DARE UK (Data and Analytics Research Environments UK)

Interest Groups (IG) and Working Groups (WG) Overview

The DARE UK Programme started in July 2021 with a vision to enable a step-change in the UK's national research capability for secure sharing, linkage, and analysis of sensitive data for research and innovation at scale for public benefit. More specifically, driving forward the creation of a secure network of trusted research environments (TREs), joined through federation and interoperability to support cross-domain, cross-jurisdictional linkage, and analysis of sensitive data for research in the public good. The programme's time horizon is currently envisioned until 2026.

DARE UK Community Groups

The programme is looking to encourage the nucleation of different groups within the broad UK sensitive data research communities to drive the programme's vision, with two fundamental motivations:

1. Ensure the programme's vision and path to achieving this vision are aligned with the broader UK sensitive data research communities needs and priorities,
2. Provide opportunities for the UK sensitive data research communities to co-deliver components or pieces of work to move the landscape towards the programme's vision.

Drawing inspiration from the structures defined in other initiatives such as the Research Data Alliance [1] and IETF[2], the DARE UK community groups are set up according to a *charter*, a short, 2-page document that covers the 'why', 'what', and 'how' (as well as the initial 'who') – IG charters are broad-based while WG charters include a work plan and delivery timeline for a defined output. Either kind of group (IG/WG) is _open to anyone to propose, join, and/or contribute to_.

DARE UK's charter endorsement process is here.

DARE UK's Community Groups Code of Conduct is here.

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[1] Research Data Alliance; https://rd-alliance.org/ (accessed 03/04/2023).

[2] Internet Engineering Task Force; https://www.ietf.org/ (accessed 03/04/2023).

Interest Groups (IG)

"IGs are open-ended in terms of their longevity. They focus on a broad-based challenge within the programme's scope (e.g., software tooling to support information governance decision-making, reproducible research methodologies), and they should spawn WGs to address specific pieces of work."

This keeps IGs broad-based and WGs focused on tractable, specific problems that are relevant to the programme and the sensitive data landscape the programme is aiming to serve.

DARE UK's IG charter template is [here](#).

Working Groups (WG)

"WGs are short-term (<18 months) in terms of their longevity. They focus on a specific, tractable piece of work – be that tools, policy, practices, products, proof of concepts, etc. – within the programme's scope."

WGs are generally linked to an IG though may come from anywhere providing they are within scope of the programme and the sensitive data research landscape the programme is aiming to serve.

DARE UK's WG charter template is [here](#).

Working Group Outputs

WG outputs may take a number of forms, some examples (but not limited to):

- Recommendation documents (no particular format)
- Open-source software (incl. documentation)
- Metadata schema

All WG outputs under the DARE UK programme must have an assigned Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and be linked to the [DARE UK Zenodo community](#). WG outputs have a formal process for ultimate endorsement as part of the DARE UK programme, and this, as well as their hosting as part of the DARE UK Zenodo Community, is what makes them part of the shared body of knowledge of the programme (and by extension the sensitive data research communities more broadly).

Playbook for IGs and WGs

The DARE UK programme **may** provide the following supporting operational components to support IGs/WGs once their charter has been endorsed by the programme, these details will be discussed with each IG/WG:

- An IG/WG email account
- Document collaboration and sharing – depending on the IG/WG preference (to be discussed with co-chairs)
- Signposting via the DARE UK website and other communication channels when appropriate (e.g., monthly newsletter)

Communities of Practice (CoP)

"CoP are open-ended in terms of longevity. They are community-led, established, and managed. They are an open forum or 'town square' for the fostering of open communication across that specific community."

Communities of Practice are, by definition, community-driven, managed, and independent of the programme itself, and thus, those communities will define for themselves their 'raison d'être' and 'ways of working'. Communities of practice are managed forums for information and best practice sharing, networking and collaboration, and an open space for the loose fostering of ideas. These CoP will be important forums for the DARE UK programme to engage with and be a part of and may inform the programme's thinking. However, this will be largely through the programme's participation as a member of the CoP rather than any direct/'official' relationships between the programme and CoP themselves.