**Landelijk Coördinatiepunt
Research Data Management**

PITCH for a task group: Putting Data Stewardship on the map

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1.   Goal (problem definition, solution-oriented approach)

Providing insight into what Dutch research institutes currently request, implement and develop for and by data stewards and related data support-like functions on the basis of a national inventory of which the results and a total survey will be made available on the LCRDM platform.

To be undertaken in parallel and close coordination with the following recently initiated projects:

- ZonMW/UMCG/DTL Towards FAIR Data Steward as profession for the Life Sciences – A collaborative approach built on existing expertise (led by Salome Scholtens – UMCG & Celia van Gelder – DTL). Throughput time: August 2018 –July 2019
  Scope of the project: Data Stewardship in bio life sciences.

- Project: WUR: Role of the Data Steward in the organization of Data Management (Support)
  Throughput time: January – December 2018
  Scope of the project: Data Stewardship within the WUR.

The project for the proposed LCRDM task group will offer a broad, national, fundamental survey that complements and makes use of the activities of both above mentioned projects.

2.   Why is the importance of this project institute-transcending and why should it be tackled at a national level?

In the development towards open science, RDM plays a crucial role. RDM support is increasingly in the hands of people with a specific data profile. Currently, data stewardship is being implemented in many institutes but the diverse facets of data stewardship and accompanying functions are dealt with in different ways. Too little expertise is shared - which leads to a risk of the wheel continually being reinvented. It is therefore important to chart the position and the course of action being pursued by the various institutes.

Professionalization of the (large variety of) data stewardship functions in research institutes is important because such organizations in the Netherlands are also expected to comply with the European requirements for FAIR data management.[1] Data stewards must help researchers to adhere

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[1] For a more European context see:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/pdf/realising_the_european_open_science_cloud_2016.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/pdf/eosc_declaration.pdf (recommendations "Skills" and "Data Stewardship")
https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/news/500000-data-scientists-need
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-data-management/data-management_en.htm

to RDM rules and guidelines of which an important aspect is that data must be FAIR. The researcher remains ultimately responsible for managing his/her own data.

Charting the different function requirements and competencies makes it possible to work towards drawing up generic and domain specific function descriptions for data steward jobs. The ultimate goal is to realize an adaptation of the UFO profile.

To maintain a high standard of data stewardship, first-class study programmes are necessary. An inventory of current initiatives reveals certain omissions and also features that still need to be developed for the benefit of students at a national level.

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

-        An effective Interview format to acquire the right information during talks. This should include aspects like job title, tasks and responsibilities, desired competencies, positioning in the organization and other relevant information from function descriptions as used by University Medical Centres, research institutes and universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands.
-        Online questionnaire
-        Interviews
-        Inventory report (including: clustering of information in order to register - where possible – 10 common practices)
-        Presentation of results on the LCRDM online platform.

Scope:
The assignment will be carried out within a limited timeframe. It is our intention to record as many currently used profile variations as possible.

Follow-up:
There will be a follow-up to this pitch to arrive at a generic role description of data stewardship and contribute to a UFO-Hay Profile (University Job Classification). The follow-up pitch is scheduled for November 2018.

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

Expertise/competencies:

- Insight/knowledge of and affinity with the phenomenon data stewardship
- Has a broad RDM network
- Possesses interview skills
- Competent in drafting reports
- Is familiar with SharePoint (1 person)
- Prepared to travel throughout the Netherlands

Costs:

- travel expenses for interviews where necessary will be reimbursed via LCRDM

5.   Estimated duration (2 months maximum) and preferred planning (desired start – date of completion)
From mid September through mid November 2019.

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

- ELIXIR project – inventory of training activities in NL (DTL)
- EDISON project
- EOSC project WP 7
- Revision RDNL Essentials training
- Development MOOCS at various institutes
- Webinars
- UKB RD & LCRDM work group Research support: activities in the field of training.

This concerns activities aimed at an international perspective or not yet completed/ongoing activities.