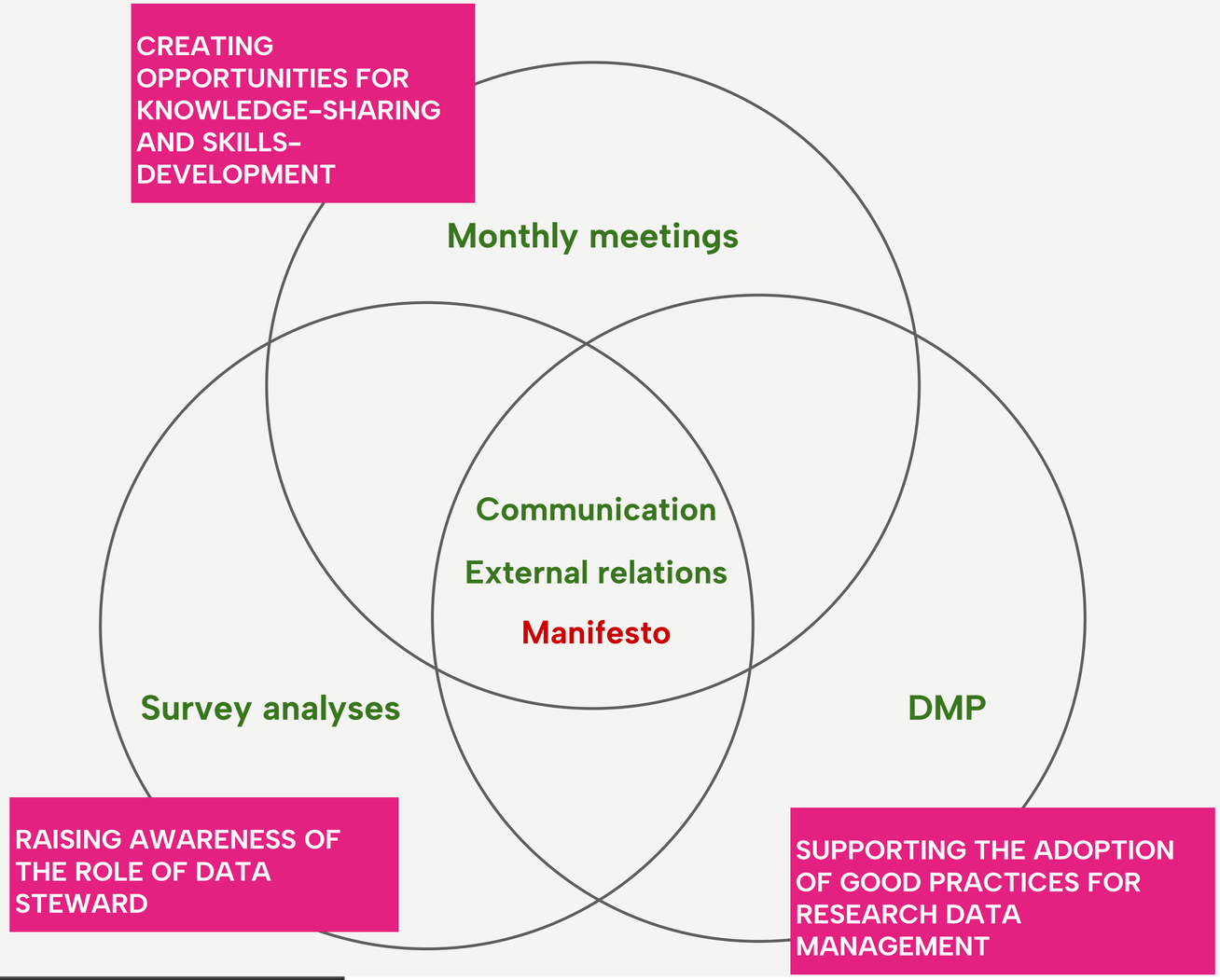
Organization of CIDS and Participation Methods

- Subscription to the mailing list
- Participation in Workspaces
- Participation in Working Groups (WGs)
- Participation in the Coordination Group (CG)

ALL FORMS OF INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION

Available here: https://zenodo.org/records/15240125 | DOI 10.5281/zenodo.15240124

Working Groups



- Minimum of 4 participants
- 1 or 2 chairs (→ part of the coordinating group)
- Online meetings to carry out activities

Communication	• Social management • Dissemination of CIDS initiatives and milestones
External relations	• Keep external relations with other projects/communities
Manifesto	• "Visiting card" of the community • Clearly define the scope and the purposes
Monthly meetings	• Organize both online meetings and thematic webinars • Identify speakers and topics
DMP	• Explore online tools • Explore new templates
Survey analyses	• Publish the survey questions and analysis of the responses • Identify gaps and strengths of the community

Professionalization

CHALLENGES

- No job title or professional pathway for DS at national level
- Different professional framing leads to different declination of the role

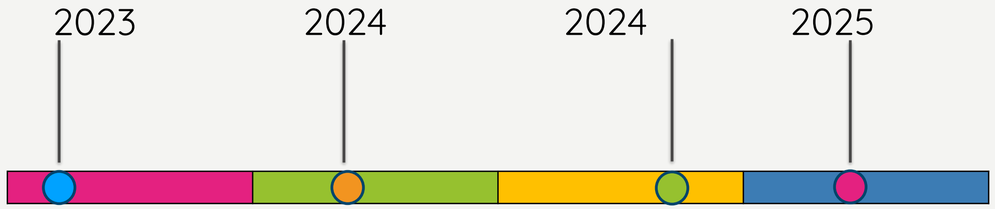
OBJECTIVES

- Professionalization via the definition of a job profile to be recognized in institutional contexts
- Professionalization via skills enrichment

ACTIONS

- Dissemination of CIDS initiatives and milestones
- Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing

Harmonisation of DS Networks - TG7 Networking & Knowledge Exchange



RDA Plenary 20 Gothenburg

Skills4EOSC "Harmonisation" Task meets Sonrai-led BoF "Synergies between national RDM and data stewardship networks"

RDA Plenary 22 (virtual)

Approval from PDS IG co-chairs received and TG7 officially launched with representation from 5 countries

RDA Plenary 23 Costa Rica

TG7 meets INRAE-led BoF "Networks of Data Ambassadors & Stewards: Sharing experiences"

Current Status

11 countries represented
11 Networks represented
Regular attendance from representatives of 13 networks.
Terms of Reference complete
Playbook in development
Steering Group not yet at full complement

Countries and Networks
Italy
Ireland
Canada
USA
UK
Sweden
Poland
Portugal
France
Hungary
Brazil
Vlanders, Belgium
Netherlands

Activities
Terms of Reference
Monthly meetings
• Presentations of different networks
• Discussion of commonalities
• Exchange of ideas
Swap talks across networks
Representation on PDS IG chairs
→ Playbook
→ Outreach
→ Roadmap

Professionalising Data Stewardship IG

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Questions?

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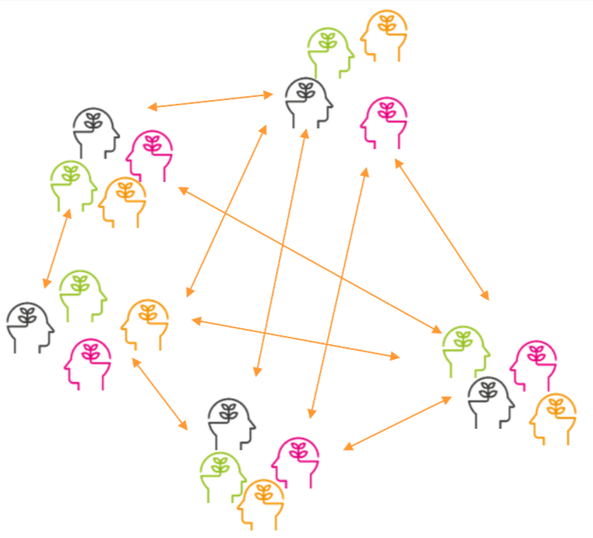

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