Pitch proposal:	**Investigating a Dutch Data Curation Network**
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1. Goal (problem definition, solution-oriented approach) and delimitation of the subject.

Description of the pitch & impact on the community
Based on the principles of Open Science and Scientific Integrity, universities, journals and funders more and more require researchers to archive data for the long term (scientific integrity) and (if ethically and legally sound) make their data publicly available (reuse of data).
This sets requirements to the processes of *data curation* for long term archiving of research data, generally done by data archives and the Research Data Management offices of universities and research organizations (including data scientists, stewards, managers and librarians).

The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship offer basic criteria for (amongst others) data curation processes. So, first steps have surely been taken and the goals are set (FAIR data). However, we do not have a clear picture of the current Dutch data curation landscape. Is it uniform or does it show a great variety in the quality, structure, content, and context of data curation at the different data archives, universities and research organisations?

Based upon the experience and information already available in the US, initiated by the Data Curation Network Project, now would be a good time to combine forces in the Netherlands and investigate the possibility to initiate a similar (however: smaller-scaled) project; the Dutch Data Curation Network.

The idea for this project arose at the IDCC Barcelona conference (February 2018), after the presentation of the US initiated Data Curation Network Project. Although their approach is 'big' (funded 5-year-project) and also focuses on staff exchange which may be too much for the Dutch version, a group of Dutchies (from universities as well as data repositories) liked the basic ideas presented. With this idea in mind, the question at stake is: how can we join forces and explore the idea of a Dutch Data Curation Network?

The LCRDM Task Group *Investigating a Digital Curation Network* initially will limit its activities to an investigation into the existing knowledge and the wishes and needs concerning data curation. Depending on the outcome of this investigation, the next step can be developing Dutch data curation standards through a Netherlands focused Digital Curation Network (project)

2. Why is this issue institute-transcending?

In the Netherlands, data curation processes are organised rather fragmented and protocols that provide a framework for curating data are generally lacking.
Moreover, as we cannot (yet) expect a single university or research organization to have in-house, full skill and expertise in the broad field of disciplinary data curation, there might be a strong need to create a Dutch cooperation with regard to this topic. This cooperation is even more relevant if you

consider the 'retrospective effect' it could have, i.e. the need to prepare researchers in an early phase on data curation criteria, via data curation standards in DMP's and RDM training sessions.

3. Deliverable/output, what is the expected yield? (the "product") + rough outline.

Deliverable/output

- Exploring the need and possibility of establishing a Dutch Data Curation Network
- Aimed at (1) mapping the current knowledge and (2) to draw up an inventory of the wishes and needs concerning data curation
- In a later phase, depending on the outcome of this project, developing data curation standards or even any of the more elaborates aims of the original US project, could be added, and in that case, including applying for a grant to get the project funded (as is the original US project)

Part of the working plan (to be decided on in the Task Group) could be:
- Inventory of existing knowledge and practices, for instance via a questionnaire
- Inventory of wishes and needs, for instance via interviews of focus groups
- Advice on:
  o the feasibility/desirability of such a network in the Netherlands, based on the outcomes of the inventory – including an indication of what would be the added value of a data curation network in connection to e.g. LCRDM or NDE.
  o And if positive – as a first step towards standardisation: the identification of mutual issues to be addressed in such a network , and the scope of data curation in the full data life cycle.

4. What kind of expertise/competencies are necessary to set up a task group? And how much funding is needed?

What people are we looking for?
Anyone with particular interest in data curation processes, aimed at standardisation and/or finding common ground, based in the Netherlands, as an individual, or employed by a Dutch research organisation/university/network. The outset, however, is the Netherlands-broad: it would be great if we together could explore and in the end develop something that is useful for all/other research organizations as well.

The task group ideally consists of five or six enthusiastic people to work on the project, and if necessary some people in an advisory function.

5. Estimated duration (max 2 months) and preferred planning (desired start – date of completion) NB: the amount of time you devote to this subject per week can be coordinated in the task group

Duration: 4 months (since the process of sending and receiving questionnaires takes time): End of February 2019 – June 2019.

6. What is currently known /has already been undertaken and why is this information insufficient?

  ✓ US Data Connection Network:
    https://sites.google.com/site/datacurationnetwork/home

- ✓ NPOS – Ambitie 4: Stimuleren Open Science: netwerk experts open science

- ✓ NDE – Strategisch Plan 2019-2020 (beschikbaar 24/9/2018): voortbouwen op NCDD/NDE-plan uit 2016 voor de ontwikkeling van een preservation network in Nederland. (Concept-businessplan uit 2016 – ongepubliceerd; plan bevroren).