Building Data Stewardship Capacity in the Netherlands
A community effort driven by Health-RI and DTL

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Data stewardship and data management skills are essential in research. The lack of consensus on the responsibilities, knowledge, skills, and value of data stewards leads to confusion about the role and hampers building adequate data steward capacity. By bundling expertise and manpower of their partners, and with support of the research funders, Health-RI and DTL are making a significant step in tackling the FAIR data handling challenges the sector faces. These joint capacity building efforts will help build a skilled workforce that is ready for professional data handling.

Towards the professionalisation of FAIR data stewardship: competency framework and job profiles

The NPOS-F project, co-lead by DTL, delivered in early 2021 the final report "Professionalising data stewardship in the Netherlands. Competences, training and education. Dutch roadmap towards national implementation of FAIR data stewardship" *(https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4320504),* that delivered recommendations for the major stakeholders (funders, policy makers, research performing organisations and higher education institutes). In addition the project defines the competences and the professional profile of data stewards in more detail and lays the groundwork for a well-annotated and searchable overview tool to find training. The work also features as use case in the EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda *(https://www.eosc.eu/eosc-sria-v10-15-february-2021).*

Professionalising data stewardship: competences, training and education

Bringing together the data steward community

Facilitating the various communities in the Netherlands is an essential element of professionalising data stewardship and FAIR data stewardship capacity building. These communities exchange experiences and good practices, and jointly tackle various data challenges.
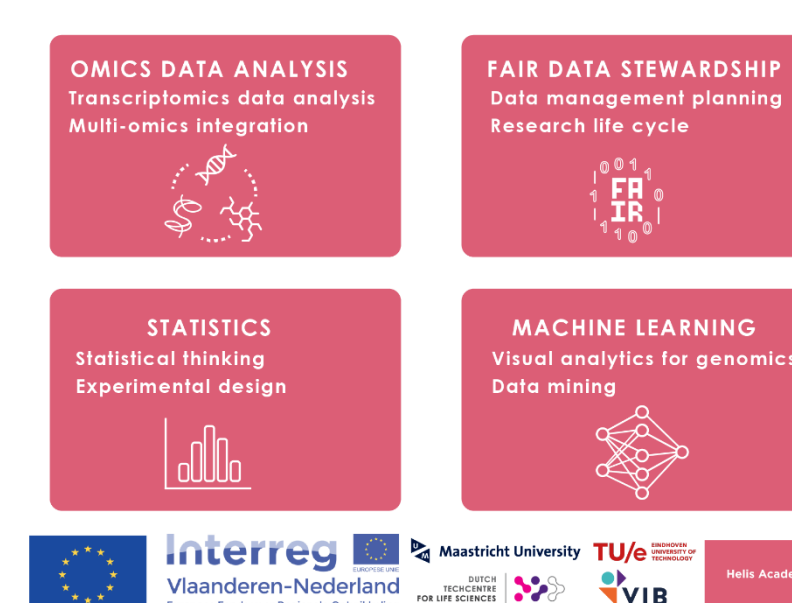
For many years, DTL facilitates the Data Stewards Interest Group (DSIG), with regular meetings and a vibrant (Slack) community for data stewards and like-minded in the Netherlands - even abroad - to share experiences and foster the (Dutch) national implementation of data stewardship *(https://www.dtls.nl/community/interest-groups/data-stewards-interest-group).* Within Health-RI, a dedicated Data Stewardship Community (DSC) unites health care data stewards for fruitful national collaborations, so each institute does not have to reinvent the wheel locally *(https://www.health-ri.nl/data-stewardship-community)*

Developing and delivering data stewardship training for various audiences

DTL, Health-RI and their collaborators have been building and delivering data stewardship related training, both for researchers and data stewards. Examples are:

- Helis Academy course "FAIR Data stewardship for life sciences", 3rd edition, 17-31 March 2021, 6 half days *(https://www.aanmelder.nl/fair-data-stewardship-2021)*
- Data stewardship training in 2020 for Early Career Researchers from Marie Curie ITNs 'Combating Disorders of Adaptive Immunity with Systems Medicine' *(https://www.cosmic-h2020.eu)* and 'Prostate Cancer Extracellular Vesicle LifeCycle' *(https://proevlifecycle.eu)*
- In 2020, various data stewardship webinars and metadata workshops were given for data stewards and project leads of ZonMw granted Covid-19 projects. This was a collaborative action of GO FAIR, Health-RI and DTL, as part of the ZonMw FAIR data requirements *(https://www.health-ri.nl/workshops-delivering-fair-metadata-covid-19-data-portal)*

Training collaborations with other (inter) national organisations and projects

The demand for data stewardship training is high and many organisations and projects are working on this, both inside and outside the Life Sciences domain. DTL and Health-RI have active training-related collaborations with a.o:

- ELIXIR, the European research infrastructure for life science data *(https://elixir-europe.org)*
- EOSC-Life *(https://www.eosc-life.eu)*
- BioSB, the Netherlands Bioinformatics and Systems Biology research school *(https://www.biosb.nl)*
- NPOS, the National Programme Open Science *(https://www.openscience.nl)*
- LCRDM, the National Coordination Point Research Data Management *(https://www.lcrdm.nl/en)*
- RDA, the Research Data Alliance, a.o. Interest groups on Training and Education (ETHRD IG) and Data Stewardship (PDS IG) *(https://www.rd-alliance.org)*

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