FAIR Policy and Practice Survey 2019

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

FAIRsFAIR project survey on FAIR policy and practice

Aims of the survey

The survey aims to consult members of the research support community and others involved in implementing the FAIR principles, and gain insights into their views and experiences on policies and practices relating to these principles. The FAIR principles are that research data and/or metadata should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable. The insights gained through this survey will inform recommendations and solutions designed to support greater production and use of FAIR data. For further information on the FAIR principles please refer to [1].

The project invites responses from all those involved in implementing the FAIR principles. Questions have five themes:

1) Practice
2) Policy
3) Repositories
4) Skills
5) Competence centres

Completing the survey takes about 15-20 minutes. The survey runs 5 August to 20 September 2019.

This survey is being run by the FAIRsFAIR project on "Fostering FAIR Data Practices In Europe", which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 project call H2020-INFRAEOSC-2018-2020 (grant agreement 831558). It is one of a number of projects developing the European Open Science Cloud. For further information on the FAIRsFAIR project please refer to [2].

[1] https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618
[2] https://www.fairsfair.eu/

Anonymised and aggregated survey data will be stored in a certified data repository and be made available for use by third parties. For more information on how we will use your data, please read the Privacy Statement below.

Privacy Statement

Why do we collect, store and process your data?
We collect and process your personal data for these purposes:

- enable you to participate in the FAIRsFAIR survey on FAIR policy and practice
- enable you to participate in follow-up activity or receive details of survey results, if you so choose
- respond to any questions you may have about the survey

Data on opinions, attitudes and practices of the respondents related to the survey themes will be gathered. Personal data (including name/surname, an e-mail address and the name of the respondent's organisation) is needed to implement the survey. This data will be used only to contact you only if you choose to allow this. All data is stored on the EU server site, which is password protected and only staff working with the survey can access it. All the data gathering activities conducted in the framework of this survey will comply with the requirements of GDPR.

Technical information
All responses to the survey questions will be collected using the online survey tool EU Survey. All survey responses collected using EU Survey are sent over secured and encrypted SSL (Secure Sockets Layer). The servers on which EU Survey operates are based in the EU. The system uses session "cookies" in order to ensure communication between the client and the server. Therefore, the user's browser must be configured to accept "cookies". The cookies disappear once the session has been terminated.

Local storage is used to save copies of the inputs of a participant to a survey in order to have a backup if the server is not available during submission or the user's computer is switched off accidentally or any other cause. The local storage contains the IDs of the questions and the draft answers. Once a participant has submitted one's answers successfully to the server or has successfully saved a draft on the server, the data is removed from the local storage. There is a checkbox above the survey to disable the feature (useful if the participant uses a public computer).

Who has access to your information and to whom is it disclosed?
FAIRsFAIR does not transmit any personal data to other parties. All the collected data will be anonymised, removing indirect identifiers such as your role and name of organisation, and treated confidentially. The information you provide will be analysed and presented in aggregate form in project reports together with the information from other participants, and hence no personal information will be revealed. The raw data will be stored on the internal servers of FAIRsFAIR project partners, protected by passwords only known to researchers conducting the survey.

How long do we keep your data?

All the raw data will be deleted after the project is finalised. The anonymised and aggregated data will be stored in a certified data repository after the end of the project and be made available for use by third parties.

* Please check you have read the above Privacy statement and confirm how you wish to proceed.
- ○ I consent to participating in the survey for the above stated purposes.
- ○ I do not want to participate.

FAIR practices

In this section, we'd like to find out a bit about the current practices of researchers you support.

* Which disciplines do you support or work with? Please choose as many as are applicable.
  between 1 and 6 choices
- ☐ Data computing and digital research infrastructures
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Health and food
- ☐ Physical science and engineering
- ☐ Social and cultural innovation

Based on the researchers you work with/support, please identify any sub-disciplines that you believe are relatively advanced in making their data **interoperable.**

250 character(s) maximum

And please also identify any sub-disciplines you believe are relatively advanced in making their data **reusable**.

250 character(s) maximum

When researchers that you support deposit the research data what restrictions are commonly placed on access and reuse by others?

	Very commonly	Quite commonly	Quite rarely	Very rarely	Don't know	Not applicable
Access and reuse are restricted to specific groups (e.g. project partners)	○	○	○	○	○	○

Access and reuse are restricted to specific purposes (e.g. only for non-commercial research)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Access and reuse are unrestricted (e.g. only requiring attribution)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other restrictions apply	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you selected 'other restrictions apply' above, please describe them.

250 character(s) maximum

[text box]

FAIR related policies

In this section, we'd like to find out about the range of policies that may affect researchers' practices.

What, if any, are the main drivers for data policy development in the infrastructure organisation you work for?

250 character(s) maximum

[text box]

In your view, how influential are the research data related policies of the following stakeholder groups on researchers' practice?

	Very influential	Neutral	Not influential	Don't know	Not applicable
Funding bodies	○	○	○	○	○
Governments or national ministries	○	○	○	○	○
Research Infrastructures	○	○	○	○	○
Data repositories	○	○	○	○	○
Departments or faculties	○	○	○	○	○
Institutions/Research Performing Organisations	○	○	○	○	○
Community norms (e.g. scientific societies, associations)	○	○	○	○	○
Publishers or journals	○	○	○	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○	○

If you selected 'other' above, please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

Which of the following policy factors do you believe would positively or negatively influence researchers to make data FAIR?

	Very positive	Quite positive	Neutral	Quite negative	Very negative	Don't know
Compliance with policy on making data FAIR is monitored	○	○	○	○	○	○
Penalties for not making data FAIR are introduced	○	○	○	○	○	○
Rewards for making data FAIR are introduced	○	○	○	○	○	○
Policy on FAIR is easy to understand and adhere to	○	○	○	○	○	○
Support is provided for researchers to make data FAIR	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you selected 'other' above, please specify.

75 character(s) maximum

Repositories for FAIR data

In this section, we'd like to learn about the repositories that are available to the researchers you support.

For researchers you work with, please identify which of the following stakeholder groups provides dedicated data repositories for storing and accessing research data. Please tick all that apply

at most 7 choice(s)

☐ Institution   ☐ Community database/ repository   ☐ Other
☐ Funding body   ☐ Journal/Publisher
☐ Research Infrastructure   ☐ Don't know

If you selected 'other' above, please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

Are there gaps in the repositories available for researchers' context-specific needs (domain, national)?

○ Yes   ○ No   ○ Don't know

If you selected 'yes' to the question above, please feel free to add any comments in relation to specific unmet needs (e.g. allowable size of deposit).

250 character(s) maximum

To what extent do stakeholder groups in the communities you work with expect data repositories to follow 'trustworthy' repository standards (e.g. CoreTrustSeal)?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Repositories need to be externally assessed and certified	○	○	○	○	○	○
Repositories need to self-assess against a common standard	○	○	○	○	○	○
Repository managers need to follow community guidelines	○	○	○	○	○	○
Repositories need to show user ratings and respond to comments	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you selected 'other', please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

Support and skills for FAIR

In this section, we'd like to know a bit about where researchers get support from and what skills are most needed.

If researchers you work with require help to make their data FAIR, who would they ask for 1:1 support? Please select all that apply.

at most 8 choice(s)

- ☐ Institutional support or help desk (Library, Research Office, Information Services, etc.)
- ☐ Research infrastructure staff or help desk
- ☐ Disciplinary body or professional association
- ☐ Funding body support service
- ☐ Publisher/Journal support service
- ☐ Peers, informal networks
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'other' above, please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

What particular areas of training, support or advice do you feel researchers and support staff need in relation to making data FAIR?

at most 12 choice(s)

- ☐ Stewardship of FAIR outputs (data, software)
- ☐ Finding and reusing data
- ☐ Data wrangling
- ☐ Using or developing tools /services
- ☐ Costing and resourcing RDM in proposals
- ☐ Training others (including doctoral candidates)
- ☐ Finding FAIR data repositories
- ☐ Citing and acknowledging contributions
- ☐ Sharing data (ethics, data protection)
- ☐ Documenting data or code to make it FAIR
- ☐ Data analytics and statistical techniques
- ☐ Raising awareness about FAIR principles
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'other' above, please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

Competence centres

In this section, we'd like to know how FAIR training and guidance resources could best be organised to help communities put the principles into practice.

If researchers you work with require help to make their data FAIR, which are the top 3 most likely online sources they would use to find this support?

- ☐ Institutional services
- ☐ Research infrastructure
- ☐ Project-based training and guidance resources
- ☐ Funding body guidance
- ☐ Publisher or journal site
- ☐ Peers
- ☐ Search engine (e.g. Google)
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'other' above, please describe where you would expect researchers to look for support.

Where should training and guidance resources be **most effectively** located to get noticed and used, in your view? (please choose up to 3 options)

- ☐ Institutional level e.g. through RDM services
- ☐ National level (e.g. through national service providers)
- ☐ Discipline level (e.g. through Research Infrastructures)
- ☐ Cross-domain level (e.g. through horizontal European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) services, EOSC cluster projects)
- ☐ Thematically (e.g. through stakeholders addressing specific challenges)
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'other', please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

How can training and guidance materials and event information be pooled **most effectively** across the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) in your view (please choose up to 3 options)?

- ☐ Manually selecting and curating training and guidance resources
- ☐ Aggregating trainings automatically from selected providers
- ☐ Aggregating training portals
- ☐ Identifying people able to respond to discipline-specific questions from researchers about making data FAIR
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'other', please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

Which of the following functions should the the EOSC prioritise in your view, to help communities put the FAIR principles into practice?

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Don't know
Pointers to training and guidance *materials* offered by infrastructures, institutions and EOSC service providers	○	○	○	○
Pointers to training *events* offered by infrastructures, institutions and EOSC service providers	○	○	○	○
Certify the training materials and events offered to check they meet community needs, and that skills gaps are filled.	○	○	○	○
Collate information on skills gaps and community requirements for training and guidance	○	○	○	○
Guidance on finding repositories certified as trustworthy, and data certified as FAIR	○	○	○	○
Collate information on community requirements for FAIR services and resources	○	○	○	○
Document issues and debates about implementing FAIR principles in practice	○	○	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○

If you selected 'other', please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

Please add any comments you wish on anything else you believe should be a priority for the EOSC, to help implement FAIR principles.

250 character(s) maximum

About you

In this section, we'd like you to answer a few questions about your role and organisation. Please note that only statistics from this section will be shared, not individual responses.

* Which of the following types of organisation best describes your employer?

- ◯ Research Infrastructure
- ◯ University
- ◯ Research Performing Organisation
- ◯ Government/local government
- ◯ Private company
- ◯ Medical School/ Teaching Hospital
- ◯ Other

If you selected 'other', please specify.

250 character(s) maximum

What is the approximate number of researchers (full time equivalent), including doctoral candidates, working in your organisation?

- ◯ None
- ◯ < 100
- ◯ 100-500
- ◯ 500-1000
- ◯ > 1 000
- ◯ Don't know

* In which country are you based?

- ◯ Austria
- ◯ Belgium
- ◯ Bulgaria
- ◯ Croatia
- ◯ Cyprus
- ◯ Czechia
- ◯ Denmark
- ◯ Estonia
- ◯ Finland
- ◯ France
- ◯ Germany
- ◯ Greece
- ◯ Hungary
- ◯ Ireland
- ◯ Italy
- ◯ Latvia
- ◯ Lithuania
- ◯

Luxembourg

  ◯ Malta

  ◯ Netherlands

  ◯ Other country or countries

  ◯ Other European country

  ◯ Poland

  ◯ Portugal

  ◯ Romania

  ◯ Slovakia

  ◯ Slovenia

  ◯ Spain

  ◯ Sweden

  ◯ United Kingdom

* Which of the following describes your role? Please select all that apply.

at least 1 choice(s)

  ☐ Researcher

  ☐ Policy maker or senior manager

  ☐ Research support or liaison

  ☐ User support/outreach provider

  ☐ Data steward or research data librarian

  ☐ Repository or scientific database provider

  ☐ Other

If you selected 'other', please specify.

100 character(s) maximum

Does your organisation currently provide in-house support to researchers for putting FAIR into practice?

  ◯ Yes

  ◯ No

  ◯ Don't know

If you answered yes to the previous question, can you please indicate what kind of support is provided?

250 character(s) maximum

If your organisation provides support for FAIR, which operational unit provides this support?

250 character(s) maximum

If you do not yet provide in-house support for putting FAIR into practice, are there plans to introduce such support in the next 1-2 years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Don't know

* Can we contact you to invite your participation in further consultation activities being carried out by FAIRsFAIR? (e.g. interviews, focus groups)

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

If you selected 'yes' to the previous question, please provide your email address. Please note this will be used by the survey administrators only to contact you about FAIRsFAIR, and will not be disclosed to anyone else.

200 character(s) maximum

Thank you!

Thank you very much for taking the time to share any of your views and experiences with us. The resulting data will be made available via a trusted digital repository for reuse, with a link from the FAIRsFAIR website.