

# FAIRSFAIR Fostering Fair Data Practices in Europe



EUROPEAN HIGHER **EDUCATION** 

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?





TYPE	OF	INSTI	TUT	ION
	-			

Comprehensive Universities	
Technical Universities	18%
<ul> <li>Specialised Institutions</li> </ul>	9%
<ul> <li>Universities of Applied Sciences</li> </ul>	70/

- Universities of Applied Sciences 7%
- Distance Learning Institutions 3%

## **NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS**

<ul> <li>More 1.000</li> </ul>	<b>53%</b>	100-499	
◆ 500-1.000	21%	Less 100	



## **HIGH AWARENESS OF FAIR PRINCIPLES**



Professional & Support Staff	<b>56%</b>
Institutional Leadership	27%
Early Stage Researchers	<b>5%</b>
Researchers	<b>5%</b>
Students	3%

## **UNIVERSITIES' RDM POLICIES**

- 55% Data Storage Data Management Planning **54%** Data Protection 47%
- **Research Integrity & Ethics** 42%
- Guidelines for Sensitive Data 41%

## **TYPE OF SUPPORT PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITIES TO MAKE DATA FAIR**



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Raise awareness among researchers and their respective communities
- Ensure that FAIR awareness translates into practice
- Focus on early career researchers and training

## ARE RDN ST

DATA SCIENCE AND	
<b>I SKILLS TAUGHT IN</b>	
UDY PROGRAMMES?	

Bachelor Avg. 31% of institutions stating Avg. 35,6% Master that data science or RDM

are 'always' or 'usually' addressed. PhD Avg. 64,4%

**RECOMMENDATIONS - PRIORITIES ON INCREASING COMPETENCIES** 

• Increase the coverage of data analytics and research data management in teaching at all levels • Develop guidance how to apply the FAIR principles in different domains and disciplines

#### Copyright 38% Open Access to Data 30% 27% FAIR Data 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

#### 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

## **TOP FOUR ACTIONS TO SUPPORT UNIVERSITIES TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT FAIR DATA POLICIES**

<ul> <li>Train staff in the area of research data management</li> </ul>	64%
<ul> <li>Better availability of tools &amp; resources informing about RDM</li> </ul>	49%
Train researchers on domain-specific RDM and FAIR data	46%
<ul> <li>Sharing good practices and peer learning across institutions</li> </ul>	39%

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **1. ADDRESSING FAIR IN HIGHER EDUCATION**
- a. Include more specific research data-related skills and competencies throughout the universities' educational portfolio
- b. Establish minimum level of awareness of RDM and FAIR
- c. Practical guidance on the application of the FAIR principles in different domains and disciplines, and related skills and competences
- d. Define training programmes on research data skills and competences for researchers and professional staff, from different disciplines

### 2. RESEARCH DATA POLICIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

- a. Define institutional research data policies together with all relevant units
- b. Offer research data support services to researchers and staff
- c. Include FAIR data in research data policies
- d. Align FAIR policies with funders' requirements
- e. Enable time and/or financial resources to train staff

#### 3. UNIVERSITIES AND THE EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD

- a. Increase institutional capacity and awareness of EOSC
- b. Develop use-cases for EOSC to facilitate collaborative research
- c. Ensure that EOSC is a publicly-owned infrastructure that has open prin ciples at its core

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## www.fairsfair.eu

