R CONSORTIUM • OCTOBER 2026

Sustaining R

People, infrastructure, and the future of the R Project

Simon Urbanek Heather Turner Kurt Hornik

THE CONVERSATION

Today’s panel

Simon Urbanek

R Core Team, University of Auckland

Technical sustainability and Sovereign Tech Fund work

Heather Turner

R Core Team, University of Birmingham

RSMF project co-lead and contributor engagement

Kurt Hornik

R Core Team, Vienna University of Economics and Business

R Foundation and Rousseeuw Prize

TECHNICAL FOUNDATIONS

Sovereign Tech Fund

10

project milestones

R’s ability to adapt

as the ecosystem changes

Bug fixing and legacy code

Package binaries and provenance

Numerical robustness across platforms

Tests, APIs, documentation, and portability

PEOPLE AND PROCESS

Research Software Maintenance Fund

£500k

for the next generation of R contributors

01 **Mentor an expert contributor cohort**

02 Make it easier to start contributing

03 Improve communication with R Core

04 Strengthen R Foundation sustainability

Project funding supports work for a limited period. Long-term support remains essential.

2026 ROUSSEEUW PRIZE FOR STATISTICS

The R Project

Recognized for decades of work building and maintaining R

Five laureates from R Core

Brian Ripley Martin Maechler Kurt Hornik
Peter Dalgaard Luke Tierney

The prize also recognizes the wider R Core Team.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Support R

Contribute to R

contributor.r-project.org

Support the R Foundation

r-project.org/foundation/donations.html

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