

Masterclass - Advocacy Skills for Data Stewards

Influencing Stakeholders

sonrai

Irish **Data Stewardship** Network

DANS



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Careers and Skills for
Data-driven Research

RDNL Competency framework for data professionals

Transversal skills (or 'soft' skills, 'non-cognitive skills')

- Navigate the complex structures, rules, power dynamics, and interpersonal relationships within research organisations
- Advocate for the importance of open science, research data management and data support with management and researchers
- Communicate effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders
- Accomplish sustainable change through strategies and personal influence

Huijser, D., Schoots, F., Grootveld, M., van Gelder, C. W. G., de Smaele, M., Thorpe, D. E., Saldner, S., & Clare, H. (2026).

Curriculum for Data Professionals in Research-Performing Organisations in the Netherlands (v2025.12.31).

Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17952685>

Skills4EOSC Data Steward Curriculum

Transversal or Soft Skills

- Module 1: Advocacy—Building Soft Skills for Impact
- Module 2: Mediation and Community—Liaison and Networking
- Module 3: Efficient Communication (Written, Verbal and Visual)

<https://skills4eosc-dscurriculum.github.io/>

Data Steward Job Descriptions: A Gap Analysis of European Data Steward Competencies

“The coded data are then analysed in two directions: comparing the frequency of each competency across the two sectors, and capturing employer requirements that fall outside the seven-area framework. This dual analysis identifies two types of gap: (1) skills that employers actively seek but that the frameworks do not cover, and (2) skills that the frameworks address but that rarely appear in actual job descriptions.”

Liu, R. (2026). Data Steward Job Descriptions: A Gap Analysis of European Data Steward Competencies (1.0). Zenodo.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20780043>

Damian McCourt, DCM Learning

- Understand the key elements of a persuasive business case.
- Recognise how plain English can improve clarity and stakeholder understanding.
- Identify ways to communicate the value and benefits of ideas, proposals and recommendations.
- Explore techniques for influencing and communicating effectively with senior stakeholders.

Thank you

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Irish **Data Stewardship** Network

Website: datastewards.ie

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Website: dans.knaw.nl



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Careers and Skills for
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Website: <https://casdar.ac.uk/>

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