

# SCIENCE EUROPE CORE REQUIREMENTS AND DOMAIN PROTOCOLS FOR RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

## *Poster Proposal*

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**Abstract** – Science Europe (S.E.), the European organization of Research Funding and Research Performing Organizations, has recently adopted a set of core requirements to be included in data management plans. It also formulated criteria for trustworthy data repositories, as a temporary measure while more repositories get certified.

This will lead to a much better international alignment of data management policies and practices, and will provide clarity to researchers what demands to expect and where they can safely deposit their data for preservation and sharing.

In addition to this, S.E. favors the formulation of data protocols for domains by the research (data) communities themselves, which will ease the process of formulating DMPs.

**Keywords** – Data Management Plan, Research Data Management, Science Europe, Open Science.

**Conference Topics** – 1. Collaboration: a Necessity, an Opportunity or a Luxury?; 4. Building Capacity, Capability and Community

### I. INTRODUCTION

Access to and sharing of research data are central pillars of Open Science, a concept that Science Europe members fully support through their daily activities as Research Performing Organizations (RPOs) and Research Funding Organizations (RFOs). Accordingly, Science Europe believes that research data should be permanently, publicly and freely available for re-use.

Science Europe is committed to supporting data sharing by contributing to the definition and use of consistent data-sharing policies and practices. This includes identifying legitimate reasons for delayed or restricted access when necessary. In addition, it is

crucial to enable access to and sharing of data by resolving data management issues.

### II. SCIENCE EUROPE WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH DATA

Since mid 2016, the S.E. Working Group on Research Data started to focus on the topic of Research Data Management Protocols (RDMP). RFOs and RPOs increasingly require researchers to develop a Data Management Plan (DMP) when they write a project proposal, or to report on their data management policies and practices when being evaluated. To date, a large variety of DMP templates exist across funders, institutions, countries and disciplines, with little alignment on how much detail is needed or useful. Researchers need to learn about DMPs for their research funding applications; and funders need to organize the review of these DMPs. The implementation of DMPs also needs proper monitoring, although processes to do this are seldom in place.

### III. DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

Researchers' needs and organizations' requirements differ depending on the discipline and the kind of research. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach for research data management (RDM). In order to support disciplines in setting up discipline-specific DMP templates, Science Europe has published in January 2018 a [Guidance Document Presenting a Framework for Discipline-specific Research Data Management](#) [1]. This framework aims to support research communities in setting up protocols for the collection and management of data within specified

disciplinary domains and research communities. Such protocols, called Domain Data Protocols (DDPs), are defined as generally agreed-upon guidelines, or predefined, written procedural methods. One might also conceive a DDP as a 'DMP template' for a given domain.

#### IV. ALIGNING RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Whereas research data management contexts and contents differ, the policy challenges that research organizations face are largely similar. There will be a set of core issues that will be faced by researchers and repositories alike, for example in terms of data collection and preservation.

In summer 2017, the Working Group started to focus on different aspects of Research Data Management (RDM). [An initiative was launched](#) in January 2018 that aims to seek voluntary alignment of RDM policies among funders in Europe [2]. Two sets of recommendations were presented at the end of January 2019: shared Core Requirements for DMPs and Criteria to select Trusted Repositories [3]. Several research funders have started implementing the Core Requirements, or have vowed to do so soon. DG Research of the European Commission is among the organizations embracing the new Core Requirements, and will most probably implement them for the next Horizon Framework Program.

#### REFERENCES

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