Research Data Management: an italian case study

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The focus of this presentation is to speak about an informal cooperation between a group of Italian universities in order to deliver a shared model of

- Research Data Management policy
- Research Data Management template

aiming at a well-developed national Data Management Plan, compliant with EU-funded projects or other funders requirements.

The main problem of the group was: the lack of Italian guidelines (policy or plan).

We are proposing an example of a bottom-up initiative.
The italian context: **CRUI**

**CRUI** (The Conference of Italian University Rectors):

- is an association of state and private Italian universities,
- a reference point with capacity to influence the development of the Italian university system,
- has a representative role in carrying out projects and developing policies,
- the OA WG is still not working on research data.
The international context: EU

What are Research Data Management main concerns?

- organisation of data (entry, research cycle, dissemination & archiving of valuable results);
- being part of the research process, and aiming to make it as efficient as possible & meet requirements of the university, funders, legislation.

It concerns how to:

Create data and plan for its use,
Organise, structure & name data,
Keep data (secure, provide access, store and back up),
Find information resources
Share & re-use data, publish and get cited.
Our group starting point

- Common needs & OpenAIRE - NOAD contact
- Absence of Italian guidelines, no endorsement
- In most cases, no internal structure in universities; no RDM and data stewardship integration in institutional communication strategy
- Necessity to support researchers in grant applications

So if every university is required to produce RDM policy & template: why don’t we optimize our time.....

Working with a selected & motivated team?
Sharing and comparing the work?
Have the possibility to adopt, adapt, improve the models?
Support researchers in responding projects requirements, promoting good DMP?
The group & competencies

Positive feedback from colleagues:

- Politecnico di Milano
- Università Ca’Foscari Venezia
- Università di Bologna
- Università di Milano
- Università di Padova
- Università di Torino
- Università di Trento

Different skills and different roles:
IT service, Digital library, Research Support Service, Legal service
Working method

3 WG: main coordinator Paola Gargiulo (OpenAIRE- NOAD, Cineca).

Group n. 1: deliverable ➔ **Policy model**, coordinator Paola Galimberti (Università di Milano)

Group n. 2: deliverable ➔ **Template**, coordinator Marisol Occioni (Università Ca’Foscari Venezia)

Group n. 3: deliverable ➔ **E-Infrastructure**, coordinator Michele Rubini (Politecnico di Milano)

- Every member decided which group to belong to
- No meetings in presence, only on-line, mailing list, wiki, materials shared on google drive
- 6 Plenary sessions from April to October 2016
GROUP n. 1: POLICY

Background:
• results of the LEARN project, policies of the University of Edinburgh and of UCL, Austrian group e- infrastructures
• local interviews on research data management and researchers needs and habits (data type, size, archiving, long term preservation

Timing:
• first draft July
• second draft August
• final document October

Next steps:
• Adoption of the policy (approval by SA)
Main issues

• Introduction (why?)
• A definition of research data (what?)
• Handling of research data (where, how long?)
• Ownership
• Responsibilities
GROUP n. 2: TEMPLATE

Task:
- analyze documents & templates from DCC, the European project LEARN, E-infrastructures Austria and several European universities
- provide a simple & clear template, accompanied by self-explaining examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of data</th>
<th>Descrivere se sono qualitativi, quantitativi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature and formats</td>
<td>Descrivere natura e formato dei dati (meglio se di formato non proprietario), ad esempio:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) documenti testo (DOC, ODF, PDF, TXT, etc);</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b) immagini (JPEG, GIF, SVG, PNG, TIFF);</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) video/film (MPEG, AVI, WMV, MP4);</td>
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<td>d) registrazioni audio (MP3, WAV, AIFF, OGG, etc);</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) dati strutturati (HTML, JSON, TEX, XML, RDF);</td>
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<tr>
<td>f) tabelle (CSV, ODS, TSV, XLS, SAS, Stata, SPSS portable);</td>
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<td>g) codici sorgente (C, CSS, JavaScript, Java, etc);</td>
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<tr>
<td>h) configuration data (INI, CONF, etc);</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timing:
- 1st draft: July; 2nd draft: August; Final version: October
DMP Template structure:

- Administrative details
- Dataset description
- Standards & metadata
- Data Management, Documentation and Curation
- Data security, Ethics and Legal compliance
- Data sharing and access
- Responsibilities
- Institutional policies on data sharing and security
STRONG POINTS

• Easy to work in an informal working group
• High motivation of the participating institutions (better saying of the members of the group)
• Possibility to take advantage of previous experiences (and materials) and outcomes
WEAK POINTS

• Lack of endorsement
• Lack of awareness of the importance of research data (and of open access to scientific publications tout court) at ministerial level

This poor awareness at central level results in:
• a lack of interest at local level so that research data are not (yet) an issue in many universities
• a lack of instruments (both conceptual and technical) to manage data production, archiving and preservation
• No funding for research data management.
FUTURE STEPS

Dissemination:

Sharing of the outcomes on OAWiki- Italia

Presentation of the work results in workshops and conferences

Development:

Involvement of the OA WG of CRUI

Completion and enrichment of the current documentation