eosc | FAIR-IMPACT
Expanding FAIR solutions across EOSC

FAIR Implementation Workshop : *Engaging researchers with FAIR-ness*

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Engaging Researchers with FAIR-ness

- Focus on methods
  - but we need also need to discuss content a bit…
- Focus on national level initiatives and efforts
  - but the relation to individual, institutional and international (EU) levels are also important

I will present my own experiences and views, based on my own local, national (Sweden) and EU (EOSC) context. This is only a starting point for discussions!

- Part 1: How can we engage research and researchers, and how can research and researchers engage us?
- Part 2: An example of a national process

Different Driving Forces

(Much too exaggerated and simplified…)

- Researcher: How do I make a career in research?
- Institution: How do we safe-guard the quality of our research?
- Government: How do we get bang for the buck?
- EU: How do we create a successful ERA?

All of this has to do with research quality, but in different ways

FAIR?

European RIs

Google

National RIs

Publisher X,Y,Z,…

Institutional IT services

Institutional library

National computing initiative

Institutional data initiative

DropBox

National public IT services

National data initiative

National library

Amazon

NREN

FigShare

National CRIS-system

EU initiatives and projects (about 50 of them)

Institutional archive

EOSC

National public archive

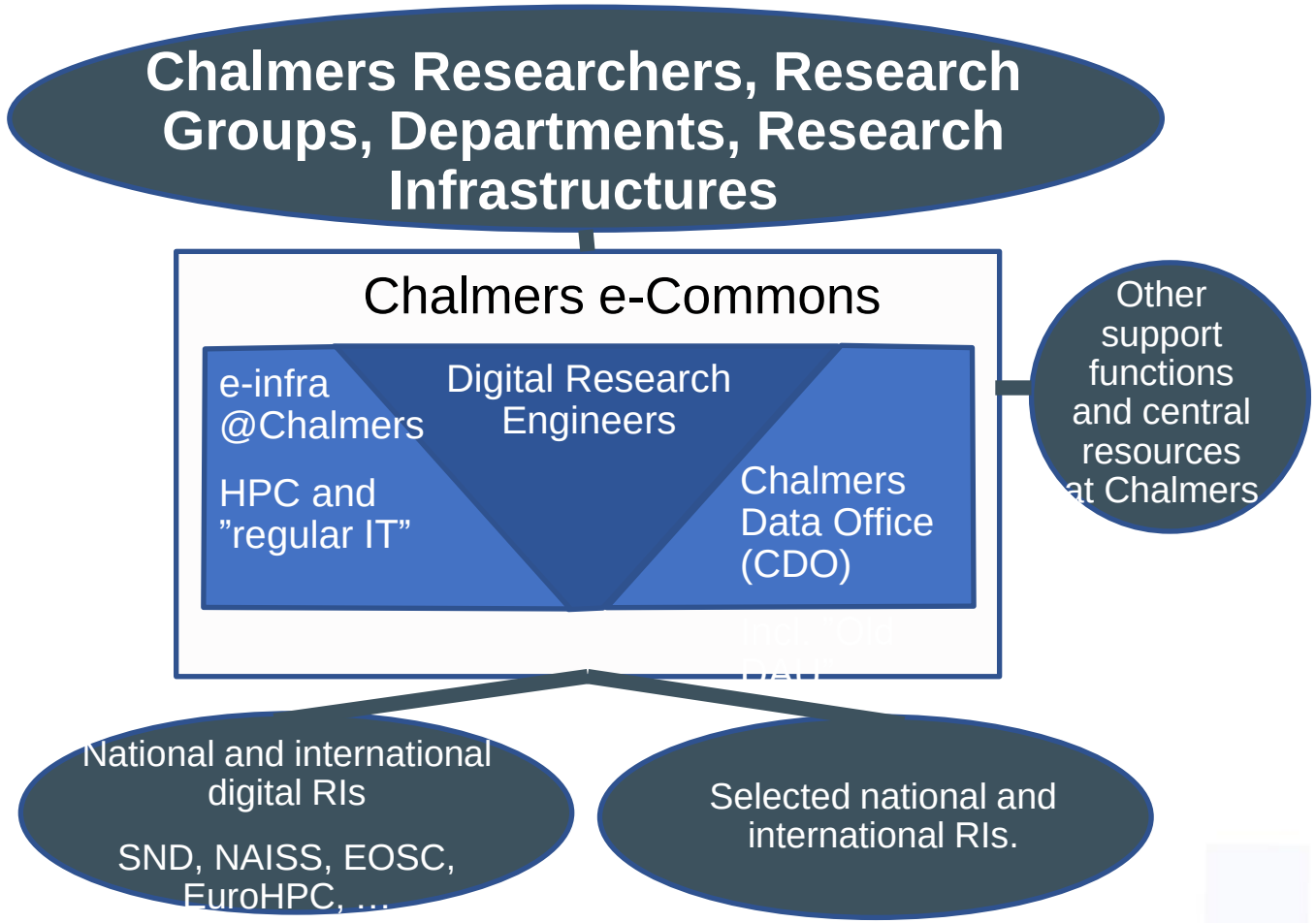
Personal Reflections – How to get Engagement?

- Engagement of individual researchers or unstructured research communities from a top-down perspective is often not very efficient
  - Unless you are funding or assessing research!
  - Engaging with intermediaries is potentially more fruitful. Especially of these provide concrete support to the researchers
  - Intermediaries can be individuals (champions), institutional initiatives, institutions, national initiatives, research infrastructures (local, national, international), …

Personal Experience - How to Discuss ”FAIR”?

- The FAIR concept has its origin in research, refer to the Nature paper!
- FAIR does not mean “open”
- **Ask** how digital objects are managed today, and connect to the FAIR concept
  - Discuss how e.g. producing and using research data helps research in the specific field
- Underline that FAIR digital objects are central to maintain research quality in the “digital research era”
- Underline that FAIR is the basis for “open”, and that funders and policymakers are moving towards this. Prepare for the future!
- Provide examples of FAIR support functions that are already acting the “vicinity” of the researchers
  - This can be local (library, RDM initiative, …), national and/or international (data repositories, national RDM initiatives, RIs, …)

Chalmers e-Commons – Connecting the levels



- *Areas of Interest* led by *Digital Research Engineers*.
- Chalmers Data Office
  - Support for the full data life cycle
- e-infrastructure/IT resources
  - Computing and storage
  - Local, national, international
- Clear mandate/task to use national and international resources and competences

The Importance of National-Level Initiatives

- Most researchers work in international and national contexts
  - Especially true for the most successful research efforts
  - Policies and services need to be coordinated locally, nationally and internationally
  - In most cases, the main funding is national
- It is probably not efficient to build and maintain all competence and engagement at the local level
- Hypothesis: Strong national initiatives need to be anchored in strong local/institutional initiatives
  - But there can be quite different views on this…

An Example of a National Process - Sweden

Background:

- 2016 and 2020: Government goal (Research Bill) that Sweden should have implemented an ”open research system” by 2026
    - Assignment to the Swedish Research Council to ”coordinate Open Data”
    - Assignment to National Library to ”coordinate Open Access to publications”
    - From 2021: Assignment to Universities to ”continue their work on Open Science”
- In parallel: Establishment of RDM support functions at many universities

The National Infrastructure Landscape

- Three main ”horizontal” national e-infrastructures deal with research data:
  - NAISS – High Performance Computing
  - SUNET – Connectivity and national IT-services
  - Swedish National Data Service – ”FA-R” in FAIR. University consortium, all main Swedish universities, co-funded 50% by SRC
- Many ”vertical” national RIs manage data and implements FAIR aspects in a national and international context
  - Example: SciLifeLab - National Bioinformatics Infrastructure - ELIXIR
- Many researchers frequently use data from the Regions (21!), Statistics Sweden, National Board of Health and Welfare, …

The Universities Take Action…

- Swedish universities, and other public agencies, own and are responsible for their research data, including. proper data management (FAIR) and long-term preservation (also access following the Swedish principle of public access to official documents (“offentlighetsprincipen”)
  - This includes data from (almost all) research infrastructures (local, national, nodes in international) – they are hosted by universities

The Universities Take Action…

2020: The Swedish Rectors´ Conference (Swedish Association of Higher Educational Institutions, SUHF) forms a Working Group for ”Research Data and EOSC”. Before this there is also an SUHF coordination group for Open Science

2021: The Research Data WG publishes the first version of the SUHF Open Science Roadmap

- Complemented by an Action Plan with eight actions, 27 subactions, for the universities, with deadlines
- Focus on FAIR (and not openness) and ”related topics”
- Points to Swedish National Data Service (SND)
- Yearly survey by SUHF to all universities (38), how far have you progessed?
- Yearly presentations and discussions on the outcome of the survey
- SND has developed a tool to facilitate follow-up for the universities

2024: First update of the Roadmap and Action Plan

Summary of the Eight Actions for Universities

- Establish policies and and frameworks for high-quality digitalized research
- Provide support functions – coupled to the national and international level
- Work towards FAIR-ness of research results
- Provide digital infrastructure
- Facilitate (national) collaboration between universities and other relavant actors
- Facilitate international collaboration – utlilize national nodes like SND, NBIS,…
- Work towards a modernized incentive structure
- Work towards maintaining ownership within research of research results

Personal Reflections

- The notions of ”Open Science” and ”EOSC” have put FAIR and related issues on the agenda of the university managements
  - But for researchers, and research communities, support functions and services for high-quality management of digital research object are (still) what they want to talk about
- The work by the Rectors Conference (SUHF) (Roadmap, Action Plan, SND support tool) has been instrumental to make the efforts on FAIR and related topics at the universities more nationally aligned
  - Strong insititutional efforts are needed to be able to relate to the SUHF roadmap etc
  - The Swedish National Data Service (SND) has been pointed to as a central tool – also when connecting to e.g. EOSC
  - But a lot of work remains…

Thank you!

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