

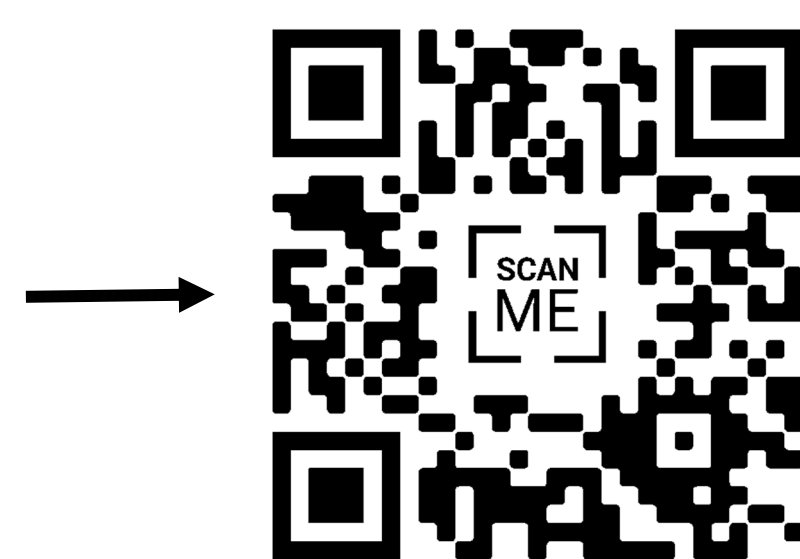
# Strengthening Research Data Management in Sports Science: A Community-Based Approach to Guidelines, Practices, and Challenges

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## Background

Research Data Management (RDM) is receiving increasing attention in sports science. Unique challenges arise due to the diverse and sensitive nature of the data, as well as the many mother disciplines involved. The German Society of Sport Science (dvs) has set up an ad-hoc committee to develop practical, community-specific RDM guidelines.

“The status quo of research data management in the German-speaking sports sciences—Results of an online pilot survey”



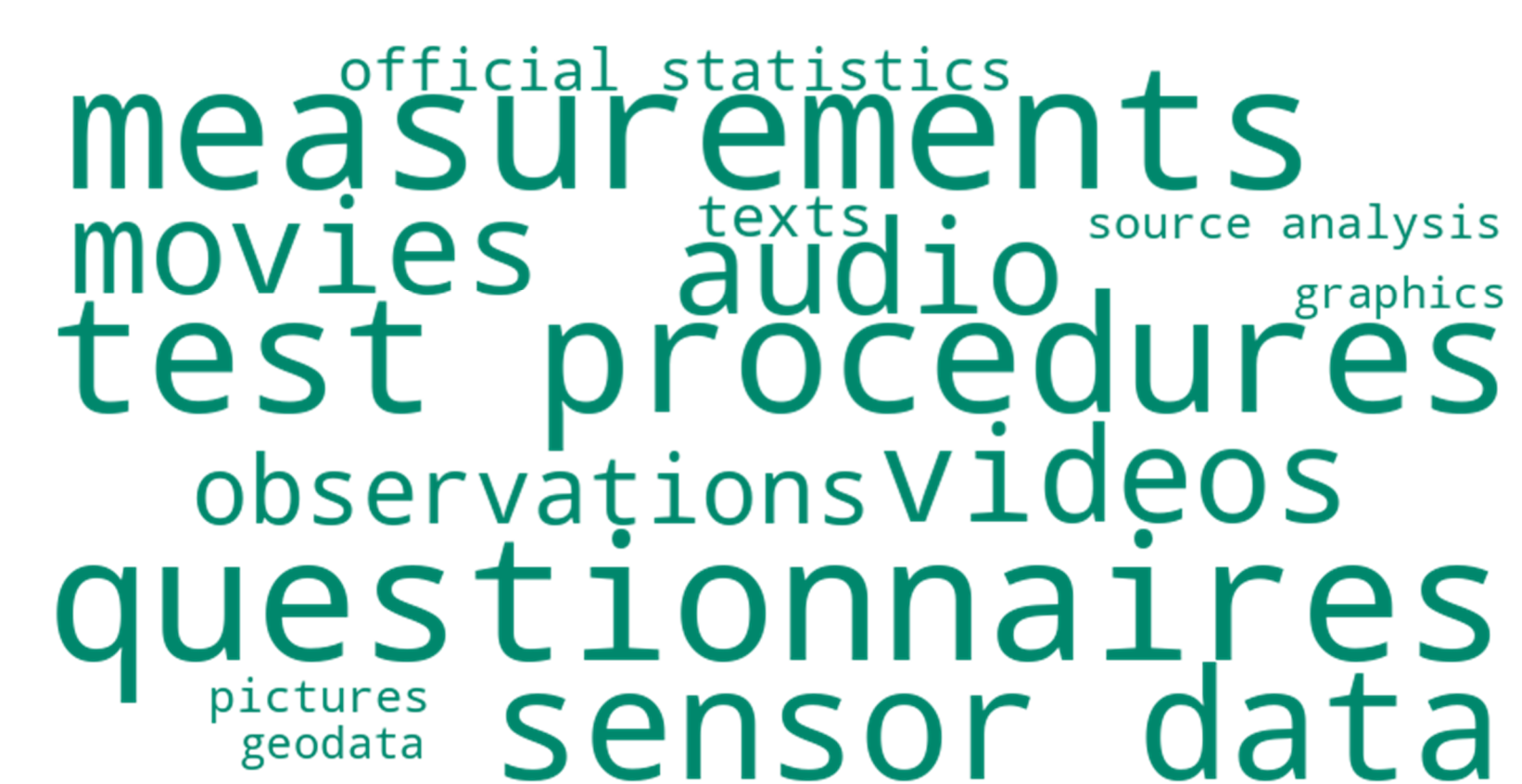
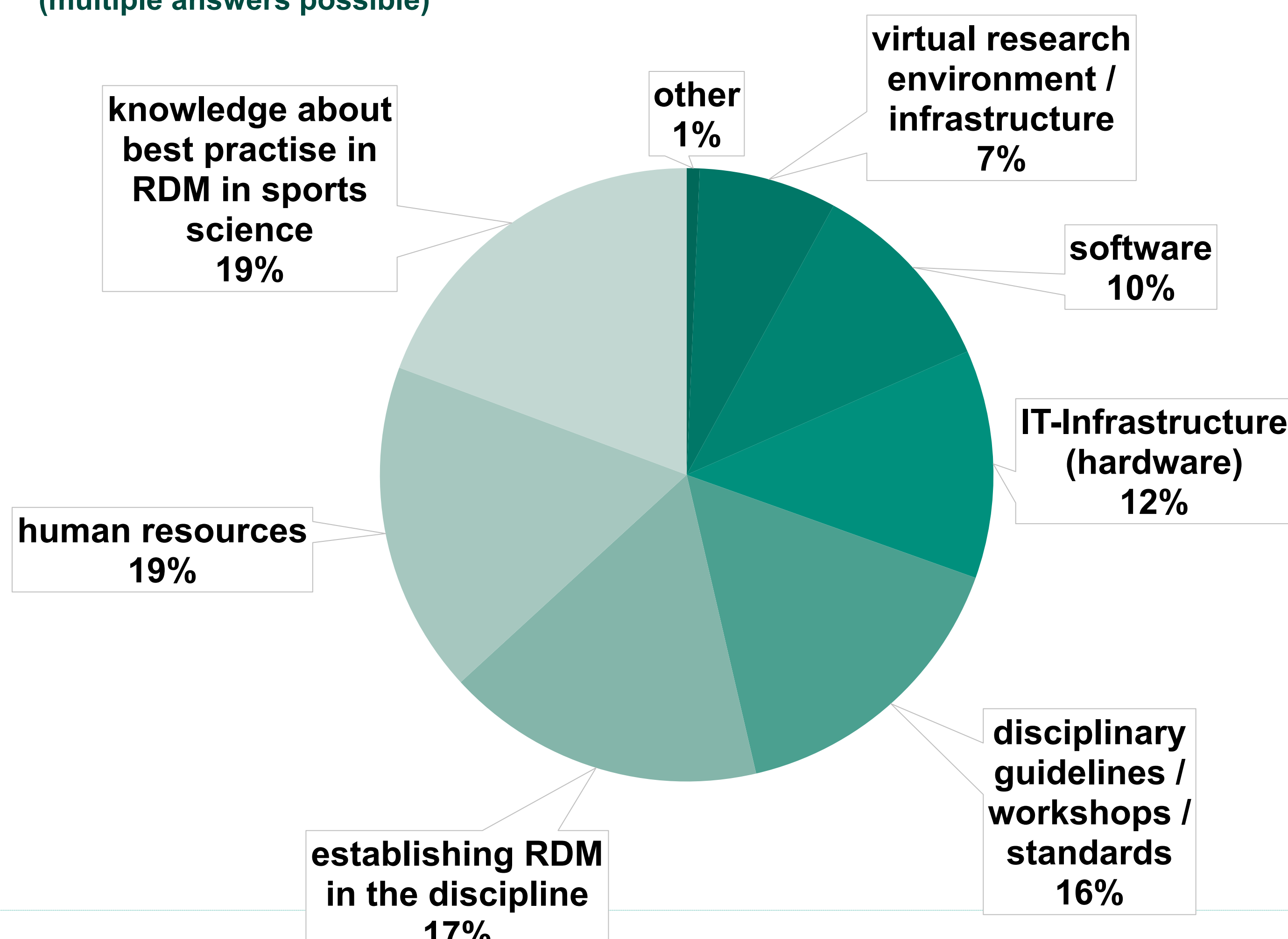
## The Results

The survey shows these key results:

- RDM practices are highly variable.
- Many researchers are unsure about how to handle sensitive data and what the legal requirements are.
- Few use standardised metadata or repositories.
- There is strong interest in training and community-specific guidance.
- There is a strong need for all kinds of resources.

The committee therefore created a recommendation for the DVS, as well as fact sheets regarding sensitive data, and collected best practice examples from the community.

## What developments or improvements would help you in implementing your research data management practices? (multiple answers possible)



Variety of data types in sports science (Keller et al, 2025)

## Our Approach

A pilot survey of 122 German sports scientists (Keller et al., 2025) assessed their current RDM practices, knowledge and needs. The committee then used these insights to create tailored guidelines and recommendations.



## Stellungnahme zum Umgang mit Forschungsdaten in der sportwissenschaftlichen Forschung

Beschluss der Präsidiumssitzung vom 17.06.2025



## Discussion

Key next steps include:

- Developing practical RDM guidelines for sports science.
- Providing clear advice on managing sensitive data (e.g. ensuring GDPR compliance).
- Developing an RDM network to share, develop, and establish best practices.

This bottom-up approach aims to make RDM more relevant, practical and widely adopted in sports science.

At the IfSS/KIT, we are working on two main projects, primarily focusing on developing legal standards and data-sharing infrastructure, as well as fostering interdisciplinary collaborations: NFDI4Society and Leibniz Science Campus DiTraRe.