

Building a CoreTrustSeal community

Workshop at the 19th edition of the International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC25)

Ingrid Dillo

Lisa de Leeuw

Maaïke Verburg

17 February 2025, 8:30-12:00 CET

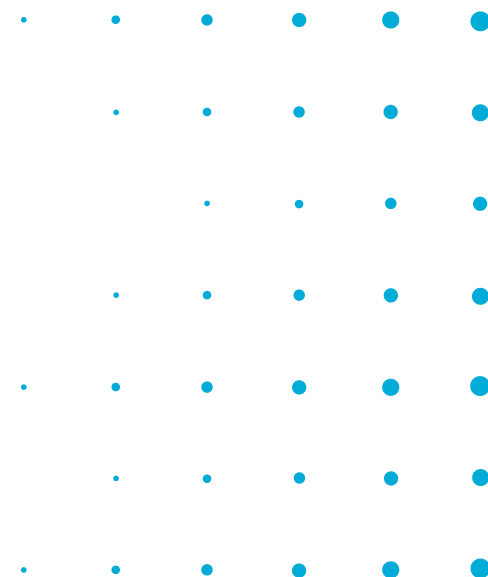
Today's agenda

- Welcome
- CoreTrustSeal 101
- Certification communities and support
- Building a CoreTrustSeal community
- Break
- Interactive group work
- Plenary final discussion and wrap-up
- Lunch

Some house rules for today

- Questions can be asked throughout all presentations.
- We are all here to share, brainstorm, and learn. Please contribute to fostering an environment that facilitates this.
- People may share personal experiences or specific information about their context. Please be respectful and don't share this outside the room without asking for explicit permission.

CoreTrustSeal 101



CoreTrustSeal 101: History

How it started



CoreTrustSeal 101: Objective

The objectives of the CoreTrustSeal are to safeguard data, to ensure high quality and to guide reliable management of data for the future without requiring the implementation of new standards, regulations or heavy investments.

CoreTrustSeal repository certification:

- Gives **data producers** the assurance that their data and associated materials will be stored in a reliable manner and can be reused;
- Provides **funding bodies** with the confidence that data will remain available for reuse;
- Enables **data consumers** to assess the repositories where data are held;
- Supports **data repositories** in the efficient archiving and distribution of data.

CoreTrustSeal 101: 2025–2027 Board

CoreTrustSeal Board 2024 – 2027

The 2024 annual CoreTrustSeal Board Statutory meeting took place on 5 November 2024.

Directors

1. Chair—**Olivier Rouchon** (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France)
2. Vice-chair—**Maja Dolinar** (Slovenian Social Science Data Archives (ADP), Slovenia)
3. Secretary—**Alina Danciu** (Centre de données socio-politiques — CDSP, Sciences Po, France)
4. Treasurer—**Maike Verburg** (Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS), The Netherlands)

Members

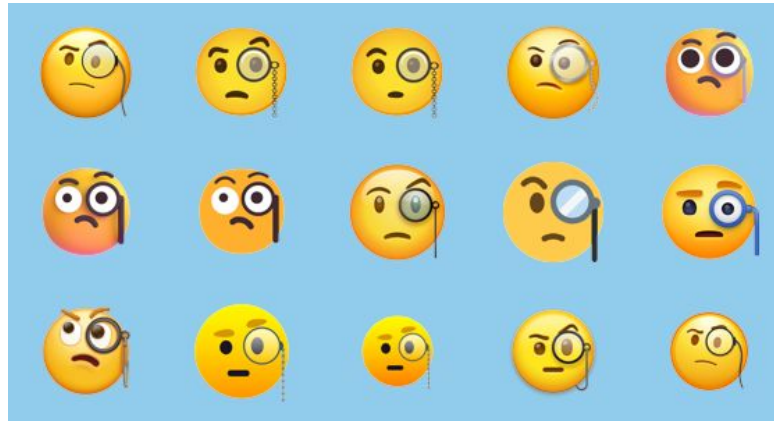
5. **Andrea Lammert** (German Climate Computing Center – DKRZ, Germany)
6. **Aude Chambodut** (International Service of Geomagnetic Indices, France)
7. **Debbie Roth** (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA)
8. **Guoqing Li** (National Earth Observation Data Center, Aerospace Information Research Institute, China)
9. **Jared Lyle** (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, USA)
10. **Marjan Hartsuiker** (Regionaal Archief Zutphen, The Netherlands)
11. **Peter McGarvey** (Georgetown University Medical Center, USA)
12. **Tuomas J. Alaterä** (Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD), Finland)

Ex officio

- **Lisa de Leeuw** (CoreTrustSeal Foundation)
- **Lindsay Callaghan** (South African Environmental Observation Network, South Africa)
- **Ollie Parkes** (UK Data Service, UK)

CoreTrustSeal 101: Assembly of Reviewers

<https://www.coretrustseal.org/about/assembly-of-reviewers/>



More information on governance in the Rules of Procedures:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1142960>

CoreTrustSeal 101: 16 Requirements

Categories

- Background information (R0)
- Organizational infrastructure (R1-6)
- Digital object management (R7-13)
- Technology (R14-16)
- • Applicant feedback (R17)

CoreTrustSeal 101: process 1/2

Two step certification process

Self assessment based on 16 Requirements (URLs of documented public evidence + compliance level) with extended guidance

Peer review by two expert and independent reviewers under the responsibility of the CoreTrustSeal Standards and Certification Board

- Successful applications are made publicly available
- Administrative fee of 3,000 euro
- Certification valid 3 years

CoreTrustSeal 101: process 2/2

Apply for CoreTrustSeal Data Repository Certification

CoreTrustSeal Application Management Tool (AMT)

Please click on the link below to access the AMT and create an account. After login, you can start a new application and the application process will begin upon submission. We hope that the online tool is fairly self-explanatory, but you can find a [manual](#) on the top left hand side once you have logged in. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the [CoreTrustSeal Secretariat](#).

Resources to help you complete the application can be found on the [Requirements page of the CoreTrustSeal website](#). Since 1 February 2024, an [administrative fee](#) of EUR 3,000 is charged for the review of a CoreTrustSeal certification. More information about the administrative fee is available on [this page](#).

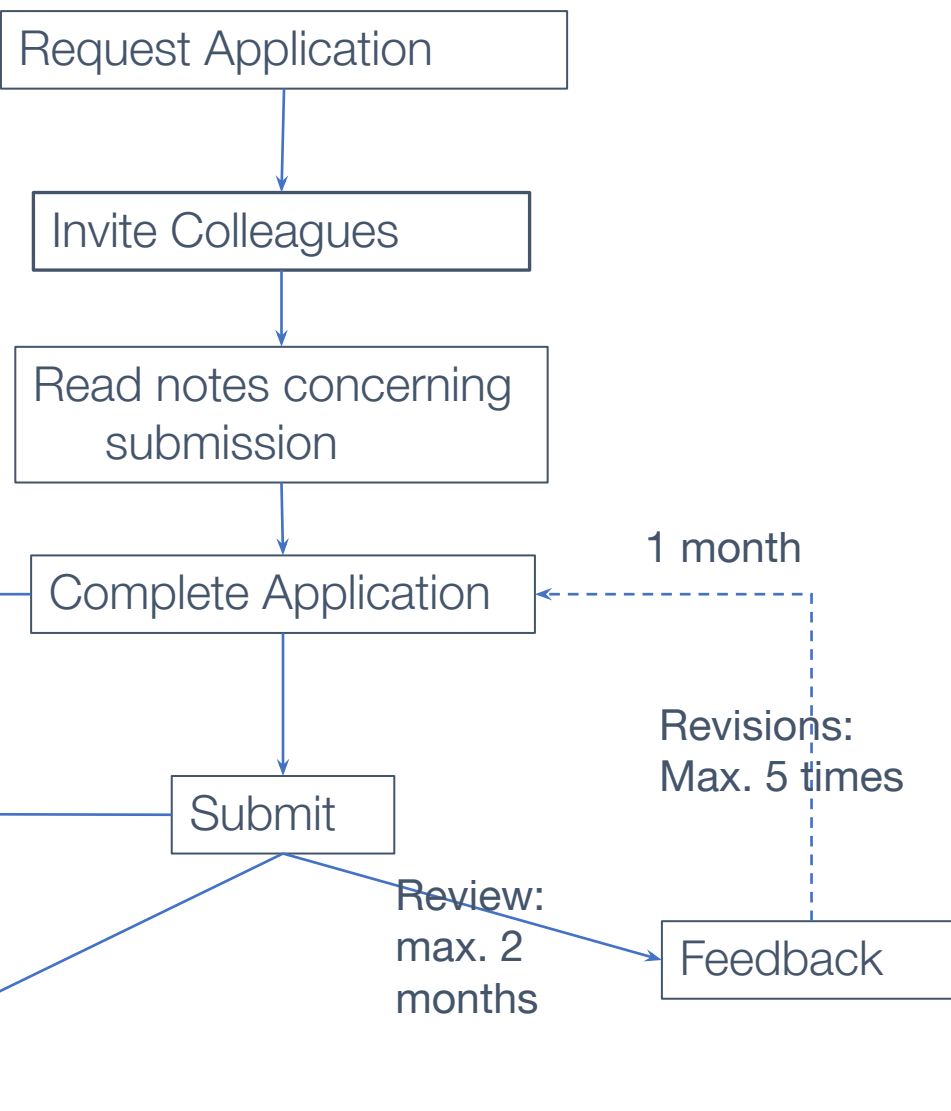
- [CoreTrustSeal Application Management Tool](#)

<https://amt.coretrustseal.org/>

Ask questions to
Secretariat

Pay 3000 EUR
admin fee

Certified and
application public



CoreTrustSeal 101: resources/help

CoreTrustSeal Trustworthy Data Repositories Requirements

The CoreTrustSeal Trustworthy Data Repositories Requirements reflect the characteristics of trustworthy repositories. As such, all Requirements are mandatory and are equally weighted, standalone items. Although some overlap is unavoidable, duplication of evidence sought among Requirements has been kept to a minimum where possible.

We encourage repositories to explore the CoreTrustSeal Trustworthy Data Repositories Requirements and [seek certification](#).

CoreTrustSeal Requirements 2023-2025:

- [CoreTrustSeal Requirements 2023-2025](#)

The following documents are available in support of the requirements:

- [CoreTrustSeal Extended Guidance 2023-2025](#) CoreTrustSeal Extended Guidance is available to facilitate the work of CoreTrustSeal reviewers and also provide more guidance to repositories undergoing a certification against the Core Trustworthy Data Repositories Requirements.
- [CoreTrustSeal Glossary 2023-2025](#)

A change log on the changes made to the CoreTrustSeal Requirements 2020-2022 can be found [here](#). We also created a short video:

<https://amt.coretrustseal.org/certificates>

Library of public applications.
All are certified and so can be
considered exemplars.

<https://www.coretrustseal.org/why-certification/training/>

- Standard and Extended Guidance, training and video's
- The Extended Guidance is intended for reviewers and applicants.

Training

On this page you will find introductory and training resources for CoreTrustSeal applicants and reviewers.

Standard and Extended Guidance

The [CoreTrustSeal Requirements 2023-2025](#) describe the characteristics required to be a trustworthy repository for digital data and metadata that reviewers will assess the applications against. This is accompanied by [Extended Guidance](#), as well as a [Glossary of Terms](#).

Best Practice for Reviewers

Find support for consistent feedback from reviewers [here](#)!

Reviewer Quiz

Take our reviewer quiz [here](#)!

Videos

The CoreTrustSeal Board [YouTube channel](#), you will find a playlist with [short introductory videos on each of the requirements from the 2023-2025 standard](#) for applicants and a video on best practices for reviewers.

Certification communities and support



```
graph LR; A[certification] --> B[Time Expertise Internal communication Management by-in Technical work ..]; B --> C[daunting task?];
```

certification

**Time
Expertise
Internal
communication
Management by-in
Technical work
..**

**daunting
task?**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

```
graph LR; A[certification] --> B[transparency]; B --> C[vulnerability?];
```

certification

transparency

vulnerability?

Community building

Community building is a field of practices directed toward the creation or enhancement of community among individuals ... with a **common need or interest**.

A community forms a collective that advocates **exchange, sharing and the creation of lasting relationships**.

Benefits of a community

Certification as a daunting task:

- Information exchange
- Knowledge sharing
- Tips and tricks
- Peer support

Certification creates vulnerability:

- Safe environment
- Discussion of issues with peers

Different types of certification communities



National communities

Domain specific communities

Project related communities



National community and support: Australia

- Community established to support interested repositories become trustworthy; 20 orgs respond to Expression of Interest (unfunded):
- Monthly meetings, learning about trust, CTS ;
- Shut up and Write sessions; 2* ½ day pre-writing all Reqs; 9*2hrs - outlining pairs of Reqs;
- Polishing sessions; every three weeks; two hours; remote working, including discussion;
- Review of full drafts from working group before submission;
- Annual conference updates;
- Now: quarterly catch ups, waiting for new applicants and resubmissions.



Project community and support: FAIRsFAIR

Programme:

- Workshops
- Self-assessments
- One-on-one support by mentors
- Peer support
- 10k euros

<https://www.fairsfair.eu/application-results-open-call-data-repositories>



Experience participants

Most useful elements of the programme:

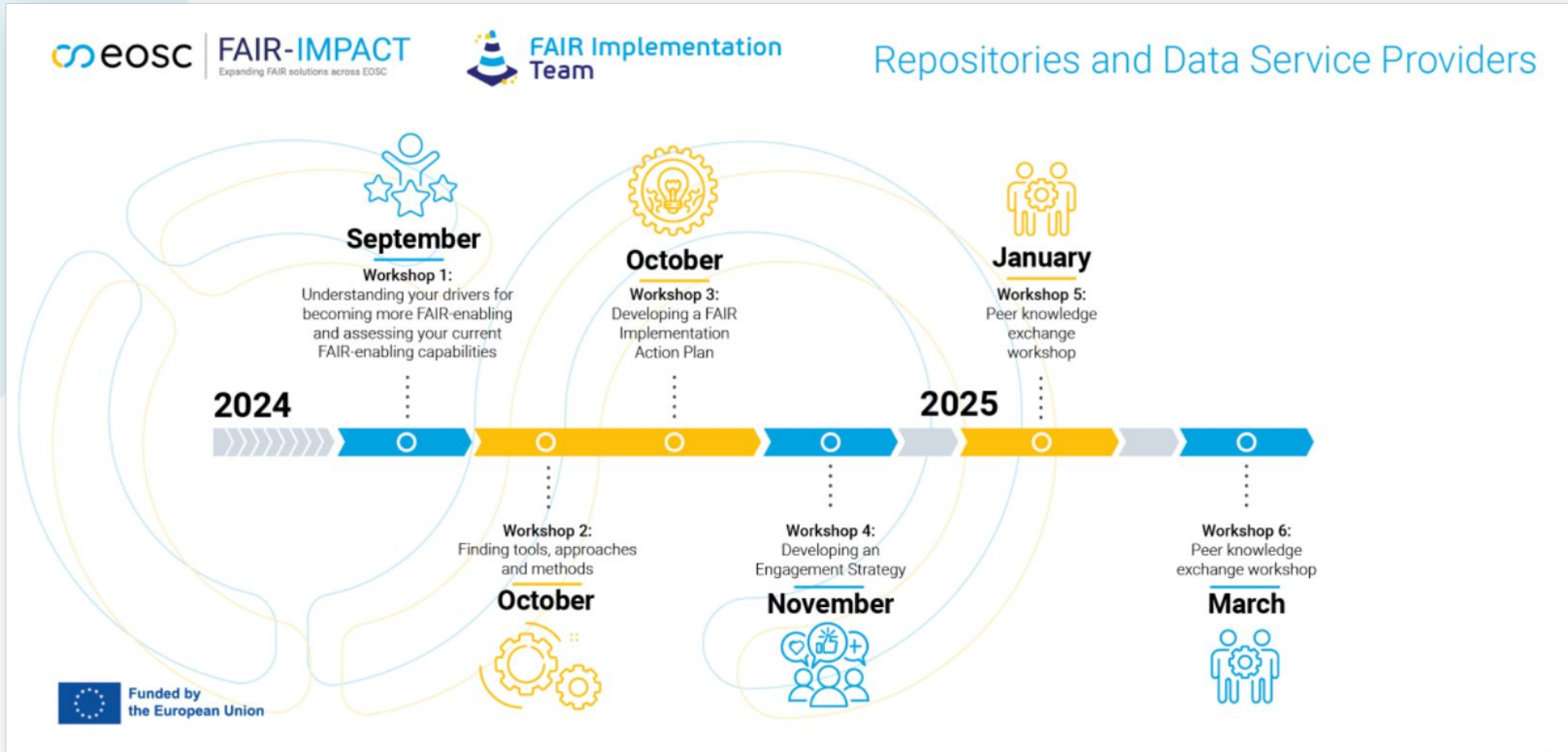
- Support workshops
- Peer-review on self-assessments
- One-on-one support by mentors

No mention of the funding

Peer exchange and learning decreases time needed to create application



Project community and support: FAIR-IMPACT



Project community and support: FAIR-IMPACT

3 open
calls

124 teams
supported

200+
participants
in teams

88 unique
orgs
supported

29
countries

- FAIRness assessment challenge
- Enabling FAIR Signposting and RO-Crate for content/metadata discovery and consumption
- Creating EOSC compliant PID policies
- Assessing and improving research software
- Implementing the Research Software MetaData (RSMD) guidelines
- Recommendations for trustworthy and FAIR-enabling repositories
- Improving the availability and machine readability of data policies
- Managing data types, schemas and vocabularies and crosswalks for FAIR researcher related metadata
- Creating EOSC compliant interoperability policies based on EOSC Interoperability Framework (IF)
- Testing the trustworthy and FAIR-enabling repositories prototype
- Implementation of a shared API for semantic catalogues

500,000 euros in
cascading grants
distributed

KPI 5.1

Co-design projects supported through cascading grants to pilot, test and refine FAIR-enabling approaches and solutions.

Projects supported low (20), medium (30), **high (40)**

<https://fair-impact.eu/apply-financial-support>



 eoosc

FIDELIS



- Budget: 5 Meuro
- Duration: 36 months, starting January 2025
- Instrument: Coordination and Support action (CSA)
- Coordinator: CSC, Finland
- Sister project: EOSC-EDEN

Community initiative

Towards a European network of FAIR-enabling Trustworthy Digital Repositories (TDRs). A Working Paper (2022)

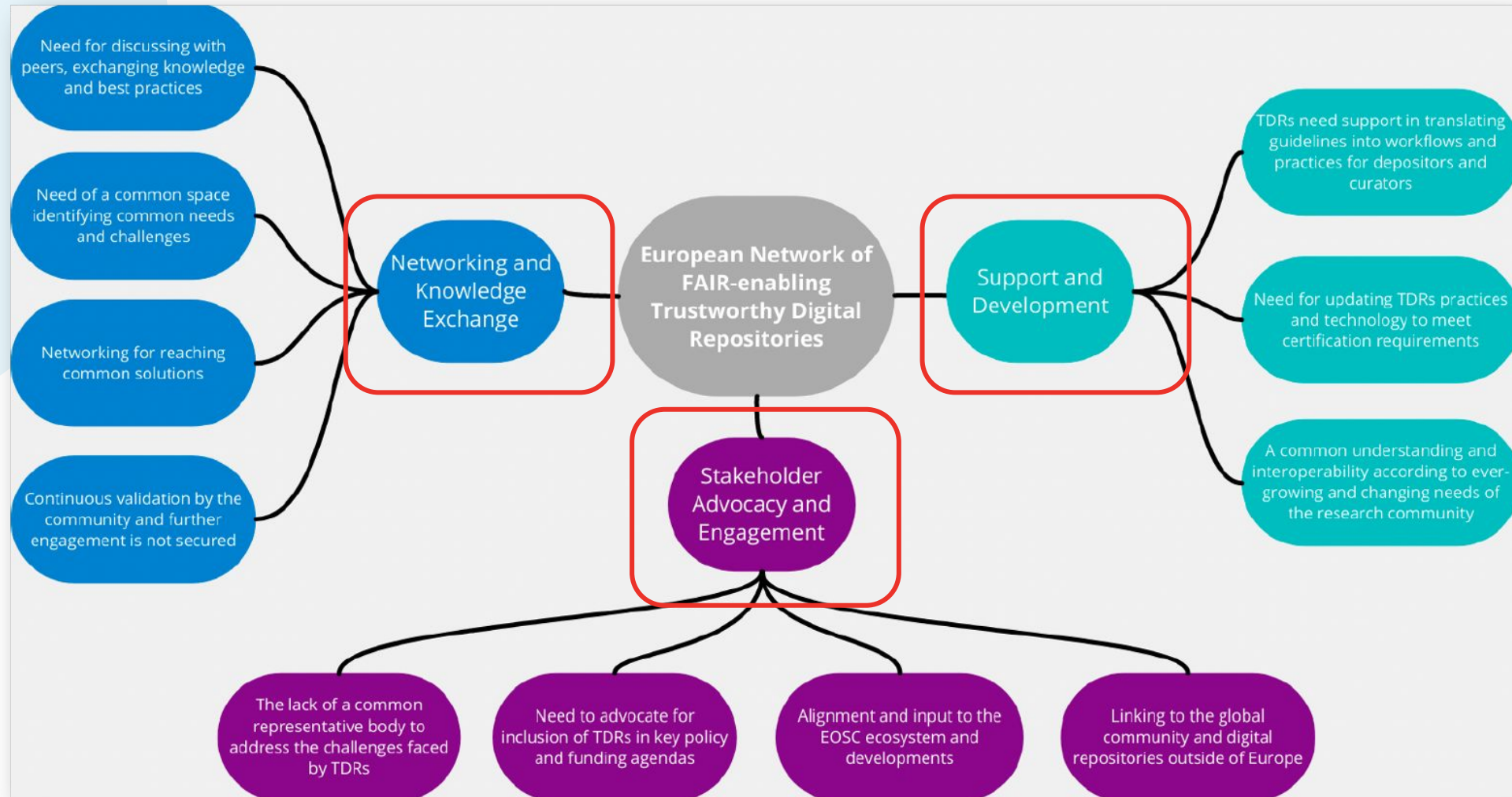
- created with input from the European repository community;
- a vision of how a European network of FAIR-enabling TDRs could be based on the community's needs and its most important functions;
- input for the EOSC Task Force on Long Term Digital Preservation.

Author team (*alphabetical order*):

Philipp Conzett | The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)
Ingrid Dillo | Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS)
Francoise Genova | Strasbourg astronomical Data Center (CDS)
Natalie Harrower | Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI)
Vasso Kalaitzi | Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS)
Mari Kleemola | Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD)
Amela Kurta | Data Archive for Social Sciences in Bosnia and Herzegovina (DASS-BIH)
Pedro Principe | University of Minho (UMinho)
Olivier Rouchon | National Computing Center for Higher Education (CINES)
Hannes Thiemann | World Data Centre for Climate (WDCC)
Maike Verburg | Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS)

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7034315>

European TDR Network functions



Project goal

01

Set up, develop, and operate a European network of trustworthy repositories that will support the development and growth of TDRs within the EOSC ecosystem

02

Foster harmonisation and interoperability across repositories to enable an EOSC federation of TDRs

03

Strengthen the upskilling of repositories and expansion of the Network through an active training and support programme



FIDELIS
A European network of
Trustworthy Digital Repositories

FIDELIS aims to establish, by the end of a three-year project, a healthy, vibrant and self-sustaining **network of TDRs** that will foster a supportive open science environment and guarantee FAIR data sharing also in the future.

FIDELIS support programme

A “**cascading grant**” mechanism;

A series of **openly available training interventions**. Open training interventions will have two strands: a more technical one for repository developers and one related to repository governance and management aspects;

A **mentoring programme** for peer-to-peer hands-on support to align with the standards and requirements of the Transparent Trustworthy Repository Attributes Matrix.



Building a CoreTrustSeal community



Benefits of a community (repeat)

- Daunting process (duration, effort, etc.)
- Vulnerability
- Unique experiences, but similar challenges
- Pressure to pursue
- Breaking isolation, avoid repetitive work

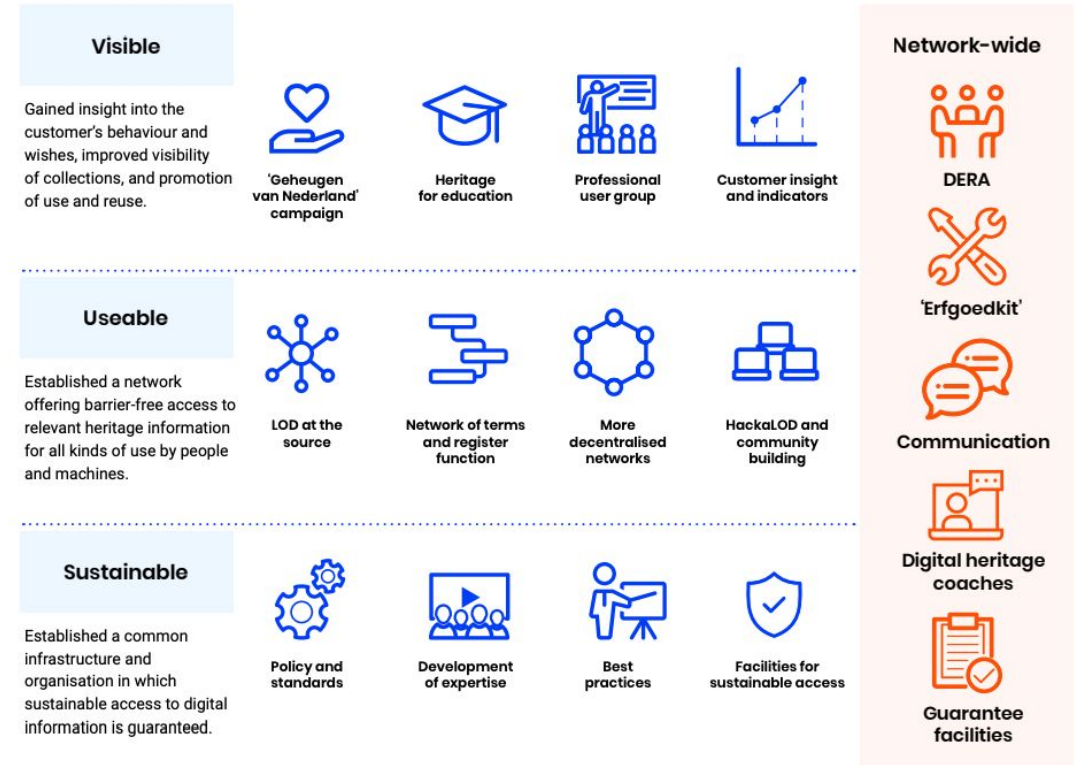
What does a community look like?

- Anything, really
- Formal - Informal
- Online - In person
- Specific - Generic
- Small - Large



Dutch Digital Heritage Network

- Dutch Digital Heritage Network
 - Cultural institutes (e.g. Museums)
 - Government institutes (e.g. regional archives)
 - Libraries
 - Research performing organisations
 - Other stakeholders (e.g. software providers)
- Visible, Usable, Sustainable
 - Standards, facilities, tools



Signpost Certification

- Static information
 - Why certification? What is CoreTrustSeal?
 - Step-by-step guide
-
- • Community feedback: “Useful, but we want more!”

NDE Network Certification

- Interaction
- Sharing experiences & advice
- Asking questions
- Sharing relevant resources & events
- Coming together for discussion and support



→ <https://kiacommunity.nl/groups/216-nde-network-certificering/welcome>

People & expertise visible for all

is a collaborative Network (NDE) to facilitate direct interactions around the theme of 'certification of digital archives'.

The NDE Network Certification is an initiative of the expert group around the Certification Guide. Following various events and exchanges within the Dutch digital heritage community around the subject of certification, the clear desire has emerged to have an easier way for dynamic interaction and knowledge sharing available in addition to the static information and tips of the Certification Guide.

Participating in the network means access to all information and experiences shared on the KIA Community. Through the network, participants can also ask each other questions or meet each other.

Search

Tools and training materials



CoreTrustSeal successful applications



Remco van Veenendaal



Marjan Hartsuiker



Maaïke Verburg

Introduce yourself!

Experiences and Advice

In these blogs, certified archives share their experiences with the certification process and the advice they have gained from it.

On Tuesday, September 12, 2024, we received good news at the National Archives.



Maaïke Verburg Oct 29

The 2023-2025 CoreTrustSeal Requirements and Expert Tips (Nov 2022).



Maaïke Verburg Oct 29

Tips for certifying an e-depot.



Maaïke Verburg Oct 29

In this 2020 blog, the IISG shares their experiences surrounding their certification process.

Share your experiences and tips!

News

News and updates from the field around certification

Developing definitions and descriptions of digital archives

Wegwijzer Certificering voor Digitale Archieven

Agenda

Mon 17 Feb
08:30-12:30

IDCC25 Workshop - Building a CoreTrustSeal community
February 17 08:30

Signpost Certification

Relevant events

Experiences from certified repositories

**Relevant
news/updat
es**

Setting up the Network

Initial suggestion & discussion

Setting up timeline, exploring options

Designing community platform

Preparing Handbook

Soft launch, gaining initial members

Official launch with first Network meeting



Community Handbook

- Rationale and focus areas of the Network
- Who can join?
- How do we work together?



Handboek voor leden



English summary of the Network and its handbook

For the original Network Handbook (in Dutch), see:
Hartsuiker, M., Steinmeier, D., Steeman, M., van Veenendaal, R., Verburg, M., & van
Zwol, T. (2025). NDE Network Certificering - Handboek voor leden (0.5). Zenodo.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14864522>

Dutch Handbook: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14864522>

English summary: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14864698>

Another example: CESSDA

- Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (22)
- Trust and Landscape Working Group
- CoreTrustSeal Support Task
 - Monitoring Service Providers' status
 - Supporting needs (e.g. reviewing self-assessments)
 - Trust Open Hours
 - Creating support materials

Questions to consider

- What is a possible **context** in which you could establish a CoreTrustSeal community? (e.g. country, scientific discipline, subgroup in existing community)
- Who would be possible **members** of this community?
 - What are their main **needs**? (If you do not know, how could you figure out what their needs are?)
- What **topics** would the community focus on? CoreTrustSeal only? Or also other certification schemes? Or transparency in general? Combined with other related topics?
- What **form(s) of interaction** should the community provide? (e.g. informing each other, talking directly to each other, meeting face to face, working together, developing new materials/standards/policies together)
- What **platform** could you use for the community? (e.g. a mailing list, a forum, a working group)
- Who would **lead** the community? Or will the community be informal/'flat'? What effort would be needed to lead the community? How would responsibilities be shared?

More information

Visit our website www.dans.knaw.nl

And follow us online



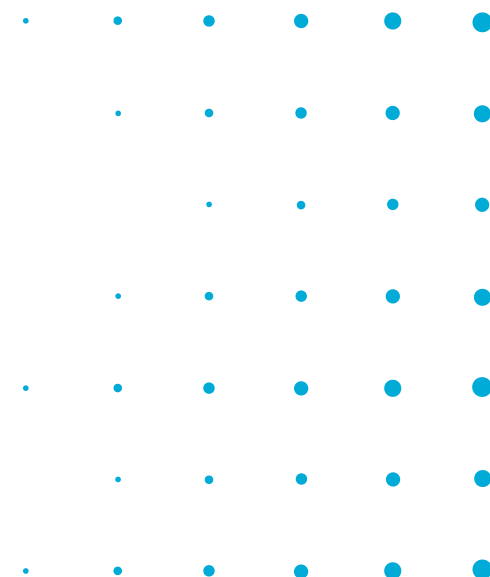
Mastodon @DANS_knaw_nwo



LinkedIn @DANS



X @DANS_knaw_nwo



Ingrid Dillo - ingrid.dillo@dans.knaw.nl

Lisa de Leeuw - lisa.de.leeuw@dans.knaw.nl

Maaïke Verburg - maaike.verburg@dans.knaw.nl