FAIRsFAIR aims to develop resources and build communities that support the uptake of research data management & FAIR practice within universities and higher education curricula. To achieve these objectives, the project conducted a survey receiving 90 responses and two focus groups with 50 participants in 2019 to identify existing practices and needs of higher education institutions.

### HOW TO ADVANCE FAIR RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITIES?

#### 1. ADDRESSING FAIR IN HIGHER EDUCATION
- **Recommendations:**
  - Align institutional policies with funder requirements
  - Provide practical guidance and support that references FAIR
  - Address FAIR data in institutional RDM policies

#### 2. RESEARCH DATA POLICIES & SUPPORT SERVICES
- **Recommendations:**
  - Define institutional research data policies together with all relevant units
  - Offer research data support services to researchers and staff
  - Include FAIR data in research data policies
  - Align FAIR policies with funder requirements
  - Enable time and/or financial resources to train staff

#### 3. UNIVERSITIES AND THE EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD
- **Recommendations:**
  - Increase institutional capacity and awareness of EOSC
  - Develop use-cases for EOSC to facilitate collaborative research
  - Ensure that EOSC is a publicly-owned infrastructure that has open principles at its core

#### 4. TOP FOUR ACTIONS TO SUPPORT UNIVERSITIES TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT FAIR DATA POLICIES
- **Recommendations:**
  - Train staff in the area of research data management
  - Better availability of tools & resources informing about RDM
  - Train researchers on domain-specific RDM and FAIR data
  - Sharing good practices and peer learning across institutions

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**HIGH AWARENESS OF FAIR PRINCIPLES**
- Professional & Support Staff 56%
- Institutional Leadership 27%
- Early Stage Researchers 5%
- Researchers 5%
- Students 3%

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Raise awareness among researchers and their respective communities
- Focus on early career researchers and training

**UNIVERSITIES’ RDM POLICIES**
- Data Storage 55%
- Data Management Planning 54%
- Data Protection 47%
- Research Integrity & Ethics 42%
- Guidelines for Sensitive Data 41%
- Copyright 38%
- Open Data Access 30%
- FAIR Data 27%
- Research Assessment 16%
- Unique Researcher Identifiers 13%

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Address FAIR data in institutional RDM policies
- Provide practical guidance and support that references FAIR
- Align institutional policies with funder requirements

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**ARE DATA SCIENCE AND RDM SKILLS TAUGHT IN STUDY PROGRAMMES?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>Bachelor</th>
<th>Master</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>64.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Include more specific research data-related skills and competencies in teaching at all levels
- Develop guidance on how to apply the FAIR principles in different domains and disciplines

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**TOP FOUR ACTIONS TO SUPPORT UNIVERSITIES TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT FAIR DATA POLICIES**
- Train staff in the area of research data management 64%
- Better availability of tools & resources informing about RDM 49%
- Train researchers on domain-specific RDM and FAIR data 46%
- Sharing good practices and peer learning across institutions 39%

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**NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS**
- More 1,000 53%
- 500-1,000 21%
- Less 100 6%
- 100-499 20%
- 500-1,000 21%
- Less 100 6%

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Include more specific research data-related skills and competencies in teaching at all levels
- Develop guidance on how to apply the FAIR principles in different domains and disciplines

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**RESPONDING INSTITUTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**UNIVERSITIES’ RDM POLICIES**
- Data Storage 55%
- Data Management Planning 54%
- Data Protection 47%
- Research Integrity & Ethics 42%
- Guidelines for Sensitive Data 41%
- Copyright 38%
- Open Data Access 30%
- FAIR Data 27%
- Research Assessment 16%
- Unique Researcher Identifiers 13%

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Address FAIR data in institutional RDM policies
- Provide practical guidance and support that references FAIR
- Align institutional policies with funder requirements

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**TYPE OF SUPPORT PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITIES TO MAKE DATA FAIR**
- 80% training for researchers

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Invest in support and training to increase production and stewardship of FAIR data outputs
- Support the costs associated with making and keeping data FAIR over time
- Establish decentralised support that is close to researchers

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**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!**

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www.fairsfair.eu

FAIRsFAIR “Fostering FAIR Data Practices in Europe” has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 project call H2020-INFRAEOSC-2018-2020 Grant agreement 831558. The content of this document does not represent the opinion of the European Union, and the European Union is not responsible for any use that might be made of such content.