From Workshops to Community – Advancing Data Stewardship in Germany

Ute Trautwein-Bruns, Stefano Della Chiesa, Jens Dierkes, Daniela Hausen, Stefan Kirsch, Hans März

The Data Stewardship goes Germany (DSgG) workshop series has developed into a central platform for exchange and community-building among data stewards in Germany. Insights from the 2023 and 2024 workshops highlighted critical structural gaps in the field of data stewardship in Germany, including the absence of clear career paths, limited institutional recognition, and a lack of coordinated support and collaboration.

In response, three working groups were formed to address these issues, prioritising on Vision and Strategy, Channels and Yellow Pages, and Challenges of Data Stewardship. Parallel to this, dialogue with existing initiatives such as the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) and the DINI/nestor AG Forschungsdaten was initiated to foster alignment, avoid duplication of effort, and anchor the emerging community in the German research data landscape.

This talk presents the current status and vision of the emerging German Data Stewardship Community. We aim to professionalise data stewardship, creating an inclusive, collaborative, and nationally recognised community. Participants are invited to contribute their perspectives and actively shape the next phase of development. Data stewardship in Germany stands at a turning point—and collective action is needed to realise its full potential.