



# DATA & SOFTWARE ROLES OF THE FUTURE: DATA STEWARDSHIP AND THE DIGITAL COMPETENCE CENTRE AT TU DELFT

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**I am Marta Teperek**

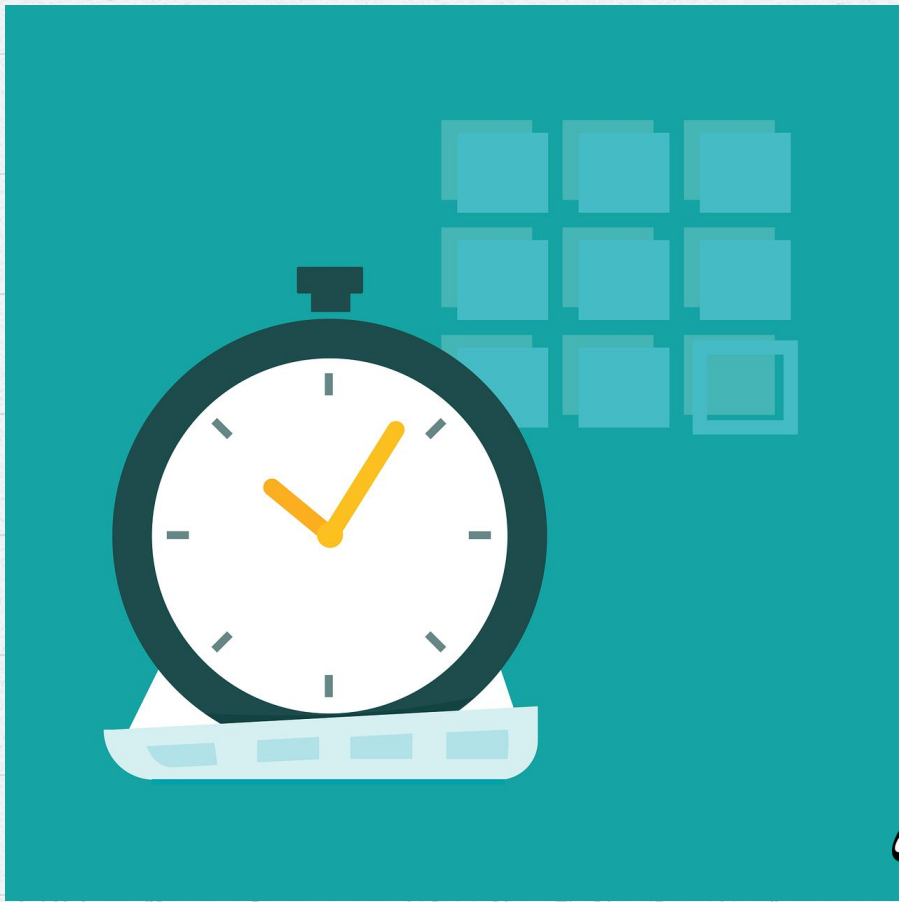
I am the Head of Research Data Services at TU Delft in the Netherlands  
& Director of 4TU.ResearchData  
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# THERE ARE NUMEROUS BENEFITS!

- ✘ Time saved (less time struggling => more time on research)
- ✘ Increased research reproducibility, less errors
- ✘ Easier to patent
- ✘ More visibility, impact, citations
- ✘ More trust
- ✘ Compliance, no data loss







BUT GOOD DATA MANAGEMENT IS NOT YET  
COMMON PRACTICE

SURVEY OF 4,500 RESEARCHERS IN 2020

24% ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE FAIR PRINCIPLES



GOOD DATA MANAGEMENT TAKES TIME AND  
EFFORT, REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.

# RESEARCHERS SHOULD NOT BE DOING THIS ALONE.



Researching  
Teaching  
Supervising  
Applying for grants  
Reading papers  
Writing papers  
Going to conferences  
Networking...

*Doing excellent data and software management?*

# TU DELFT CASE STUDY





# TU Delft = Delft University of Technology

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1922415>





# STARTING POINT

Central Data Support team: repository, training, advocacy, website, tools policy..

CENTRAL SUPPORT IS NOT ENOUGH!



WE DON'T EVEN FIND THESE SERVICES...  
WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THEM

# DATA STEWARDS PILOT

2017/2018

Central University funding

1 Disciplinary data steward  
at every faculty for 3 years

Then the faculty decides  
what to do

Coordination at the Library

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They report to faculty  
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All data stewards  
appointed as permanent  
members of faculty

More data stewards  
appointed

Job profile for data  
stewards



# PROBLEM: INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY

# DIGITAL COMPETENCE CENTRE PILOT (STARTED SEPTEMBER 2020)

HANDS-ON SUPPORT WITH DATA AND SOFTWARE MANAGEMENT:  
LEARNING BY DOING



# DIGITAL COMPETENCE CENTRE (DCC)

➡ INITIATIVE OF THE LIBRARY, ICT AND HPC

(FUNDED BY THE OPEN SCIENCE PROGRAMME AND A GRANT FROM THE DUTCH FUNDING AGENCY)

- 2 DATA MANAGERS
- 4 RESEARCH SOFTWARE ENGINEERS (RSES)
- 1 HPC CONSULTANT, 1 COORDINATOR

➡ EXPERTS AVAILABLE TO WORK WITH RESEARCH GROUPS FOR UP TO 6 MONTHS, 2 DAYS/WEEK



# PLUS: MORE SUPPORT HIRED AT FACULTIES

➡ DATA MANAGERS & RSEs AT DEPARTMENTAL/RESEARCH GROUP LEVEL



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TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO HEROES?





# THREE LEVELS OF DATA SUPPORT @TU DELFT

## Central Support

Repository  
Training  
Communications

=> Central  
(library) funding

## Faculty level support

Data Stewards  
  
Data Managers,  
RSEs

=> Faculty &  
research group  
budget

## DCC support

Data Managers  
  
Research Software  
Engineers

=> Central &  
*grant-based*  
*funding*

+ National collaboration (4TU.ResearchData)





# THANKS!

**Any questions?**

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