**RDMF 8 Break-out session**

**Facilitator: Diana Sisu, Digital Curation Centre**

**Group 3:** *What future is there for national and institutional data repositories to provide a platform for data publication?*

Participants agreed that repositories, both national and institutional, should become the major platform for data publication. For this to happen institutions must build reliable, fast and secure data repositories which enable both intra and inter-institutional sharing of data.

After a lively discussion, the group agreed on three main actions that will motivate universities to invest in data curation facilities:

1. Create a culture where the data output carries the same weight as the published article. Currently, the Research Excellence Framework (REF) assesses quality of research largely on the quality of publications, which encourages researchers to value the published article more than the data. The balance must be redressed and the group felt that DCC would be best placed to campaign for this with REF and funders.
2. Keeping a record of research data output must be enforced at institutional level and embedded in the workflow of research activity e.g. doctoral training, probationary reviews, research grant applications, staff promotions and commercialisation activities. Universities must be provided with expert advice to enable them to store clean, accurate data, suitable for publication. They should follow a standard methodology, a national ‘template’ for the structure of a repository as well as guidelines of good practice. It was not clear which body should lead drive this. Perhaps it would become clear once action 1 has been carried out. For the time being, journals play the major role in data publication by asking researchers to provide summaries of the data on which an article is based, but this is not enough for the development of institutional repositories.
3. Award a ‘Nobel Prize’ for activity enabling the re-use of data. Funders to invite nominations of institutions successfully making metadata and documentation available to the wider research community. Here journals can also play an important role in the promotion of good practice.