EPFL Data Champions'
Community mission statement

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Link to the live version of this document: https://go.epfl.ch/DC-mission

Identity (Who, Community)

- The EPFL Data Champions is a community made by EPFL researchers (PhD students, postdocs, professors, etc.) and staff (admins, technicians, managers, etc.) with a keen interest in research data and willing to share their expertise and learn from others.
- Independently of the specific fields of interest or expertise, data and code represent the principal centers of interest, and even niche topics related to these are welcome, as no people are left behind.
- Enthusiasm about data (might it be for sharing, visualization, analysis, anonymization, or publishing, etc.) is the main common aggregator and driver.

Mission (What, Goal)

- The EPFL Data Champions community provides guidance to other EPFL affiliates, on state-of-the-art tools and best practices for managing and working with data.
- The community fosters the Open Science cultural shift, facilitating data-driven research in a bottom-up approach.
- Acting as spokespersons and local experts, the Data Champions can engage (report, ask, be asked, …) with EPFL management about the needs of their faculties, or research community, or institute.
- A Data Champion has a concern to inform about known best practices within the scientific community, in a non-committing manner for either party.
- An EPFL Data Champion is not expected to replace other professional roles (e.g. Ethics Committee, IT staff, etc.), nor is held responsible for the consequences of advice to researchers or EPFL services.

Purpose (Why, Motivation)

- It is about a community who finds inspiration in …
  - Discuss, define and disseminate good practices to handle research data

- Learn good practices to handle research data
- Share their data knowledge and expertise within the community and beyond it
- Maximize the availability and accessibility of useful information and great resources out there (datasets, software, platforms, ...), that people wish they had but they don't even know their existence.
- Communicate with other, affine communities, for instance interested in FAIR data principles and Open Science practices
- Provide guidance on how to reach the most for comprehensive research (Data is diverse, tools are multiple)

- EPFL Data Champions will get a chance to play the following roles, according to their personal availability and field experience:
  - Help people!
  - Advise researchers on data handling or redirect them to expert support on Campus
  - Act as spokespersons in and for their faculty or service
  - Endorse the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable) principles
  - Promote (or participate in) training or events
  - Develop or promote RDM tools useful for research
  - Participate to possible publications on RDM and related topics

Process (How, Means)

- It is a voluntary engagement! Any DC can choose to dedicate only the time that she or he wants for helping others, fostering the community or its activities.
- Every EPFL member can contact a DC via their EPFL email, present on the webpage, go.epfl.ch/datachampions.
- Every EPFL member can join the EPFL Data Champions community, either by filling -in the contact form or by contacting datachampions@epfl.ch.
- As of 2019, the community has the approval of the EPFL VPR (2019 name, now part of EPFL VPA) and is listed as an official EPFL community on www.epfl.ch/research.
- Each and every Data Champion can at any time suggest collaborative projects to other DCs or to the community. Likewise, all DCs can at any time ask for suggestions to other DCs.
- General EPFL Data Champions meetings are organized 3 times per year by the EPFL Library. There, Data Champions, interesting guest speakers, and sympathizers are invited to share, discuss, collaborate and decide.
- Monthly, shorter meetings called DCBreak are organized by the EPFL Library, to give the opportunity to the community members to gather, discuss or present specific topics, and spend a little time together.
- The Research Data Library Team supports the functioning of the EPFL Data Champions community and ...

- Provides the central support for coordinating the efforts and activities
- Collects external requests and new affiliations
- Tries to cover its possible expenses for community's activities and projects
- Facilitates the interactions of Data Champions with other EPFL services or external ones
- Maintains and nurtures the DC webpage and other communication channels as the Slack channel, epfldatachampions.slack.com, group email datachampions@groupes.epfl.ch, or Linkedin Group www.linkedin.com/groups/9020944
- Maintains a Community Management documentation.
- Organizes a call every year for new Data Champions to join the community
- The main decisions about the community itself (external communication channels, collaborative projects,
- possible funding requests, this mission statement, etc.) are usually taken by the community via voting (Doodle) or collaborative documents (go.epfl.ch/DCdrive). All is facilitated as possible by the Research Data Library Team.
- The main decisions are proactively taken by the community via voting or collaborative documents. On a case-by-case scenario, the EPFL Library can filter-out certain choices in case they:
  - incur in not covered costs, or
  - are against EPFL guidelines and policies, or
  - are out of scope with respect to this Community mission statement.
- No KPIs! If you can not measure it, then you can solve it :)