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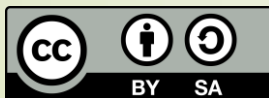
**INAB<sup>x</sup>**  
INSTITUTE OF APPLIED BIOSCIENCES  
INSTITUTOYTO EΦΑΡΜΟΣΜΕΝΩΝ ΒΙΟΤΕΧΝΙΚΩΝ  
CERTH



# RDA Early Career Engagement IG

supporting early career researchers through mentoring

Fotis E. Psomopoulos, INAB | CERTH



*Open Science in the Greek Research Ecosystem: Research Data, Procedures and Collaborations, 29-30 November 2018, Athens*

# THE RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

[www.rd-alliance.org](http://www.rd-alliance.org)

*building the social and technical bridges  
that enable open sharing of data*

**28 FLAGSHIP  
OUTPUTS**

of which 4 ICT  
Technical  
Specifications

**75 ADOPTION  
CASES**

across multiple  
disciplines,  
organisations &  
countries

**95 GROUPS WORKING ON  
GLOBAL DATA  
INTEROPERABILITY CHALLENGES**

*of which 33 WORKING GROUPS  
& 62 INTEREST GROUPS*

**7,558 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS  
FROM 137 COUNTRIES**

67,5% Academia & Research  
14,1% Public Administration  
11% Enterprise & Industry

**48 ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS &  
8 AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

## The Research Data Alliance in a nutshell

### ➤ Vision

Researchers and innovators openly share data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

### ➤ Mission

RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing of data.

<https://www.slideshare.net/ResearchDataAlliance/rda-in-anutshellnovember2018>

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# What is RDA?

- RDA is an international **member based organization** focused on the development of infrastructure and community activities that reduce barriers to data sharing and exchange, and the acceleration of data driven innovation worldwide.
- With more than 7,500 members globally representing 137 countries, RDA includes **researchers, scientists and data science professionals** working in multiple disciplines, domains and thematic fields and from different types of organisations across the globe.

***RDA is building the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing of data to achieve its vision of researchers and innovators openly sharing data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.***

# What does RDA do?

**Members come together through self-formed, volunteer, focussed Working Groups, exploratory Interest Groups to exchange knowledge, share discoveries, discuss barriers and potential solutions, explore and define policies and test as well as harmonise standards to enhance and facilitate global data sharing & re-use.**

RDA members collaborate together across the globe to tackle numerous infrastructure & data sharing challenges related to:

- ❖ Reproducibility
- ❖ Data preservation
- ❖ Best practices for domain repositories
- ❖ Legal interoperability
- ❖ Data citation
- ❖ Data type registries
- ❖ Metadata
- ❖ and so many more!



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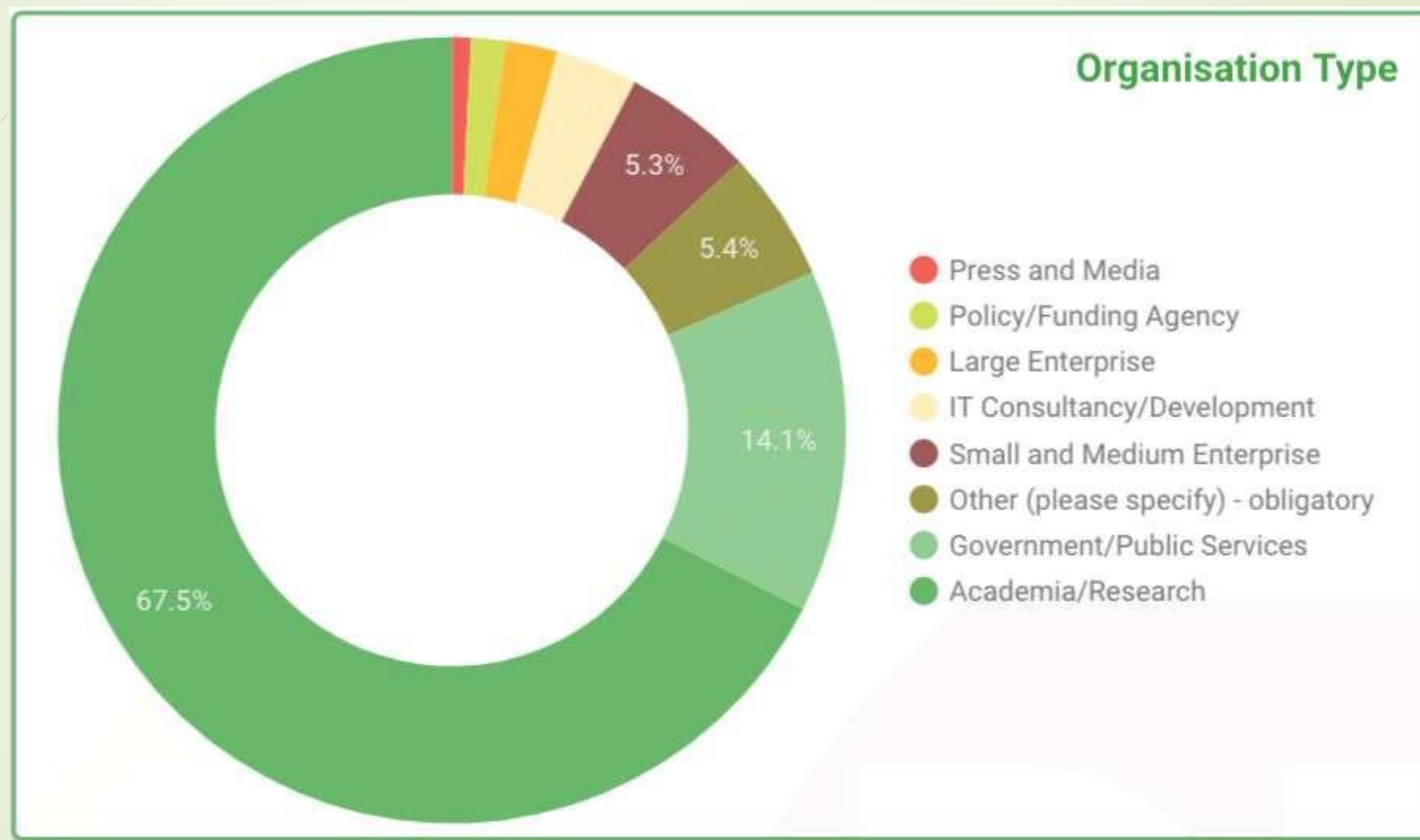
# Who is RDA?



RDA Early Career Engagement IG: supporting early career researchers through mentoring

Friday, November 30th 2018

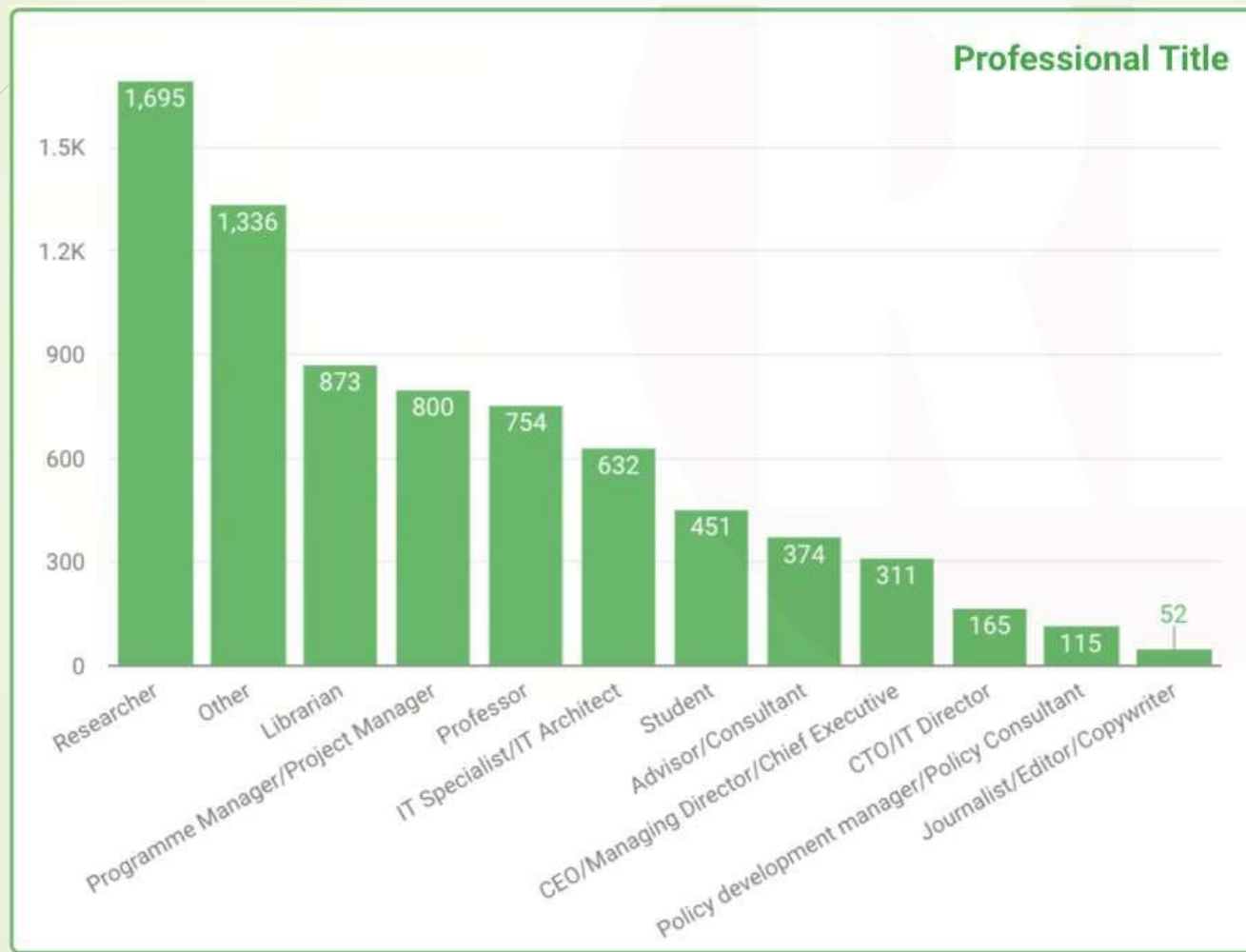
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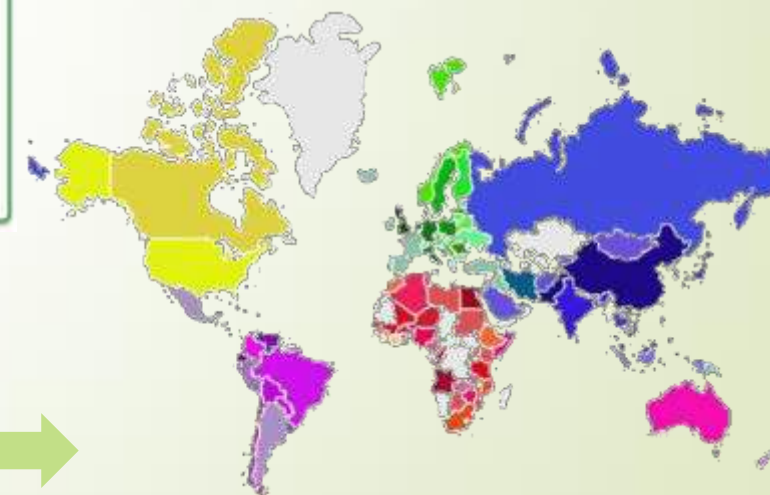
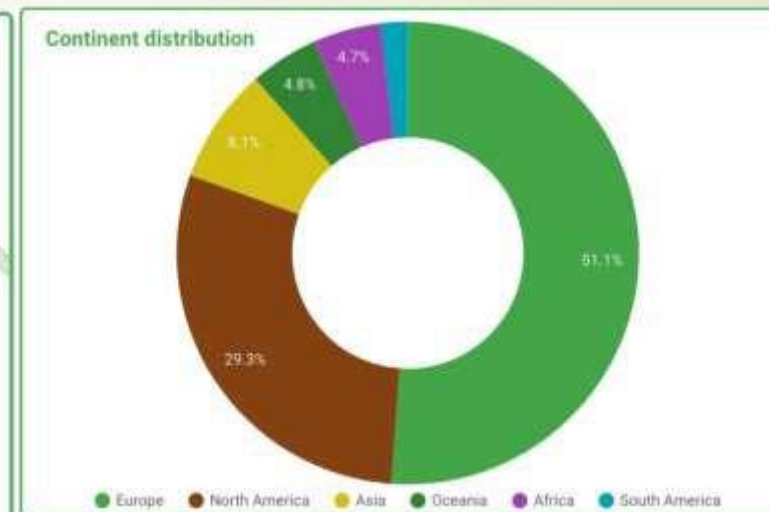
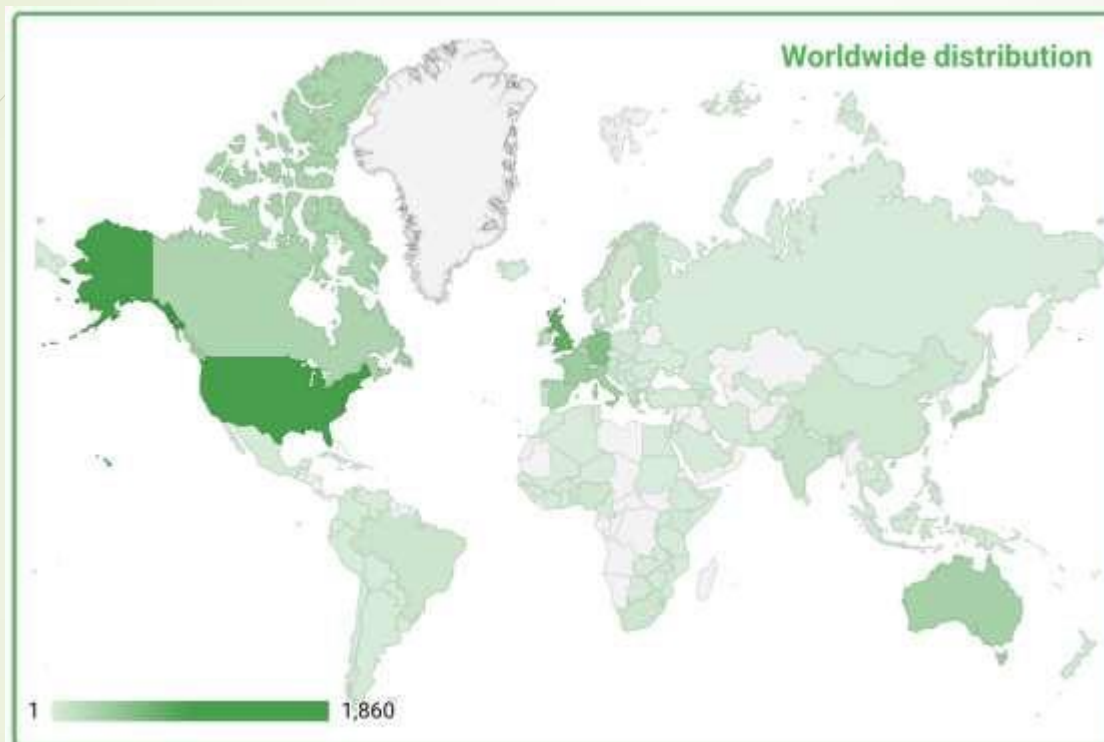
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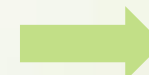




# RDA Geographical Distribution



**RDA members come from 137 different countries**



RDA Early Career Engagement IG: supporting early career researchers through mentoring

Friday, November 30th 2018



# Why Join RDA as an Individual Member?

## Individual Member Benefits

- **Contribute** to acceleration of data infrastructure development
- Work and **share experiences** with collaborators throughout the world
- **Access** to extraordinary network of colleagues with various levels of experience, perspectives and practices
- Gain greater **expertise** in data science regardless of whether one is a student, early or seasoned career professional
- **Enhance** the quality and effectiveness of personal work and activities
- **Improve** one's competitive advantage professionally and positioning oneself for leadership within the broader research community

**Individual RDA Members 7,558**

# Enter the Early Career and Engagement Interest Group (ECEIG)

# A bit of the history so far

- There is an unquestionable need of a dedicated space for engaging RDA members who are at the beginning stages of their careers
  - A place of discussion and engagement
  - A way of attracting more people
- It's a win-win situation:
  - People at the beginning stage have their own unique talents and strengths that will strengthen RDA and increase openness
  - Early career researchers will benefit from the breadth and depth of RDA expertise and share ideas

# A new IG

- A dedicated BoF was conducted at P8 (Denver, CO Sep 2016) and a charter was drafted around X'mas 2016
- IG officially started **May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**



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# Purpose of the ECE IG

- Early career researchers and professionals usually need additional support for:
  - networking amongst themselves to learn about other Early Career scientists and their research, i.e., establishing a “network of peers”, and
  - mentoring from senior RDA members who are interested in mentoring Early Career Researchers and Professionals.



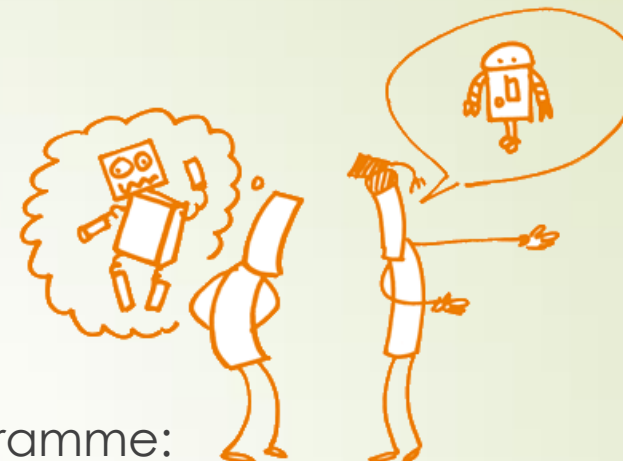
# Objectives of the ECE IG



1. Focus on Early Career Researchers and Professionals because they need the most support
2. Establish a volunteer-based mentoring programme
3. Network across domains to establish an interdisciplinary network of peers
4. Provide a space for people who have more experience with RDA to pass on knowledge and lessons learned to Early Career Researchers and Professionals
5. Create a social outlet specifically for Early Career Researchers and Professionals



## Objective #2



- Two approaches for the mentoring programme:
  1. an ad-hoc based approach, where mentorship is provided through communication in the Slack channel (which can be either person specific, i.e. a private channel, or global),
  2. a formal mentorship programme, where we will maintain a spreadsheet of mentors-mentees, together with the duration of the mentorship and the particular goals and outcomes.
- The first approach feels more organic and may better attract volunteers, but the second can be better applicable to existing programmes such as the RDA-US Fellowship program.

# ECEIG Mentoring programme (1/2)

## Guidelines for mentors

- Attend ECEIG sessions at RDA Plenaries to provide feedback and comments to early career professionals and other participants.
- Join discussions through the dedicated Slack group.
- Respond promptly to questions from early career people on slack, that are i. relevant to your expertise and/or ii. relevant to RDA operations in general.
- Be open to having meetings (virtual or otherwise) with ECEIG members following up on discussions through Slack, if you are able.

# ECEIG Mentoring programme (2/2)

## Guidelines for mentees

- Attend ECEIG sessions at RDA Plenaries and participate in session activities.
- Join discussions through the dedicated Slack group - ask questions to either the general channel or to topic-specific channels.
- When asking a question try to be as specific as possible so that the right person can address it.
- Promote your work and your interests.
- Be an active member of the ECEIG.

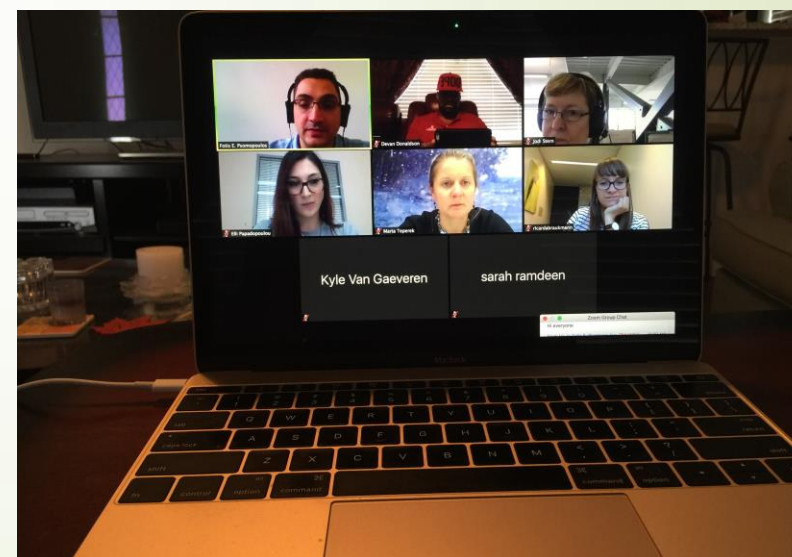
# Current List of Mentors

1	Peter McQuilton	Oxford e-Research Centre	BioSharing Registry: connecting data policies, standards & databases in life sciences WG
2	Jörg Geiger	University of Wuerzburg	Biobank, Standardization, Terminology, Metrology, Privacy, Ethics
3	Ruth Duerr		Preservation e-Infrastructure IG
4	Lynn Yarmey	Research Data Alliance	Data curation, landscape overview and analysis, community development
5	Sarah Jones	Digital Curation Centre	DMPs, research data management, open science, archives, data sharing, FAIR data
6	Sünje Dallmeier-Tiessen	CERN	reproducible research, PID, repositories, data curation
7	Raman Ganguly	University of Vienna	Long tail of research data IG
8	Marta Teperek	TU Delft	data stewardship, open science, data management, data sharing, open data, data privacy, repositories, FAIR Data

# AMA Sessions

Informal mentoring program:

- Zoom “Ask Me Anything” sessions where mentees ask questions and mentors answer the questions or put mentees in touch with those who they think can answer their questions.
- We hope to encourage more engagement from mentees!



## Objective #4

- We have setup the following channels of communication:
  1. a GitHub repository for maintaining documents with advice/lessons/guidelines as well as receiving continuous feedback and edits in the form of issues  
<https://github.com/fpsom/rda-eceig>
  2. a dedicated Slack group for live communication within the community, with specialized channels for specific issues (such as Plenary events, or domain-specific questions)  
<https://rda-eceig.slack.com/>
- Additionally we are considering to establish a YouTube channel with short videos and webinars for knowledge exchanges




# Objective #5

- Create a social outlet specifically for Early Career Researchers and Professionals
- By organizing local social outings at each of the RDA plenaries
- **Our first RDA ECEIG event was in Montreal during RDA P10!**



# How to join the discussion?

- Join ECEIG
  - <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/early-career-and-engagement-ig>
- Join the Slack group
  - the invitation link is this → 
- Monitor the documents and information in the GitHub repository.
  - <https://github.com/fpsom/rda-eceig>
- Follow ECEIG on twitter!



@rdaeceig



# Future steps

- Connection with the ECR Network
  - Engagement both within RDA and beyond
- Structures and ideas are all in place, so we need:
  - Engagement from everyone!



# Thank you for your attention!

