International collaboration as a common approach to improve the FAIRness of non-numeric/ qualitative research data
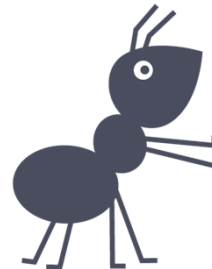
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31st May 2024
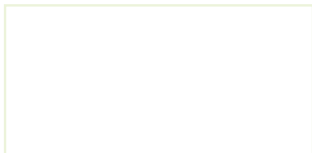
In Cooperation with

nfdi

The approach of QualidataNet

- built up in the context of the National Research Data Infrastructure in Germany as part of the Consortium for the Social, Behavioral, Educational and Economic Sciences

- Idea:

  - The re-use of qualitative data is still an exception in Germany. One reason is the fragmentation of existing archiving services for qualitative data.

  - To overcome fragmentation and to improve the integration of heterogeneity into a common approach, we established QualidataNet – a network for qualitative data.

Qualidata-Net –
a central point of entry for qualitative data

- QualidataNet bundles as a ‚central point of entry' information about the management, use and sharing of qualitative research data.

- It connects providers of qualitative data and promotes exchange.

- QualidataNet is open to all RDCs, archives, repositories, that hold qualitative data and make them available for re-use.

Current archiving partners in Qualidata-Net

Advantages for researchers

- QualidataNet offers **centralized access to qualitative data,**

- supports in **finding the right archiving partner** and

- guides through the specialized infrastructure offerings.

- QualidataNet **offers an RDM-portfolio for qualitative data – coordinated templates and handouts** to facilitate dealing with the central aspects of data sharing and research data management of qualitative data.
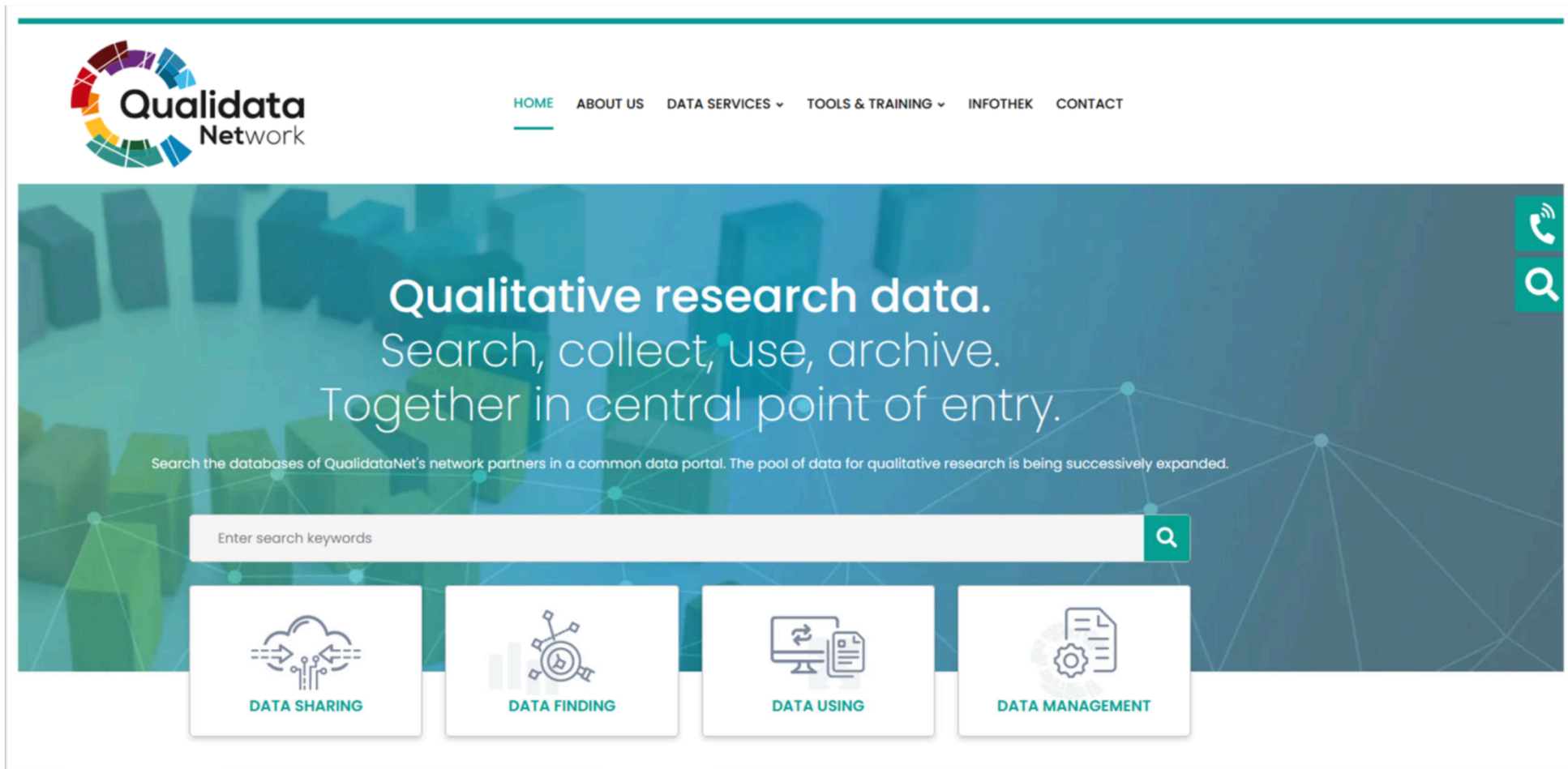
Advantages for infrastructures

- QualidataNet increases the **visibility and findability of datasets** and facilitates the re-use of qualitative data.

- **Jointly dealing** with central aspects of research data management, archiving and data sharing of qualitative data **avoids duplicate developments** and takes the **expertise of specialized archiving partners** for a particular type of data into account.

How does QualidataNet improve the FAIRness of qualitative research data?

Five examples …

1 The QualidataNet – search portal

Search portal

The QualidataNet search portal
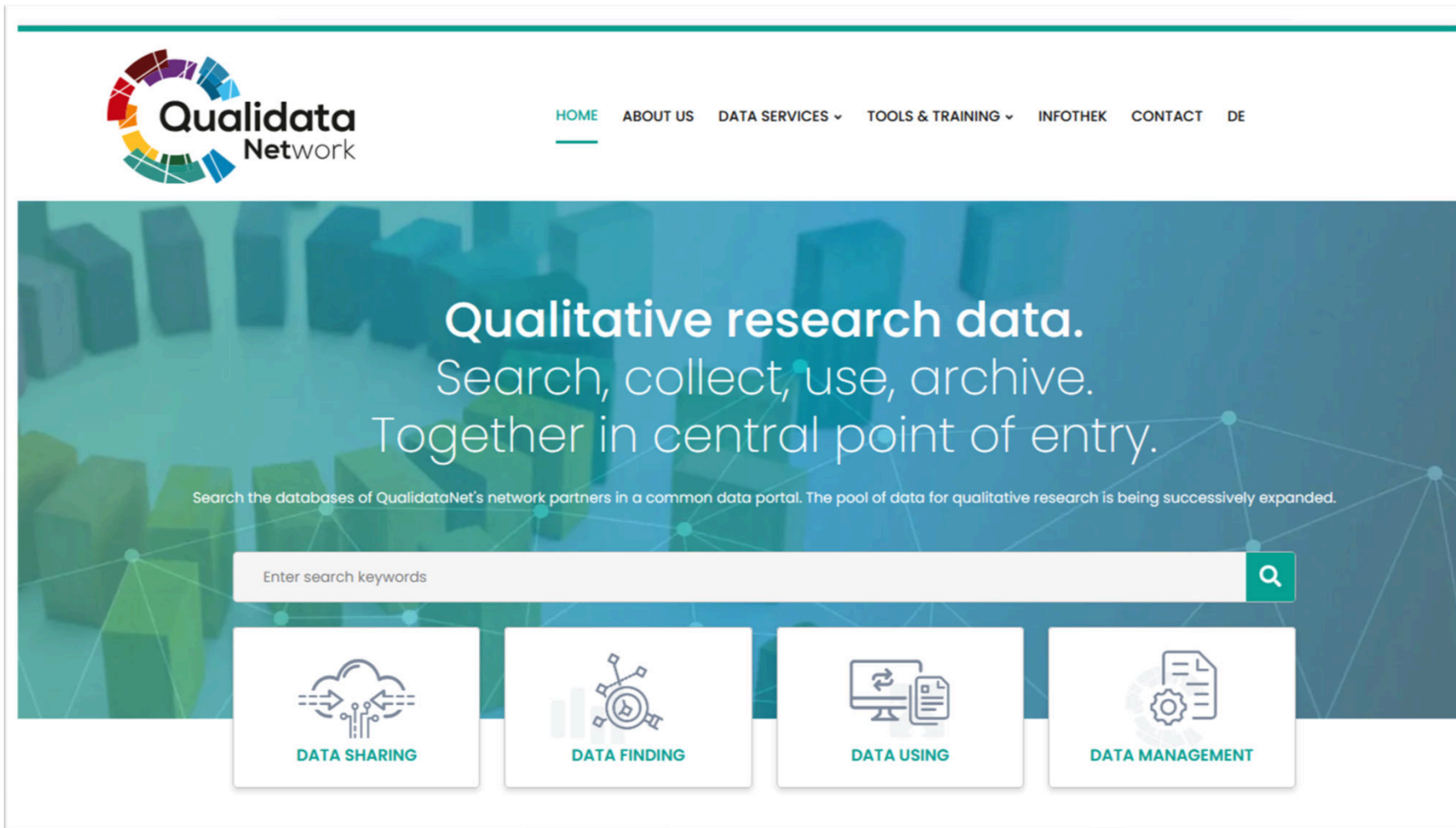
Findability & Accessibility

- launched in Jan 2024 offers centralized access to qualitative data

- condition to take part: datasets need to be provided with a persistent identifier (e.g. DOI) and flagged for harvesting

- We are continuously further developing the search portal and integrating further datasets to increase the number of data available for data re-use.

2 QualiTerm: Controlled Vocabularies for the description of qualitative data

Interoperability & Reusability

- The CV contains methodological elements of qualitative data such as sampling procedures, methods of data collection and qualitative analysis.

- development in cooperation with researchers

- the DDI-WG on controlled vocabularies provided feedback on sampling methods. Further feedback is very welcome.

- Some RDCs started using QualiTerm in their metadatsets. The publication via CESSDA is planned.

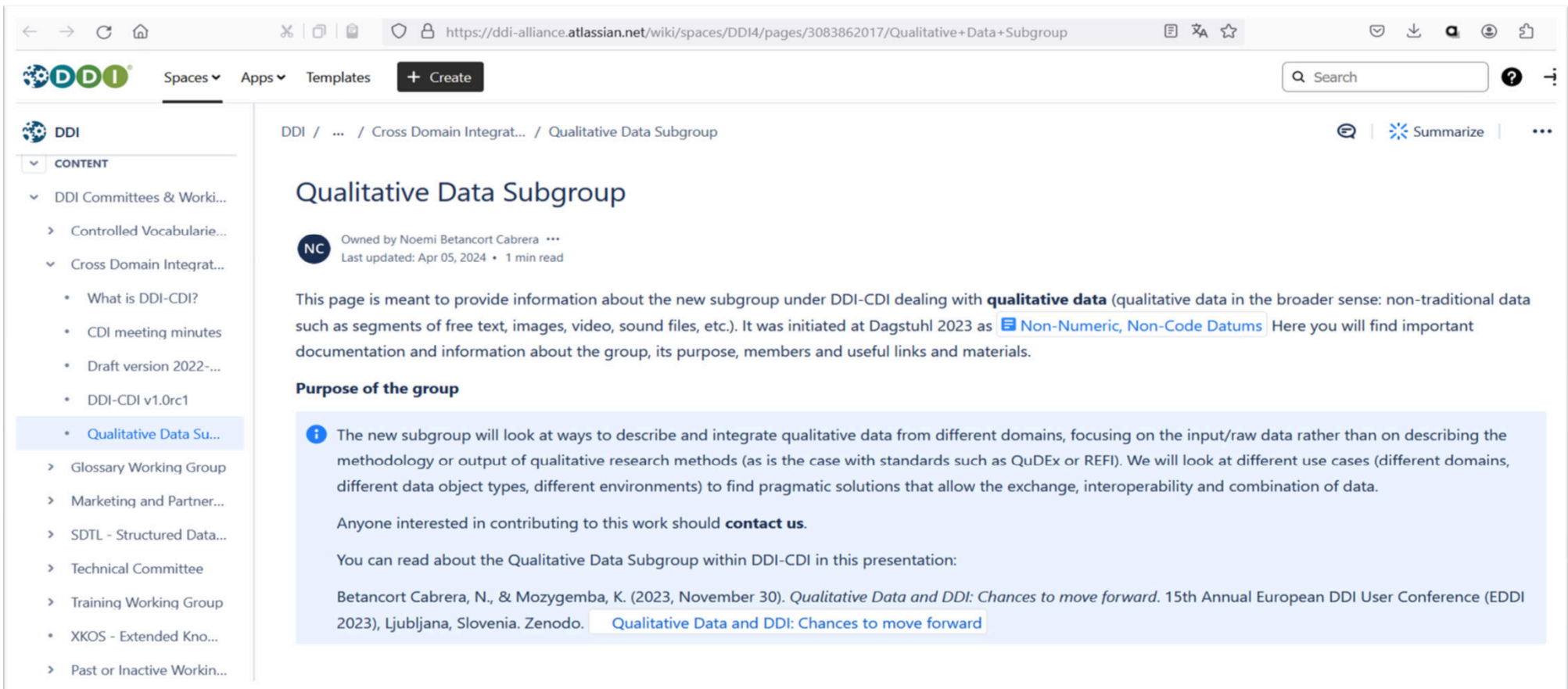# 4 Coordinated RDM-portfolio for qualitative data

QualidataNet - RDM-Portfolio

Reusability

- QualidataNet develops and offers a coordinated RDM-Portfolio for qualitative data, which includes the expertise of the network partners.

- It aims at putting researchers in the position to prepare FAIR research materials already during the research project.

- RDCs share the tools they are working with e.g., QualiAnon a tool for the anonymization of textual data and

- work on fact sheets informing about legal issues such as data protection and copyright law

5 QualidataNet takes part in the development of international metadata-modells

QualidataNet coordinates the DDI-CDI Qualitative Data Subgroup

Interoperability & Reusability

- Comming from the starting point that cross-domain data sharing is becoming increasingly common

- the Working Group aims at **describing the qualitative data objects** in a way that also other disciplines can identify them as potential source for their research interests and vice versa.

- We are currently searching for **use cases to test the model and** working on the description of different qualitative datasets (e.g., making annotations of audiovisual material a part of a dataset description)

Some of the next steps

- integrate further datasets into the search portal

- provide a cooperated guidance-document on data sharing of qualitative data

- include further DDI-CDI use cases

- collect best practices of secondary re-use of qualitative data in cooperation with researchers

- widen the network and learn more about the different developed data sharing and archiving solutions

Last, but not least,

… we connect to an earlier initiative from 2009, when an international workshop of qualitative data providers took place in Bremen, Germany published in IASSIST Quarterly…

If you interested, get in touch!

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Part of *KonsortSWD, NFDI*
(DFG funding number 442494171)