

FAIRsFAIR: “THE” FAIR data hub addressing data cultural change in Europe

1st March 2019 saw the launch of the FAIRsFAIR initiative which aims to contribute to the culture change needed for the wide adoption of FAIR data principles and practices in the European Open Science Cloud

Over the past decade or so, infrastructure has become the indispensable backbone of science, supporting research infrastructures to data infrastructures, from a local, to a national and international level, from whether centralised or distributed. The time has come to join these components and bring people towards a common overarching goal, which the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) aims to provide.

The FAIRsFAIR project (Fostering FAIR Data Practices in Europe) funded under the H2020 programme H2020-INFRAEOSC-2018-2020 of the European Commission will address, over a 36 month time plan, the development and concrete realisation of an overall knowledge infrastructure on academic quality data management, procedures, standards and metrics, based on the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.

The ambitious objective was officially announced during an intense, two-day kick-off meeting warmly hosted and intensely managed by DANS, the project coordinator, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands on the 14th and 15th of March 2019. Twenty-two partners spanning eight countries will work together to define guidelines towards a FAIR approach to data and service management for data repositories of all disciplines.

FAIRsFAIR will play a key role in the development of global standards for FAIR certification of repositories and the data within them, contributing to policies and practices that will turn the EOSC programme into a functioning infrastructure.

A FAIR Data Hub in Europe. Improving the FAIR data culture is crucial for a mature progress



of the Data fostering in the near future within the EOSC. **Ingrid Dillo - FAIRsFAIR Project Coordinator DANS**, addressed the partners with a clear value-proposition: *“Our aim is to create a **FAIR data hub**. We need to ambitiously become **THE FAIR data hub in Europe**, for people to get trained, to be informed, to get help, to get advice to make their data FAIRER – and that goes for everyone: researchers, for graduate students, for research supporters, but also for includes policy makers and funders. I hope we will become the central focal FAIR point for the European Open Science Cloud.”*

Practical solutions throughout the entire research data life cycle

FAIRsFAIR focuses around six principles objectives:

- Improve interoperability of FAIR resources
- Increase the production and the use of FAIR data

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- Develop a capability maturity model towards FAIR certification
- Build a network of Trusted Digital repositories
- Set up a competence centre for all communities
- Embed FAIR data education in University programmes

To reach these objectives, FAIRsFAIR will set up a **Competence network** (model courses and curricula, data science schools and a FAIR competence Adoption booklet) to harmonise the *education institutions*, and offer a FAIR data competence centre for all research communities; a **Registry for FAIR compliant repositories** (a set of technical solutions for interoperability as well as support and guidance on the topic) and a series of **Toolsets** (a network of 50+ trusted digital repositories, FAIR certification and capability maturity model towards certification).

Calling FAIR Champions from around the globe

In these first months FAIRsFAIR is going to open a call for 15 experts and ‘doers’ in related FAIR projects, coming from all scientific communities, selected on their individual merits and knowledge, who will share implementation stories of FAIR for enhancing synergy, effective cross fertilisation and impact. This group will act as **FAIR ambassadors for their scientific communities** and will have the opportunity to **be on first ground in the outline of the landscape analysis that will be the basis to propose a series of policy interventions to enhance existing or develop new policies to ease adoption of FAIR policy which supports EOSC.**

Services to Support FAIR Data’ – Workshop series

On Friday 12 April, during the EOSC-Hub Week, FAIRsFAIR will co-organize the first of a series of workshops dedicated to **‘Services to Support FAIR Data’** together with [EOSC-Hub](#) , [OpenAIRE](#) and [RDA Europe](#). The purpose of this workshop series is to explore how existing infrastructures can work together and understand how to deliver services that support the creation of FAIR research outputs. The second and third events will take place on 24 April in Vienna, Austria and 17 September 2019, in Porto, Portugal.


FAIRsFAIR in a Nutshell

Starting date: March 1, 2019

Duration: 36 months

22 partners from 8 Member States

- 6 core partners: DANS (Project Coordinator), CSC, DCC, Trust IT, STFC, EUA
- CODATA, DATACITE, DTL, e-SDF, UvA, UniHB, SparcEurope, SURFsara, UGOE, UKDA, UC3M, UNINHO, UH, RDA, INRIA, and CINES.

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Figure 1 - FAIRsFAIR Consortium at the Kickoff Meeting