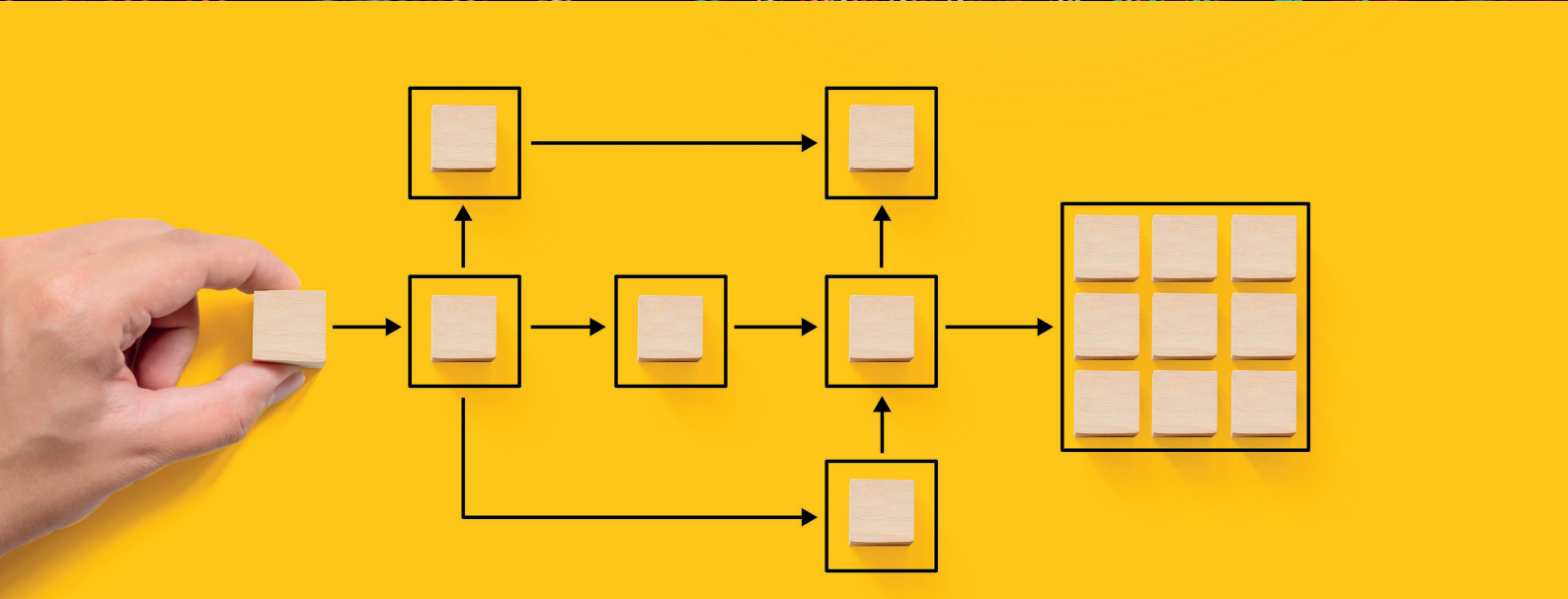




# Two parts of the same endeavour: the collaborative FAIR-journey of Paris-Lodron Universität Salzburg



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## Support programmes:

Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (PLUS) participated in two of FAIR-IMPACT's support programmes: one aimed at Research Performing Organisations (RPOS), and the other designed for Repositories and Data Service Providers.

Both of these programmes aimed to help organisations to better understand their drivers for becoming more FAIR-enabling, to self-assess their current FAIR-enabling capacity, develop plans with considerations for stakeholder engagement for improvement and to work on implementing their plans. These support programmes ran between January and October 2024 with a series of virtual thematic workshops, peer to peer exchange workshops and continuous dedicated mentoring support to help participants identify and establish their unique journey toward becoming more FAIR-enabling. This FAIR Implementation Story outlines the specific aims and actions of PLUS in relation to their participation in these support programmes.

## Keywords:

Open data, FAIR, research performing organisation, domain specific repository, policy, legal issues in data sharing

## Summary:

Acting as a cross-programme team with desire for networking to become a more FAIR-enabling organisation



## ■ Introduction:

The [Paris Lodron University of Salzburg](#) (PLUS) is the largest educational institution in the Salzburg region of Austria. PLUS participated in two of the FAIR-IMPACT support programmes because the organisation had the dual aim of a) developing a policy for open data that brings stakeholders together and b) setting up a data repository and striving to make it more FAIR.

The institution demonstrated their commitment to becoming more FAIR-enabling by forming a team of five people to attend the two FAIR-IMPACT programmes.

## ■ Approach taken:

PLUS took the approach of dividing their team between the two support programmes: Linda Ohrtmann participated in the support programme for RPOs, and Florian Hutzler, Mateusz Pawlik, Edvin Zukic and Anna Ravenschlag focused on the programme for repositories and data service providers.

However, each member of the team dedicated time to attending the other support programme, in recognition that they were, together, focusing on 'two parts of the same endeavour'. So, their work was 'synched together', with the central aim – across both programmes – of becoming more enabling of FAIR and open data sharing as an institution.

## ■ Challenges encountered and addressed:

A central challenge faced by the repository team at PLUS – and a key motivation for applying for the support programme – was the struggle of knowing what a repository *needs*, because, as one member of the team explained, 'it is not only about storing data'. Another challenge related to the legal aspects of data sharing, in terms of the licences to be applied to data in the repository.

Thus, a key action in the PLUS Action Plan for the repository support programme was to 'review the [CoreTrustSeal requirements](#) and, for each of them, list all items relevant to us'. The programme helped them to channel their scientific insights and legal knowledge into legal documents and policies, including the development of a bespoke licence.

The team commented that the support of fellow participants helped with this exploratory process: 'It was great during the programme having guidance and reassurance that "it's okay not to be sure". Having "someone in the boat with us", as we worked on implementing FAIR'.

## ■ Impact:

The support and guidance provided by the FAIR-IMPACT mentors guided the PLUS team towards their aims during the programme: 'our mentors helped us rise above our own ideas. They were personally invested, very active, and put us in touch with people who we should talk to', they explained.

The team commented that it is difficult to pinpoint the potential long-term effects on the repository side, given it is still relatively new. However, RPO support programme provided concrete support in developing the institution's Open Data Policy, which should have a considerable impact within the university.



The two branches of the PLUS team will continue to collaborate through a dedicated Open Science Taskforce, which brings together people across the university who are engaged in Open Science initiatives.

## ■ ■ Future plans:

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The PLUS team firstly expressed a desire to stay in touch with the FAIR-IMPACT project, given that exchanges with the community have helped a lot with their goals. The next steps are:

- Continuing the FAIR-enabling journey by launching the repository
- Aim towards the bigger goal of CoreTrustSeal certification by continuing to focus its requirements

## ■ ■ Key message:

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If you have an aim, get in contact with other people who have done this already. Find out how they have done it, and get an idea of where to start.

FAIR is a process, not a checklist. It can be seen as a journey that does not really end at any particular point.





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