Strengthening Global Training and Skills Development Partnerships: The ARDC-Alliance Staff Exchange Initiative

Thursday 16 October 2025 11:11 (11 minutes)

In early 2024, a proposal to advance bilateral collaboration around national training strategies and frameworks between the Alliance and the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) was introduced. The agreement was formally signed in February 2025, effective through to December 31, 2026, launching the start of a two-year knowledge and staff exchange pilot.

This pilot is in the form of a series of bilateral staff exchanges both in Canada and Australia and involves each host country showcasing their respective work in-country. The objective of the pilot is to evaluate the efficacy and impact of on-site international staff exchanges, documenting the lessons learned along the way. By comparing and contrasting the skills development landscapes of ARDC and the Alliance, the pilot aims to identify points of convergence and opportunities for collaboration. Additionally, the pilot leads will share and document their experiential knowledge about training, skills, and workforce development from their respective countries (research sectors) and leverage the knowledge and understandings from their local training communities.

In this presentation we will provide an overview of each organisation, an outline of the areas of priority identified and work initiated during the first and second exchanges, along with an update of the progress made thus far. We will then discuss how we plan to develop and further the work with a focus on international stakeholder relationships to expand skills and workforce development in our two jurisdictions.

This presentation is designed for a general audience but is particularly valuable for sectoral skills development leaders and training providers. It offers insights into innovative ways for exchanging skills and knowledge among research infrastructure organisations and their staff, while also using international expertise and practices to broaden and enhance skills development and training strategies.

Finally, we will invite all stakeholders and interested audience members to provide any feedback on this exciting journey of international collaboration. Your insights and experiences are invaluable to the success of this pilot. We will share an interactive poll to capture your thoughts on skills-related topics that currently resonate with you. Additionally, we welcome questions during Q&A time and/or post presentation.

Primary authors: Ms DI VITA, Catherine (Research Data Alliance of Canada); UNSWORTH, Kathryn (Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC))

Presenters: Ms DI VITA, Catherine (Research Data Alliance of Canada); UNSWORTH, Kathryn (Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC))

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