Background

Data stewardship is essential in research. However, no consensus has yet been reached on the responsibilities and tasks of data stewards, and formal profiles are lacking, including knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs). This hampers the adequate capacity building and complicates efficient data management which are necessary for open science implementation. To achieve coherent training and education, accompanied with a consistent human resource (HR) policy, national alignment and coordination are needed.

The NPOS F Project

The NPOS F project works on competences for data stewards in the Netherlands, including training and education. The project team consists of representatives of universities, UMC’s and universities of applied sciences, and works in a bottom-up approach. Its outcomes will be implemented in the strategic plans of the research funder ZonMw, Associations of Universities (VSNU), University Medical Centres (NFU) and Universities of Applied Sciences (VH), PhD candidate network (PNN) and the IT organisation SURF. This will result in a national plan on professionalising data stewardship.

The data stewardship landscape

The NPOS F project builds upon the widely supported outcomes and recommendations of two previous projects (2019), i.e. Towards FAIR data steward as profession for the lifesciences (ZonMw) and Data stewardship on the map (LCRDM).

Deliverables

The end report will be published in the fall 2020. It will consist of tangible deliverables, including recommendations, ready to be implemented by the project partners, including the above-mentioned umbrella organisations:

- **Scoping**: A clear definition of data stewardship and how it differs from related functions as data scientist and research software engineers. For this project, various data stewardship personas have been developed.
- **Education & Training**:
  - **Case studies**: An overview of the current Dutch training and education landscape for data stewardship for universities, UMCs and universities of applied sciences.
  - **Inventory of data stewardship training resources** for which annotating with data stewardship competences has been piloted.
- **Human Resources (HR) profiles**: Recommendations for three different HR profiles (universities, UMC’s and universities of applied sciences) to the respective umbrella organisations to kick-start the implementation in their organisations.
- **Design for a data stewardship skills tool**, including (self-) assessment and pointers to training resources.