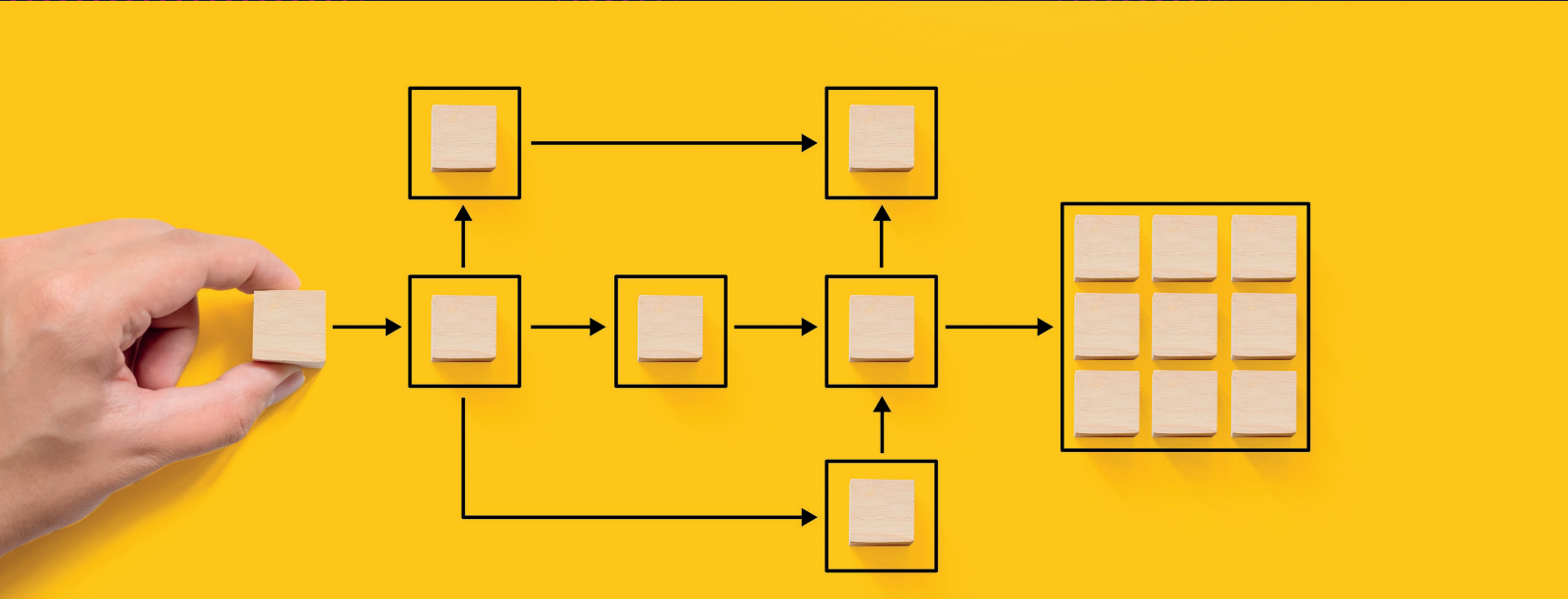
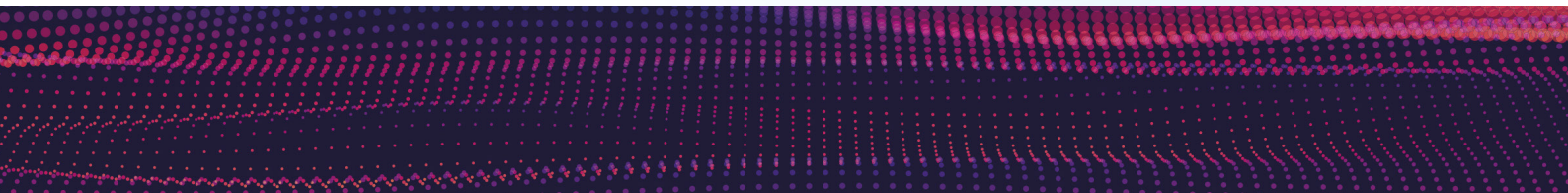


Bringing Informed Transparency to the DataverseNO Repository



Authors names, affiliations and ORCIDs:

- Philipp Konzett, UiT The Arctic University of Norway,
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6754-7911>
- Noortje Haugstvedt, UiT The Arctic University of Norway,
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2596-7691>
- Leif Longva, UiT The Arctic University of Norway,
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6638-8317>

Summary:

FAIR-enabling and trustworthy data repositories play a central role in making and keeping data FAIR over time. While there is ongoing debate on what constitutes trustworthiness, there is broad agreement that transparency and evidence is essential to enable end users to make informed decisions about the repository services they use. In the scope of FAIR assessment, there are also steps to take in the findability of assessment information, and the exposure of assessment results. FAIR-IMPACT has developed guidelines to improve the transparency of, and trust in, repositories. In this support action successful applicants will have the opportunity to test the guidelines and receive guidance on exposing relevant metadata at the organisational and object level to facilitate discovery, provide context, and support interoperability.

In this support action, participants had the opportunity to learn about these new guidelines in depth, and to critically evaluate them as they applied them to their own repository and stakeholders. Participants considered the current status of information exposure in their organisations and how this could be improved using the guidelines. Through this process, participants provided valuable feedback on how useful, relevant, and realistic the guidelines are, directly shaping the future iterations of the guidelines.

This FAIR Implementation Story outlines the specific aims and actions of DataverseNO at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in relation to their participation in the support action.



■ Introduction:

Through the Trustworthy and FAIR-enabling repositories support action, the DataverseNO Repository Management team at UiT The Arctic University of Norway were focusing on two main areas. First, we wanted to contribute to the alignment of what should be at the core of information that Trusted Digital Repositories (TDRs) holding research data should expose to relevant stakeholders, so that they can make informed decisions about the TDR and its assets. Second, we wanted to map how our own repository, DataverseNO, currently provides this information, identify shortcomings and challenges, and draft a plan for how to enhance information about our repository in a transparent way to increase its trustworthiness and capability to enable the FAIRness of deposited data in the long term.

■ Approach taken:

We followed a straightforward approach to achieve our goals, more or less aligned with the recommendation from the FAIR-IMPACT team. At the outset of the support action, we reviewed the [FAIR-IMPACT M5.2 - Guidelines for repositories and registries on exposing repository trustworthiness status and FAIR data assessments outcomes](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10058633)¹ and noted questions and comments, which we provided to the FAIR-IMPACT team during the support action workshops as well as in written form in our presentation in the final workshop.

This was followed up by the main task of the support action which was to go through an exercise worksheet listing the mentioned recommendations for trustworthy and FAIR-enabling data repositories, including an assessment of how we currently expose the recommended type of information about our repository. In practice, the three of us first worked on this task individually in the shared worksheet, trying to answer the questions to the best of our knowledge, followed by joint sessions where we reviewed our individual contributions, tried to clarify open questions and to agree on a coordinated answer. We particularly focused on possible future actions to improve the content of information and the way we expose this information about our repository in a transparent way. As a final major action, we created an issue in our GitHub repository summarising all the identified actions of improvements.

■ Challenges encountered and addressed:

Overall, we experienced that working on our tasks as well as the interaction with the FAIR-IMPACT team and other participants in the support calls went smoothly. One thing we had some struggle with was how to find out whether and how information about our repository is exposed in a machine-friendly way. Acknowledging this might in itself be useful feedback for the further adjustments of the proposed guidelines for repositories.

More generally, we discovered that many of the recommended elements of information a research data repository should provide are already in place for DataverseNO, but not necessarily in a way that is conveniently accessible and understandable for humans and actionable by machines. Addressing these challenges will be part of future work to be done after the support action.

At a practical level, we had some organisational challenges being able to participate in one of the workshops as it was scheduled in the beginning of August, when all three in our group were on summer vacation. However, as all workshops were recorded and made accessible to the participants, we were able to catch up after our vacation.

1 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10058633>



■ ■ Impact:

The settings and requirements provided by the support action turned out to be very helpful as they forced us to prioritise working on the issues that were at focus in the action - something which is hard to do in addition to our daily work duties.

The knowledge we gained during the action and the action plan we were able to establish as the result of the assessment work will directly feed into our ongoing work on addressing the feedback on the initial CoreTrustSeal certification of DataverseNO in 2020. It will help us enhance the information we provide to the Designated Community of our repository and also improve documentation of repository routines and workflows, both of which are important elements in a successful CoreTrustSeal certification and more generally for gaining and maintaining the trust of depositors and other stakeholders.

Beyond DataverseNO, our work with identifying challenges in the way we expose repository information, is also of interest for the global Dataverse community. Like DataverseNO, an increasing number of research data repositories in Europe and beyond rely on the open-source repository software Dataverse as the technical backbone of their service. Building on the FAIR-IMPACT recommendations and our assessment during the support action will provide useful input to the Dataverse community on the future alignment of the software with these recommendations. We envision that support for (some of) the recommendation could be implemented in the Dataverse software. This would in turn help the individual Dataverse-based repositories align with the recommendations.

■ ■ Key messages:

Connecting with the FAIR-IMPACT support action helped us take a look at our repository with fresh eyes, identifying challenges and shortcomings and lay out an action plan for improvement of transparent information exposure.





@fairimpact_eu



company/fair-impact-eu-project/



fair-impact.eu

