■ RDA EUROPE WORKSHOP – FROM PLANNING TO ACTION. TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUSTRIAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE (VIENNA, NOVEMBER 23, 2017)

by Paolo Budroni, Raman Ganguly, Tomasz Miksa, Andreas Rauber, Barbara Sánchez Solís

Abstract: The RDA Europe Workshop „From Planning to Action. Towards the Establishment of an Austrian Research Infrastructure" was organized in Vienna in November 2017 with the support of RDA Europe, the Vienna University of Technology, and the University of Vienna. The workshop was the first RDA national event in Austria in a series of RDA Europe events dedicated to practical issues surrounding the adoption of RDA recommendations, the implementation of European Open Science Cloud and other key European data initiatives in order to support EU researchers and data centres. The different sections focused on transversal and domain-specific projects and infrastructures in Austria, such as data centres and data repositories that have emerged as a result of initiatives developed at the national level. The presentations also reflected the European perspective on research data management, focusing on the political and scientific work of international organisations. Furthermore there was an analysis of various RDA Europe working group recommendations and their potential for adoption in local contexts. The event also included the announcement of a new dedicated RDA group for Austria. This node will formally represent the Austrian data management community within the new RDA administrative structure as soon as formal procedures are completed.

Keywords: Research data; Research Data Alliance; RDA; research data management; research infrastructure; data centre; repositories; Open Science; European Open Science Cloud; EOSC

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Zusammenfassung: Im November 2017 fand an der Universität Wien der RDA Europe Workshop „From Planning to Action. Towards the Establishment of an Austrian Research Infrastructure" mit Unterstützung von RDA Europe, der Technischen Universität Wien und der Universität Wien statt. Es war der erste in Österreich abgehaltene Workshop in einer Reihe von europaweiten RDA Veranstaltungen. Ziel war es, über praktische Umsetzungen von RDA Empfehlungen, Implementierungsmaßnahmen der European Open Science Cloud und andere bedeutende Datenin-

itiativen zu diskutieren, um europäische Forschende und die Entwicklung von Infrastrukturen bestmöglich zu unterstützen. Die unterschiedlichen Themenbereiche bezogen sich auf transversale und disziplinspezifische Projekte, Datenzentren und Repositorien in Österreich. Die Vorträge reflektierten auch die europäische Perspektive von Forschungsdatenmanagement sowie politische und wissenschaftliche Initiativen von internationalen Organisationen. Ebenso wurden Empfehlungen von einzelnen Working Groups dargestellt und anhand von Projekten gezeigt, wie diese bereits lokal Anwendung finden. In der Veranstaltung wurde schließlich eine neu gegründete RDA Gruppe für Österreich angekündigt. Dieser RDA Austria Node wird, nach der formalen Konstituierungsphase, die österreichische Community innerhalb der neuen administrativen RDA-Strukturen repräsentieren.

Schlüsselwörter: *Forschungsdaten; Research Data Alliance; RDA; Forschungsdatenmanagement; Forschungsinfrastrukturen; Datenzentren; Repositorium; Open Science; European Open Science Cloud; EOSC*

The European chapter of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) held a workshop on November 23, 2017 at the University of Vienna, also serving as the inaugural workshop of RDA Austria.

Fig. 1: The European chapter of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) held its inaugural workshop on November 23, 2017 at the University of Vienna (Photo: RDA-AT/Gerhard Mayer)

The event, entitled „Data Stewardship Realized: From Planning to Action. Towards the Establishment of an Austrian Research Infrastructure" was organized with the support of RDA Europe, Vienna University of Technology, and the University of Vienna.

More than 70 leading research data experts from a broad selection of European organizations and academic disciplines participated in the workshop. RDA speakers included RDA Secretary General Ingrid Dillo; RDA technical advisory board (TAB) co-chair Francoise Genova, Rainer Stotzka (TAB member); and Kevin Ashley, who serves as co-chair of the RDA organisational advisory board (OAB). Participants came from all corners of the continent, including Austria, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy.

The workshop was the first RDA national event in Austria in a series of RDA Europe activities dedicated to practical issues surrounding the adoption of RDA recommendations, the implementation of European Open Science Cloud and other key European data initiatives in order to support EU researchers and data centres to engage in the context of RDA global processes.

The Agenda

The event was structured into three sections, each followed by an extensive discussion session and audience participation.

The first section focused on research data „use cases" in Austria, which are domain-specific projects and infrastructures, such as data centres and data repositories, that have emerged as a result of initiatives developed at the national level. The purpose was to give participants an overview of Austria's substantial existing experience with large-scale research data management, with special emphasis on success stories, lessons learned, and new growth opportunities. Thomas Haselwanter introduced participants to *e-Infrastructures Austria Plus*, Lars Kaczmirek presented the newly founded *Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA)*, and Niki Popper shared a novel framework for big data analysis implemented at *Data Center for Decision Support for Health Policy and Planning (DEXHELPP)*. Finally, Wolfgang Wagner, taking the discussion from big data to even bigger data, described the critical importance of linking national data programs to transnational data platforms at the *Earth Observation Data Center (EODC)*.

The second section addressed the European perspective on research data management, focusing on the work of organisations like the *e-IRG*

(e-Infrastructure Reflection Group) and especially the *European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)*. Francoise Genova discussed the political and scientific context of science and data sharing, while Marisol Occioni presented an inter-university bottom up approach to promoting the culture of open science in Italy *(Italian Open Science Support Group)*.

Fig. 2: Nikolas Popper and Andreas Rauber, TU Wien (Photo: RDA-AT/Gerhard Mayer)

The third section turned to an analysis of various RDA Europe working group recommendations and their potential for adoption in local contexts. The discussion was moderated by Tomasz Miksa, Chair of the RDA Working Group on Common Standards for Data Management Plans. It was broken into four blocks, with each working group recommendation presented in detail and then further elaborated with concrete institutional case studies.

In the first block, Rainer Stotzka presented results and recommendations of the *RDA Practical Policy* working group, while Paolo Budroni explained the European context for *Understanding policies*.

In the next block, Andreas Rauber presented recommendations of the *RDA Data Citation working group* and Chris Schubert described how these were implemented for NetCDF files in the *Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA)*.

Data Management and Stewardship was discussed in the third block by Kevin Ashley and Marta Teperek. Their presentation focused on roles of

data stewards within institutions, and their possible collaboration with data champions.

Fig. 3: Kevin Ashley, DCC, Edinburgh (Photo: RDA-AT/Gerhard Mayer)

In the last block, RDA Secretary General Ingrid Dillo presented a new certification for repositories – *CoreTrustSeal*. Elisabeth Steiner then described how the *Humanities' Asset Management System (GAMS)* at the University of Graz became a certified repository and what this certification implies.

The workshop concluded with a panel discussion in which all speakers addressed how RDA recommendations can be applied in both the Austrian and the European context, and what should to be done to remove any barriers, whether technical or institutional, that could potentially thwart adoption of the recommendations. All participants were encouraged to join RDA and participate in the ongoing discussions to help removing barriers to data sharing. Information on the RDA and its wide-ranging set of interest groups and working groups are available from the RDA homepage (https://www.rd-alliance.org). Participation is straightforward by registering on the RDA website and joining the activities of any of the Working Groups or Interest Groups.

Fig. 4: Ingrid Dillo, DANS (Photo: RDA-AT/Gerhard Mayer)

Fig. 5: The workshop audience (Photo: RDA-AT/Gerhard Mayer)

RDA Austria

A highlight of the day was the announcement of a new dedicated RDA group for Austria. The RDA Austria node will formally represent the Austrian data management community within the new RDA administrative structure.

Note: The constitutive General Assembly of RDA Austria (RDA-AT) was held on December 6, 2017. Following the completion of formal procedures, RDA-AT will act as the Austrian National Node within RDA Europe, forming the link between national initiatives and the global RDA Working Groups, providing assistance in adoption of RDA recommendations, and allowing Austrian stakeholders to benefit from RDA Europe support mechanisms. Details on RDA-AT, how to engage, join and benefit, will follow as soon as formal procedures are completed and RDA-AT becomes fully operational as a national node.

Fig. 6: The foundation committee of RDA Austria – from left to right: Paolo Budroni, Raman Ganguly, Andreas Rauber, Barbara Sánchez Solís, Tomasz Miksa. The sixth member of the board is Seyavash Amini, who could not attend the event (Photo: RDA-AT/Gerhard Mayer)

Workshop organising team: Paolo Budroni, Raman Ganguly, Tomasz Miksa, Andreas Rauber, Barbara Sánchez Solís, Melanie Stummvoll.

Workshop presentations online available at: https://phaidra.univie.ac.at/detail_object/o:584416

Related links:
– RDA Europe: https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-europe-0
– Event website RDA Europe Workshop Vienna 2017: http://www.ifs.tuwien.ac.at/dp/rda17-workshop-vienna/

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