Early Career and Engagement Interest Group Charter

Introduction
The purpose of the Early Career and Engagement Interest Group (ECEIG) is to provide a focal point for Early and Mid-Career Researchers and Professionals, including those involved in various RDA-related fellowships and Early Career programs.

User scenario(s) or use case(s) the IG wishes to address
RDA members recognize that there is a need to create a space in RDA for those who are at the beginning stages of their careers. Specifically, RDA members recognized that Early Career Researchers and Professionals usually need additional support for:

1. networking amongst themselves to learn about other Early Career scientists and their research, i.e., establishing a "network of peers", and
2. mentoring from senior RDA members who are interested in mentoring Early Career Researchers and Professionals.

Designating time on each RDA plenary schedule for this IG is important because those who are in the beginning stages of their careers have their own unique talents and strengths and they represent the next generation of RDA; they are critical to the future of RDA. At a BoF conducted during RDA P8 in Denver, CO a group of Early Career fellows agreed to explore the idea of creating an IG centering on those who are in the early stages of their careers and helping them effectively engage with RDA. This effort was continued and crystallized at a dedicated networking session during RDA P9 in Barcelona, Spain.

Objectives
While other efforts exist in RDA to support Early Career Researchers and Professionals, such as the RDA-US and RDA-EU fellowship programs, the RDA ECEIG seeks to complement existing efforts by (i) building a peers network, (ii) maintaining a "live" document of advice for Early Career Researchers and Professionals and (iii) creating opportunities for formal and informal mentoring within RDA.

Specifically, objectives of this IG are to:
1. Focus on Early Career Researchers and Professionals because they need the most support
2. Establish a volunteer-based mentoring progam
3. Network across domains to establish an interdisciplinary network of peers
4. Provide a space for people who have more experience with RDA to pass on knowledge and lessons learned to Early Career Researchers and Professionals
5. Create a social outlet specifically for Early Career Researchers and Professionals

Participation
The ECEIG is open to all RDA members to participate, and is of particular interest to Researchers and Professionals in the Early and Mid-Career stages. This IG is also of interest to more experienced RDA members who desire to mentor and support Early and Mid-Career Researchers and Professionals.

Outcomes
The ECEIG will provide anchoring to Early Career Researchers and Professionals by giving them visibility and a place to speak, as well as pointing them to what is relevant within RDA and sharing experiences. Driven by the needs of its members, this IG will focus on providing practical advice such

as how to get the most out of your RDA experience, how to speak at a session, as well as establishing and sustaining a network with different people in a friendly environment built on mutual support. This knowledge and compendium of advice will be maintained as a "live" document, constantly being updated and reviewed by members of this IG. Additionally, having a formal mentoring program is of significant value and impact to Early Career Researchers and Professionals, therefore recruiting (both disciplinary and cross-disciplinary) will be an integral part of this IG. Beyond the formal structure of a Plenary, this IG will incorporate a social dimension by organizing lunches, drinks, meeting spaces and other social gatherings.

Mechanism

The ECEIG will utilize capabilities provided by the RDA platform to communicate and collaborate effectively to achieve its goals. These include:

- A designated time and space in each RDA Plenary, dedicated to Early Career Researchers and Professionals, similar to the "Women in RDA Breakfast" tradition.
- An established, informal social gathering in each Plenary (to be organized by current IG members).
- Feedback by the new members in the IG on how the RDA is beneficial for them and how it can be improved.
- Monthly telecoms/web conferences with planned agendas to discuss specific issues, with recorded video sessions for future reference
- Asynchronous collaboration using google docs, a wiki, a dedicated forum and an electronic mailing list. Of particular importance is the forum, as it would allow all involved parties to discuss, elaborate or pose questions to the members on general and domain-specific topics at any time.

Timeline

Our main goals for the first 12 months of the IG are to:

1. Coordinate with RDA in order to allocate the designated ECEIG time/space in Plenaries, including the social aspects/events.
2. Design, structure and initiate the live document of knowledge and advice from the current ECEIG members.
3. Outreach to former members of the Early Career Programmes in RDA (both RDA-US and RDA-EU) for feedback, comments and potential mentoring.

After approval of the IG, immediate focus will be given to the organization of the ECEIG event in the next RDA Plenary, aiming for critical mass from the involved Early Career Researchers and Professionals.

Group Members

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