Introducing the Research Data Alliance (RDA) and RDA Sweden

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Lund University, ICOS Carbon Portal and SND

SND network meeting

Lund University, 2019-11-26

Research Data Alliance (RDA)

- RDA is a **non-profit international organisation**, launched in 2013 as a **community-driven initiative** in 2013

- RDA's vision is researchers and innovators **openly sharing data** across technologies, disciplines, and countries **to address the grand challenges of society**

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

Read more at https://rd-alliance.org/

UN Sustainable Development Goals

RDA in numbers
(September 2019)

- **8938 individual members** from **137 countries** (68% Academia & Research, 14 % Public Administration, 13 % Enterprise & Industry)

- **49 organisational members** & **9 affiliate members**

- **84 groups** working on **global data interoperability challenges** (28 working groups & 56 interest groups)

- **32 flagship outputs** of which 4 ICT Technical Specifications*⁾

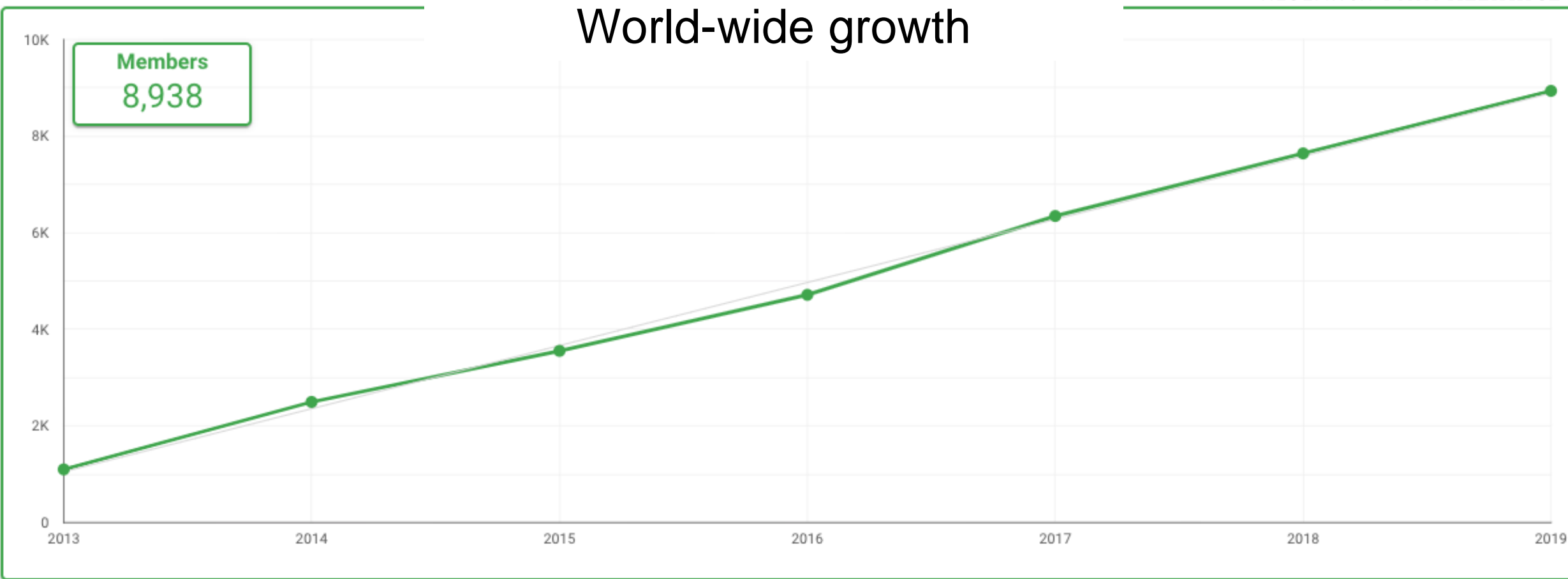- **75 adoption cases** across multiple disciplines, organisations & countries

*⁾ information and communication technology (ICT) technical specifications defined by the European Commission as eligible for referencing in public procurement processes.

https://www.rd-alliance.org/sites/default/files/attachment/RDA-in-a-nutshell-September-2019.pptx
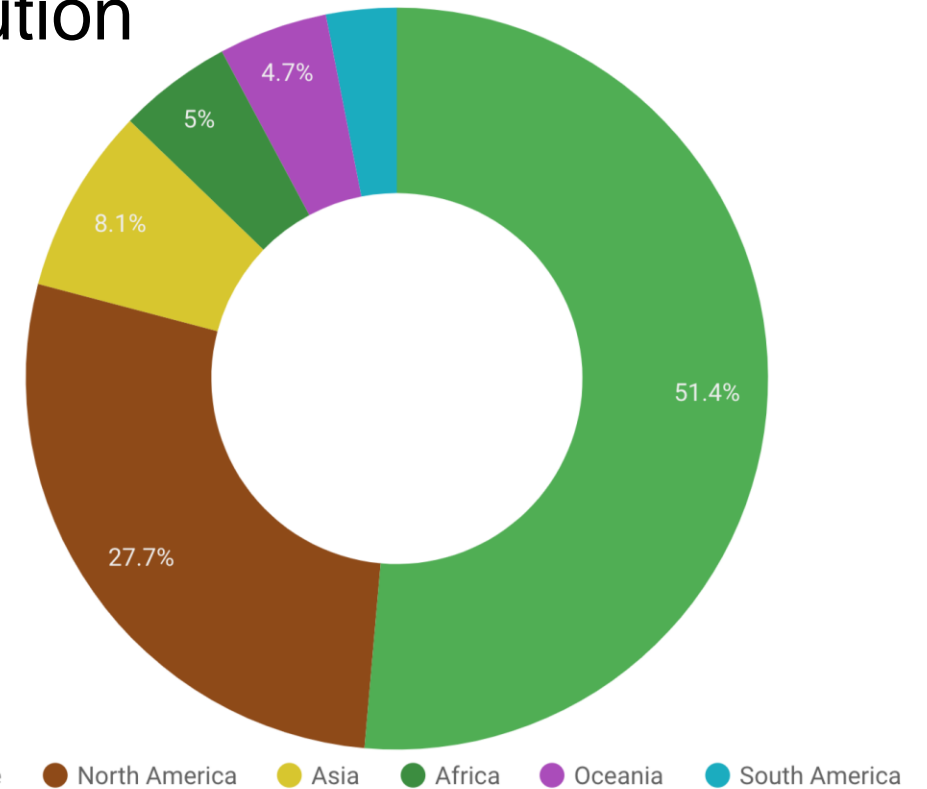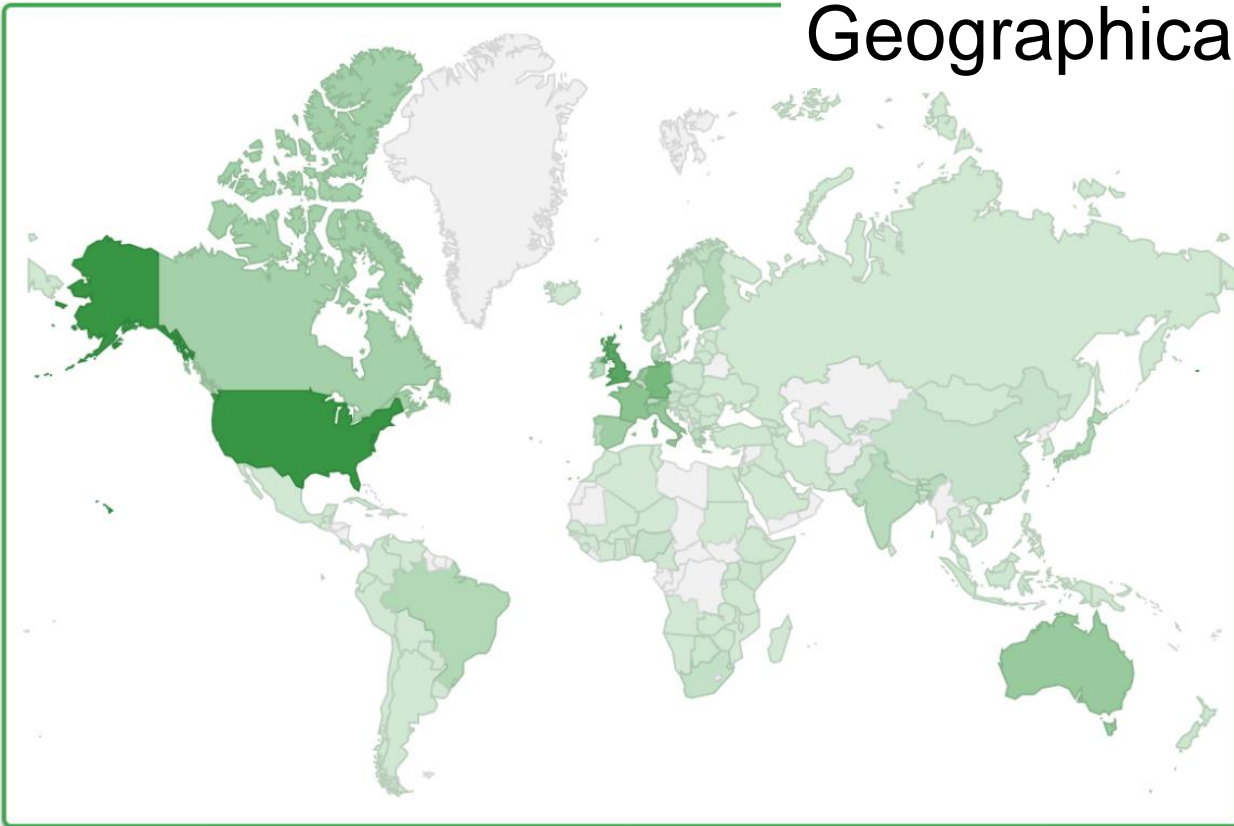
RDA statistics (September 2019)

World-wide growth

Members
8,938

RDA statistics (September 2019)

Geographical distribution

Pie chart legend: Europe 51.4%, North America 27.7%, Asia 8.1%, Africa 5%, Oceania 4.7%, South America

RDA statistics (September 2019)

Members' organisations

5.1%

5.3%

14.1%

68%

- 🔴 Press and Media
- 🟢 Policy/Funding Agency
- 🟠 Large Enterprise
- 🟡 IT Consultancy/Development
- 🔴 Small and Medium Enterprise
- 🟤 Other
- 🟢 Government/Public Services
- 🟢 Academia/Research
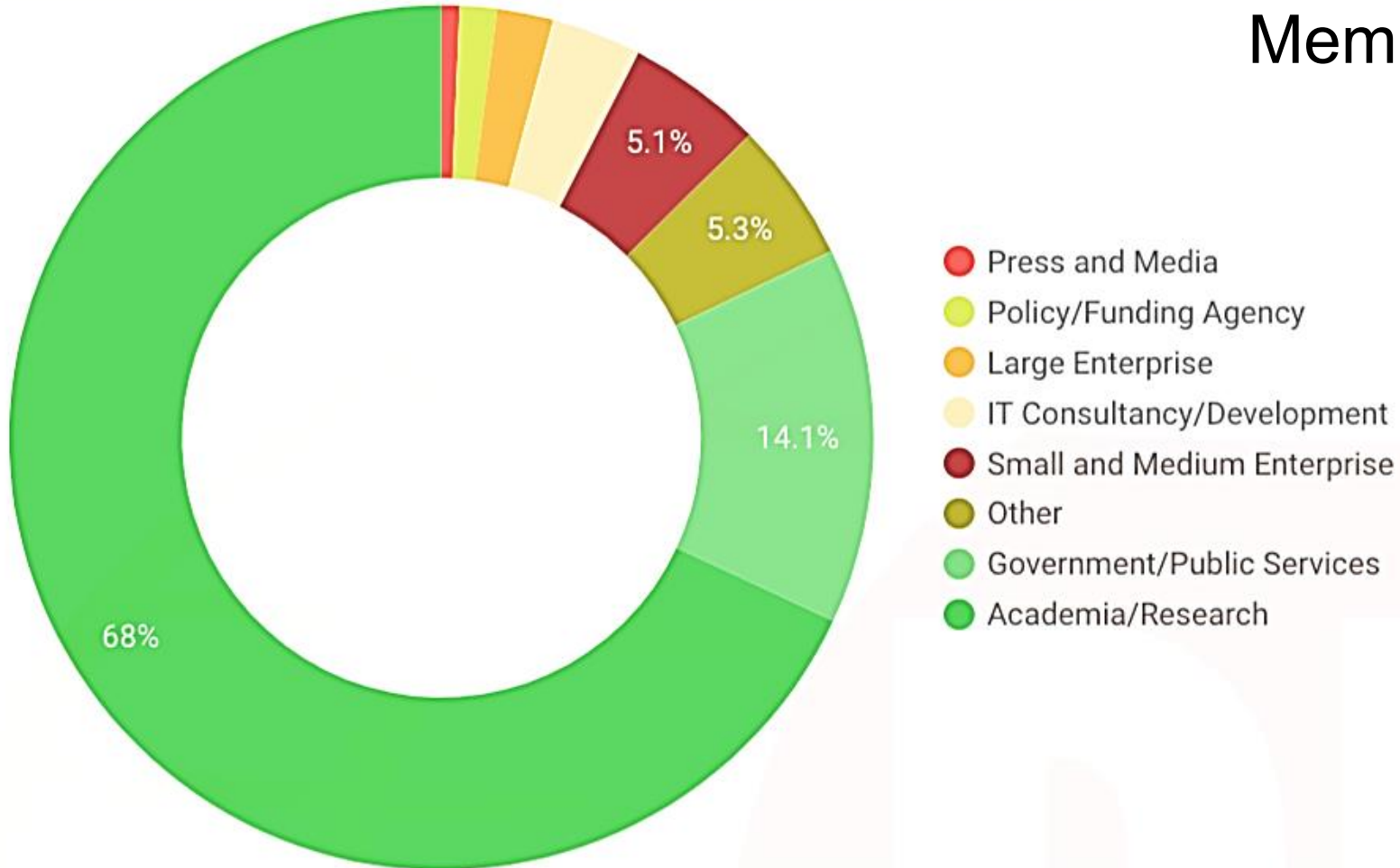
What does RDA do?

- Activities centre around self-formed, volunteer and focused Working Groups and exploratory Interest Groups

- Aims are to

  - exchange knowledge

  - share discoveries,

  - discuss barriers and potential solutions,

  - explore and define policies and

  - test and harmonise standards to enhance and facilitate global data sharing & re-use.

28 working groups
& 56 interest groups

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups

RDA working groups (examples)

- Data Citation

- Data Type Registries

- DMP Common Standards

- FAIR Data Maturity Model

- Persistent Identification of Instruments

- Research Data Collections

- Research Data Repository Interoperability

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups

RDA interest groups (examples)

- Active Data Management Plans

- Data Fabric

- Domain Repositories

- Education and Training on handling of research data

- Libraries for Research Data

- Long tail of research data

- Metadata

- RDA/WDS Certification of Digital Repositories

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups

RDA recommendations & outputs

- **Recommendations:** RDA's flagship outputs and the equivalent of "specifications" or "standards" that other organisations create and endorse.

- **Supporting Outputs:** RDA outputs that originate from the work of RDA groups, but not always adoptable by other organisations.

- **Other Outputs:** Workshop reports, published articles, survey results, etc. produced by RDA groups. (Not formally endorsed.)

https://www.rd-alliance.org/recommendations-outputs
https://www.rd-alliance.org/sites/default/files/RDA%20Cards_July2019.pdf

RDA Endorsed Recommendations

- **Scalable Dynamic-data Citation Methodology**
- Data Description Registry Interoperability Model
- Basic Vocabulary of Foundational Terminology Query Tool
- Data Type Model and Registry
- **FAIRsharing: standards, databases, repositories and policies**
- Persistent Identifier Type Registry
- Machine Actionable Policy Templates

- Repository Audit and Certification Catalogues
- **Recommendation on Research Data Collections**
- **Workflows for Research Data Publishing: Models and Key Components**
- Research Data Repository Interoperability WG Final Recommendations
- Wheat Data Interoperability Guidelines, Ontologies and User Cases

https://www.rd-alliance.org/sites/default/files/RDA%20Cards_July2019.pdf

RDA Recommendations (being endorsed)

- 39 Hints To Facilitate The Use Of Semantics For Data On Agriculture And Nutrition
- **WDS/RDA Assessment Of Data Fitness For Use WG Outputs And Recommendations**
- Sustainable Business Models for Brokering Middleware to support Research Interoperability
- **Metadata Standards Directory**
- Recommendation on PID Kernel Information

- **A curriculum for foundational Research Data Science skills for Early Career Researchers**
- Framework for Summer Schools in Data Science and Cloud Computing
- RDA/TDWG Attribution Metadata Working Group: Final Recommendations
- An open, universal literature-data cross-linking service

https://www.rd-alliance.org/sites/default/files/RDA%20Cards_July2019.pdf

RDA Supporting Outputs

- **23 Things: Libraries For Research Data**
- A survey of current practices in data search services
- Addressing the Gaps: Recommendations for Supporting the Long Tail of Research Data
- **Data Discovery Paradigms: User Requirements and Recommendations for Data Repositories**
- **Eleven Quick Tips for Finding Research Data**
- Federated Identity Management for Research Collaborations

- Income Streams for Data Repositories
- Legal Interoperability of Research Data: Principles and Implementation Guidelines
- Matrix of use cases and functional requirements for research data repository platforms
- **Persistent identifiers: Consolidated assertions**
- Research Data Repository Interoperability Primer
- **Summary of Virtual Layer Recommendations**

https://www.rd-alliance.org/sites/default/files/RDA%20Cards_July2019.pdf

RDA plenary meetings

- Plenaries take place 2 times per year
- P14: Helsinki, Finland - October 2019
- P15: Melbourne, Australia – March 2020
- P16: San José, Costa Rica – November 2020
- P17: Edinburgh, UK – April 2021

← RDA Europe travelling support grants available – see https://grants.rd-alliance.org/ (deadline 2010-02-03)!!

https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries

Joining RDA

- Any individual can join the RDA **for free**

- **Only requirement** is to **agree** to the RDA's **guiding principles** are Openness, Consensus, Balance, Harmonization, Community-driven, Non-profit and technology-neutral

- Once a member, you can

  - Sign up for as many groups as you like

  - Comment on all outputs & RDA web content

  - Participate in RDA plenaries meetings

  - Vote for candidates to the RDA Council & Technical Advisory Board

Regional & national groups

- RDA encourages the initiative and support of its **members** across the globe to animate their **communities on a national level**

- National and regional nodes provide platforms for **exchanging information** (in the local language) about the RDA, its activities and outputs

- In Europe, the H2020 project "RDA Europe" is supporting the formation of **national nodes** (currently 19)

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/national-groups

RDA-SE organization

- National node of RDA global, via RDA Europe

- Swedish National Data service (SND) is host institution

  - Core team at SND Gothenburg + Lund

  - Working groups, advisory group

- Application in April 2019 successful!

- "Seed money" (-> May 2020)

RDA-SE aims

- Spread info about RDA in Sweden

- Increase Sweden-based individuals' membership in RDA

- RDA working & interest groups

  - identify interests, increase active involvement

  - inform, encourage and facilitate adoption of Outputs & Recommendations

- Be a platform for dialogue on research data issues

  - engage with broad range of stakeholders & funders

  - map out the Swedish "data landscape"

RDA-SE activities 2019-2020

- Set up a web site https://rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-sweden (done!)

- Hold information events at SND consortium & network institutes

- Have info points at meetings & conferences (e.g. IFFIS-2019)

- Organize a workshop (spring 2020)

- Meetings with funding agencies, "academies" & professional organisations including "industry" (spring 2020)

- Join network of Nordic RDA nodes (done!)

Please join us!

"RDA is a window to the world's data expertise"

- Everyone is welcome to join us!

- Become a RDA member at https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register (takes up to 1 working day)

- Go to RDA Sweden group page https://rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-sweden and click "join group" button (-> mailing list)

- Contact Maggie Hellström (margareta.hellstrom@nateko.lu.se) and Max Petzold (max.petzold@snd.gu.se) to learn more!

How to proceed?

10-minute "beehive":

Form small groups (4-6 people) and discuss **one** of these:

1. what can RDA Sweden do to promote engagement with RDA groups & other activities?
2. is it useful to spend time & resources in your organisation to adopt (implement/use) recommendations from RDA?
3. how can collaboration between data professionals in "academia" and "industry" be encouraged?