

Valeria Pesce

Rome, Italy

valeriapisce.ita@gmail.com • +393339767217
linkedin.com/in/valeriapisce • www.valeriapisce.name



Personal Details:

Date of Birth: 01/09/69 • Place of Birth: Naples, Italy
Nationality: Italian • Gender: Female

Project and Programme Manager / Data Policy Consultant

Experienced professional adept at leading different phases of programme and project development and at conducting research and analysis – specialized in data technologies and policies.

Proven record of success in delivering results in the areas of content management, data infrastructures, data sharing, data standardization and data policies, especially in the agri-food domain. Great expertise in delivering conceptual design solutions for projects ranging from web-based information systems to policy actions and partnership building to improve data flows across the agri-food value chain. Extensive hands-on experience in managing parts of EU and international project. ECOA certified EU Project Manager. Able to clearly convey complex technical information and devise strategies to build consensus and nurture partnerships. Several publications on open data and data policy topics.

Core Competencies:

- Project/Programme Management
- Strategic Planning & Analysis
- Partnership Facilitation & Relationship Building
- Problem Solving
- Data Advocacy & Policies
- Writing & Research
- Open Data & Semantic Web Technologies
- Web Development

Professional Experience

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Open Data Expert, 5/2019 – Present

Part-time consultancy to improve standardization, interoperability and reuse of statistical classifications.

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA)

Data Management Expert, 9/2018 – Present

Occasional consultancy tasks on farmers' data sharing and related ethical, legal and policy issues, in the context of the CTA Data4Ag project. Coordination of analysis of farm data codes of conduct and farm data management policy brief.

World Bank

Data Policy Researcher, 5/2019 – 7/2019

Research report on digital agriculture data-related policy issues and current policy directions in Europe and Central Asia.

Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Project Manager | Convener | Data strategist, 5/2007 – 8/2018

Engage stakeholders and facilitate partnerships around best data strategies to improve agri-food value chains and in particular smallholder farmers' competitiveness. Mobilize resources and increase collaborations with partners by coordinating

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work packages and tasks on agricultural data in international projects. Manage contract agreements, funding proposals, and project documentation. Formulate presentations and papers on open data in agriculture, plan and conduct workshops and webinars on the issue of farmers' data rights, and participate in initiatives and meetings related to agricultural information systems. Design and manage web-based open data information systems for the Agri-food domain, utilise linked data approach to represent and publish information. Participate in the program activities of the Secretariat of the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition initiative (GODAN).

Key Achievements:

- Acquired funds to GFAR and FAO by preparing successful proposals with other partners for international tenders, including EU calls.
- Had GFAR recognized as driving force behind global collective action to empower farmers through equitable data sharing; spearheaded 10-month process that culminated in the consensus of all partners on a vision document and initial funds being committed.
- Successfully led Work Package 5 "Data Policies, Workflows, and interoperability and integration" of the EU project agINFRA, a project evaluated as Excellent by the EU.

Prior experience as **Web Architect** (2/2005 to 5/2007) at Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), as freelance **Webmaster** (9/2003 to 2/2005), as **Computer Programmer** (5/1999 to 7/2003) at Me.Di.Ser, Entasi S.P.A, and Sofinet S.R.L, as **Trainee Librarian** (11/1996 to 2/1998) at Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma and Istituto Regina Elena, and as **Translator** (9/1995 to 4/1996) at Liber Liber.

Key Projects

DFID-Funded GODAN Action | EC-funded FP7 AgINFRA | EC-funded H2020 Big Data Europe | CIARD RING | AgriProfiles | Map of Agri-Food Data Standards

Technical Proficiencies

Office Suites, Online Collaboration Tools (Google Groups/Drive, Basecamp, Slack, Jira); Development Environments (Eclipse); Ontology Editors; SSH Clients, Programming and Markup Languages (C++, PHP, JSP, JavaScript, HTML, CSS), and Data Exchange Languages / Formats / Protocols (SQL, SPARQL, XML, N3, Turtle, Json, REST, OAI-PMH).

Education and Credentials

Master Degree in Literature | Università La Sapienza di Roma, Rome, Italy

Specialization in Library Science (Not Completed) | Università La Sapienza di Roma, Rome, Italy

Professional Development

- Computer Programmer Course for Multimedia Applications in C and C++ Languages | Regione Lazio, Rome, Italy
- ECQA certification as "EU Project Manager"

Professional Association

Member of the Editorial Board of the "Scientific Data" journal published by Springer Nature

Languages

English: proficient / C2 (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency) | French: upper-intermediate / B2-C1 (FAO exam)