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ABSTRACT:

This WP4 Planning and Activities Report describes the activities performed and actions intended in the coming 12 months within WP4 for Task 4.3 (Advanced Technology Interaction) to engage with the practitioners and to organise uptake. It is the third report of this type describing what has been done and what is being planned.

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GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
BoD	Board of Directors
BoF	Bird of Feather
CB	Consortium Board
DoA	Description of the Action
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
IG	Interest Group in the global RDA initiative
PM	Person Months
PMO	Project Management Office
RDA EU 3	Research Data Alliance - Europe 3
SyA	Synchronisation Assembly
TWM	Technical Working Meetings
WG	Working Group in the global RDA initiative
WP	Work Package in the RDA EU project
WPL	Work Package Leader

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1 Executive Summary

This deliverable focuses on the activities carried out by the Task 4.3 “Advanced Technology Interaction”. According to the Project Workplan, the main activity of this Task is the organisation of a series (3) of Technical Working Meetings (TWMs), one per year, and the exploitation of the outcomes of these TWMs in terms of an increased involvement of computer scientists in the RDA activities, as well as in terms of impact on the activities of the RDA Working Groups (WGs)/Interest Groups (IGs).

The first two reports of this Task 4.3 included:

- the main objective and the activities to be carried out,
- the concept of the Technical Working Meetings¹,
- the focus on bringing experts from various backgrounds together, in particular to strengthen the computer science perspective in the RDA work,
- a summary report of the first RDA EU3 TWM.

The first TWM organised under the RDA EU3 project had as theme “Discoverable Data Service/Tool Registry” and it was also aimed at opening a discussion about the possibility of creating an RDA WG on “Research Data Service Discoverability”. [See <https://rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/goals-and-outcomes.html>].

This deliverable presents

- the follow up activities aiming at publishing a White Paper that will include findings and recommendations from the first RDA-E3 TWM,
- the plans for the second RDA-E3 TWM to be organised next year, and
- a timeline for further actions.

¹ By TWM we mean a meeting attended by max 20 attendees, where participation is only by invitation and there is a balanced audience of technical experts/computer science researchers and RDA group leaders.

2 Activity Report

The first RDA EU3 TWM was meant to work on a topic which has a high relevance, but where up till now no activity in RDA could be observed, i.e. the question implicitly addressed was whether a TWM can stimulate specific activities in RDA to overcome hurdles that had been identified and addressed during the Working Meeting.

This first TWM took place at the Island of Santorini on 21-22 April 2016. Details on its organisation and content have been reported in D4.6.

In the last months, based on the outcomes of the meeting, the preparation of a white paper gathering the ideas presented and discussed by the participants in the Workshop and organising them as an organic whole has been undertaken.

The editorial board of that report is the following:

- Leonardo Candela (CNR-ISTI)
- Umberto Straccia (CNR-ISTI)
- Costantino Thanos (CNR-ISTI)

The report (titled "White Paper on Research Data Service Discoverability") will (i) identify and define the main concepts involved in the process of discovering research data services; (ii) identify and describe the main enabling technologies; and (iii) suggest recommendations for making the research data service discovery process effective and efficient. The report is organised according to the following index:

1. Introduction
2. Definitions
3. Research Data Service in Context
4. The Research Data Service Discovery Process
5. Research Data Service Discovery: Enabling Technologies
 - 5.1. Knowledge Representation Languages
 - 5.2. Reasoning/Matchmaking Support
 - 5.3. Domain Specific Ontologies
 - 5.4. Research Data Service Metadata
 - 5.5. Mediation Support
 - 5.6. Digital Service Identifier
 - 5.7. Research Data Service Catalogues/Registries
6. Recommendations
7. References

During the current reporting period, a first draft has been edited by the editorial board based on the live discussions during the Workshop, and the slides and presentations given by the participants. This first draft has been put on a Google Doc where the participants have the possibility of introducing their comments and suggestions.

The editorial board has collected all the feedback received by the participants and currently is processing it in order to integrate it into a consolidated version expected by the end of August. That version will be circulated for a final check and finalized by 30 September 2016.

The main findings of the TWM will be introduced in the Atlas of Knowledge of RDA E3 by 31 October 2016.

Based on the agreed findings the participants will discuss whether they will initiate a proposal for a RDA Working Group or Interest Group, or first organise a "Bird of a Feather" (BoF) session at the plenary in March 2017 in Barcelona.

A second activity carried out during the reporting period was the starting of the planning of the organisation of the second TWM to be organised next spring. The submission procedure is defined as follows:

- The partners who are willing to organise the second TWM have been asked to send a proposal by the end on June 2016.
- In the proposal the following points have to be specified:
 - the theme of the Workshop,
 - its relevance for RDA,
 - expected outcomes.
- The available budget is 15 KEUR.
- In case more than one proposal is received, these will be submitted to the BoD for the final choice.

On 5th May an email was sent to the members of Task T4.3 that contained a procedure for the selection of (i) the theme of the TWM and (ii) the partner who will have the responsibility of the organisation of this event.

One proposal has been submitted and is under evaluation:

- Proponent partner: CNR.
- Theme: Data infrastructure services to support reproducible computational research.
- Rationale:

With the larger availability of data, data mining, massive simulation and, more in general, computational science are progressively increasing their relevance as research approaches. Like other approaches, e.g. experimental ones, they must be reproducible or replicable by someone else working independently in order to be qualified as "scientific" ones.

In order to make all this possible researchers must describe and encapsulate the entire computational experiment, by including data, parameters, source code, dependencies and environments, so that results can be properly verified and explored. Providing these elements can be very expensive for the author of the research in terms of time and skill required as it can be for whoever wants to repeat the experiment.

This workshop intends to discuss to what extent data infrastructures can help repeatability and what capabilities they should support to facilitate it.

Approximately 20 people will be invited to attend the workshop. They will include: (i) representatives of the RDA Reproducibility IG and other RDA related Interest Groups, like the Active Data Management Plan IG; (ii) computer scientists that have proposed solutions and tools for reproducible computation; and (iii) representatives of Research Infrastructures that have addressed the issue in their own domain and developed tools and methods tailored to their context.

The immediate next step is the identification of the theme(s) (31 August 2016).

3 Activities Planned

3.1 Activities Planned for the second year

As to the preparation of the second TWM that will be organised during the second year of the project, the proposed timing for its organisation is the following:

The proposed timing is the following:

- 31 August 2016: Identification of the theme(s),
- 30 September 2016: Submission of the proposal(s) to the BoD and selection of the proposal,
- 31 October 2016: Consolidated Workshop Description including the Place where the Workshop will be organized,
- 30 November 2016: A List of potential Participants,
- 31 January 2017: Final List of Participants,
- April 2017: Organisation of the Workshop.

3.2 Activities Planned for the third year

A third TWM will be organised during the third year of the project.

It is too early for producing a timing related to this event.

A final consideration concerns the topics to be addressed by the second and third TWMs. The choice of these topics will very much depend on the progress of the work carried out by the RDA WGs and IGs as the goal of the TWMs is to critically analyse the results obtained and help to optimize them.

In addition, the lessons learned from the organisation of the first TWM will guide us in organising the successive TWMs more efficiently and effectively.