

FAIR Data? Not without PEOPLE

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Slides

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Meet Barbara

Professor in Coastal Engineering

Approves of Open Science

Publishes in Open Access journals

Has lots of data, but not really
reusable



Barbara feels a bit guilty

Open Science sounds good, but publishing FAIR data does not really help her career and she is not sure what FAIR means in practice

Not standards or tools in her community she can easily apply

Wants to be a better example for her PhDs



Meet Susan

Susan is a clinician who just started a post-doctoral fellowship in a research lab

She wants to use genomic data to study ovarian cancer



Susan is sort of stuck

She never worked with genomic data before nor did any coding

Colleagues are busy with their own stuff and she doesn't want to come across as incompetent

She knows there is lots of training, but the choice is overwhelming



Meet Dirk

PhD student at TU Delft
Finishing second year
Studying (car) transport flows in
Dutch and Belgian cities



Dirk is worried

Everyone asks him how the writing of the thesis is going. But he needs results before he can write

And to get results he is highly dependent on the software he uses to simulate traffic

It's created by a past group member, and is buggy & poorly documented.

Dirk spends his time figuring stuff out instead of analysing data



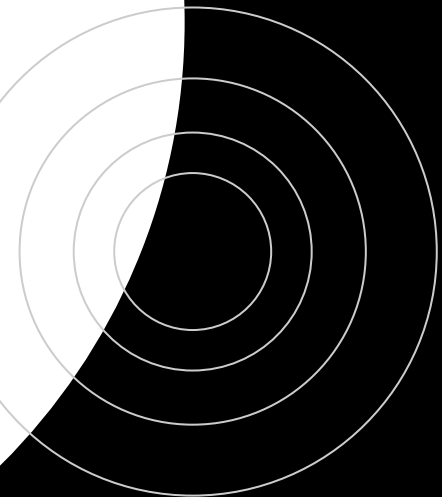


?

**How to help
Barbara, Dirk,
Susan and
other
researchers
make their
data FAIR?**



5 key ingredients of research data support





1

Data Stewards

Meet Kees

Data Steward at Faculty of Civil
Engineering and Geosciences

He did his Master and PhD here

He is advising researchers on data
management needs



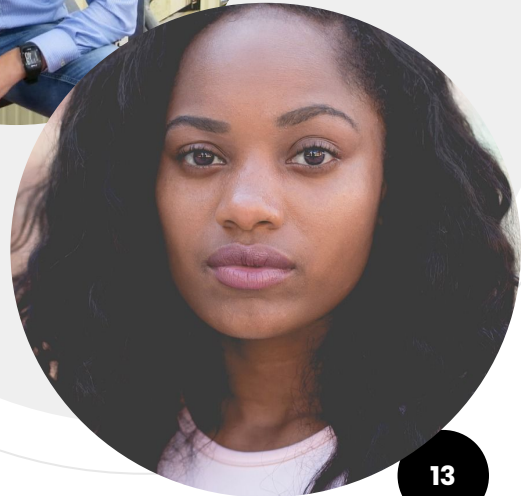
Kees understands Barbara and puts her & her research central

Kees knows faculty research, which helps him understand things better

He likes meeting with researchers and talking about their research

He often suggests small changes to research workflows which make substantial improvements

He helped Barbara and her team get started with version control





2

Data Managers

Meet Jia

Expert data manager

She has a PhD in Bioinformatics

She is employed by the Library but is subcontracted to work with various research groups



Jia works with Susan one day a week

Jia finds Susan's cancer research really interesting and is helping Susan analyse the data

She appreciates Susan's eagerness to learn a bit of programming and version control and flags up useful training for her

Jia sees this as a rewarding teamwork



(Disclaimer: Jia is fake. We hope to hire a Jia - or two - soon)



3

Coding Assistants

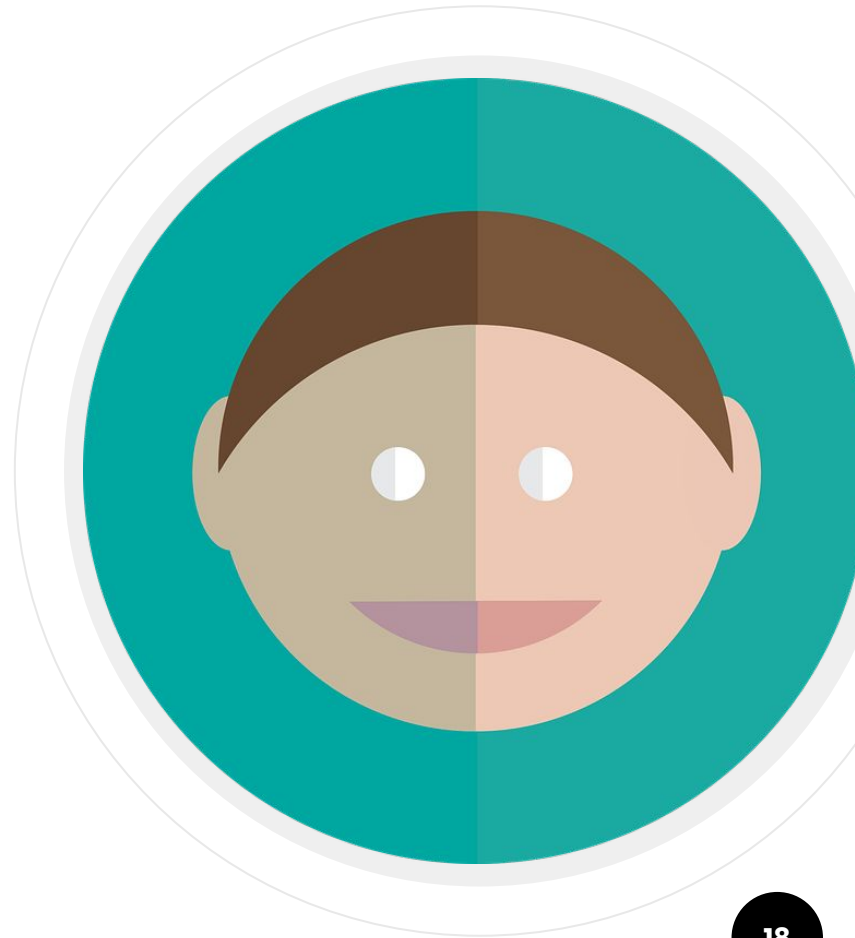
Meet Andre

Coding Assistant and an experienced software developer

Enjoys working on concrete problems

Employed by the Library, but now offering coding consultations at faculties

He doesn't like to be photographed

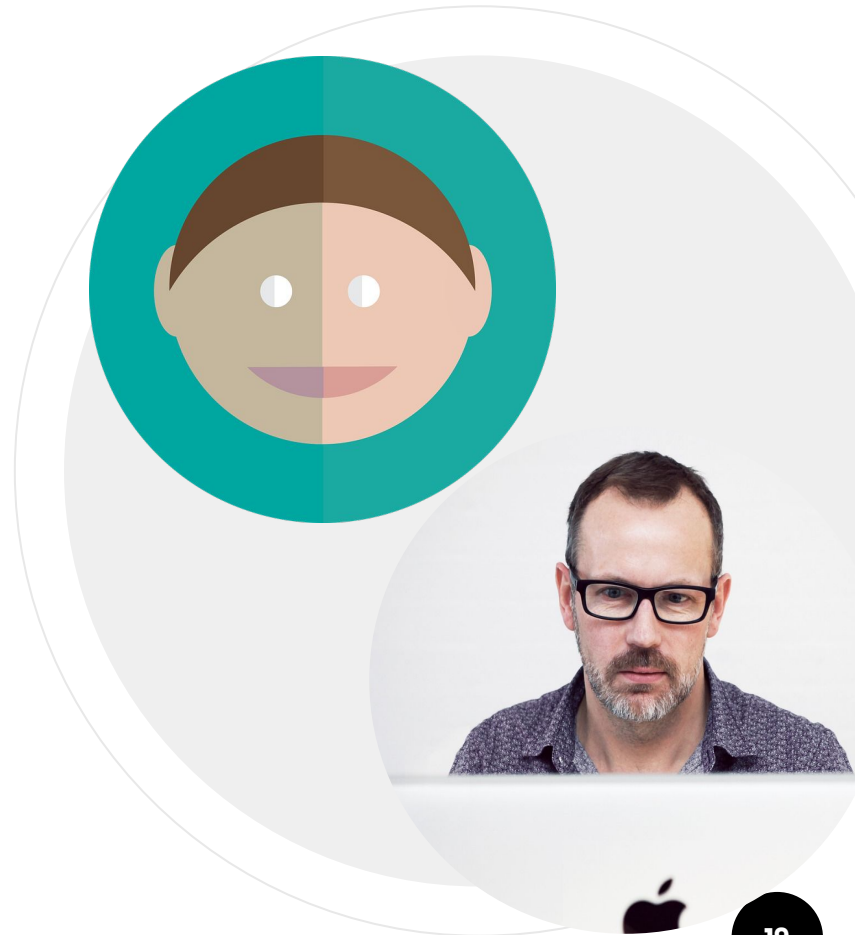


Andre regularly helps Dirk with small coding issues

Andre is there to help when Dirk gets stuck with his code

Andre knows C++ well, which allows him to structure Dirk's software a little bit better

Andre also knows various tips and tricks which are handy with debugging and save Dirk a lot of time





4

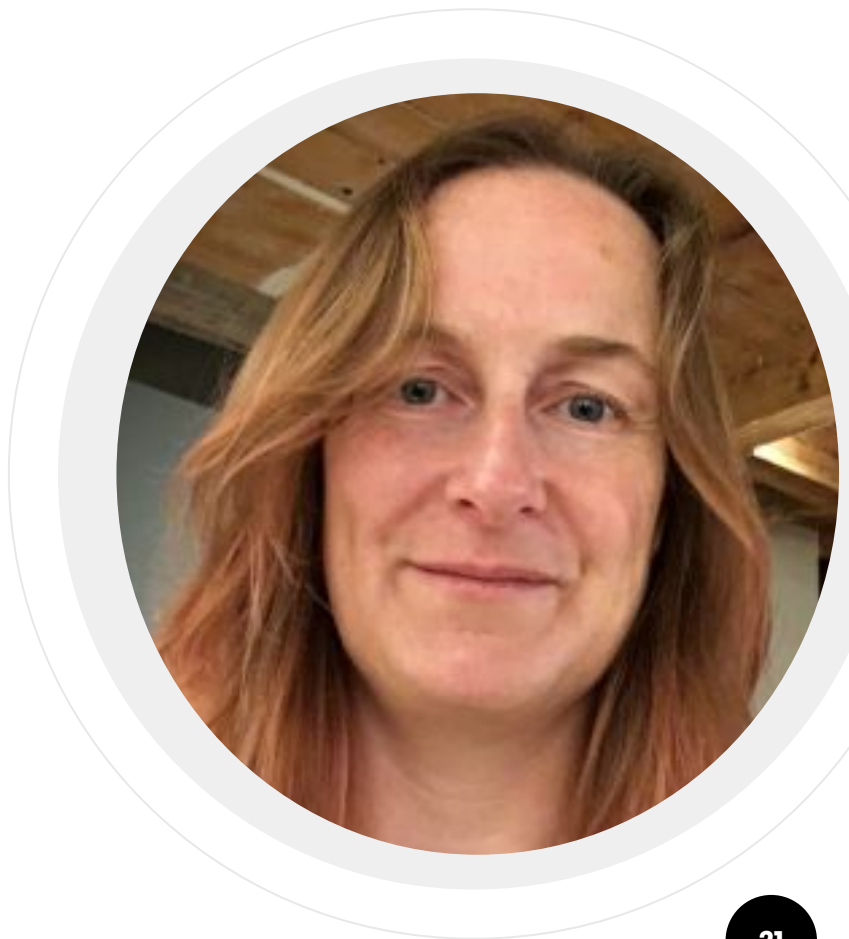
Data Champions

Meet Siân

PostDoc in Petroleum Engineering
and a Data Champion

She's been doing research in various
places all over the world and is tired
of poor data management practices

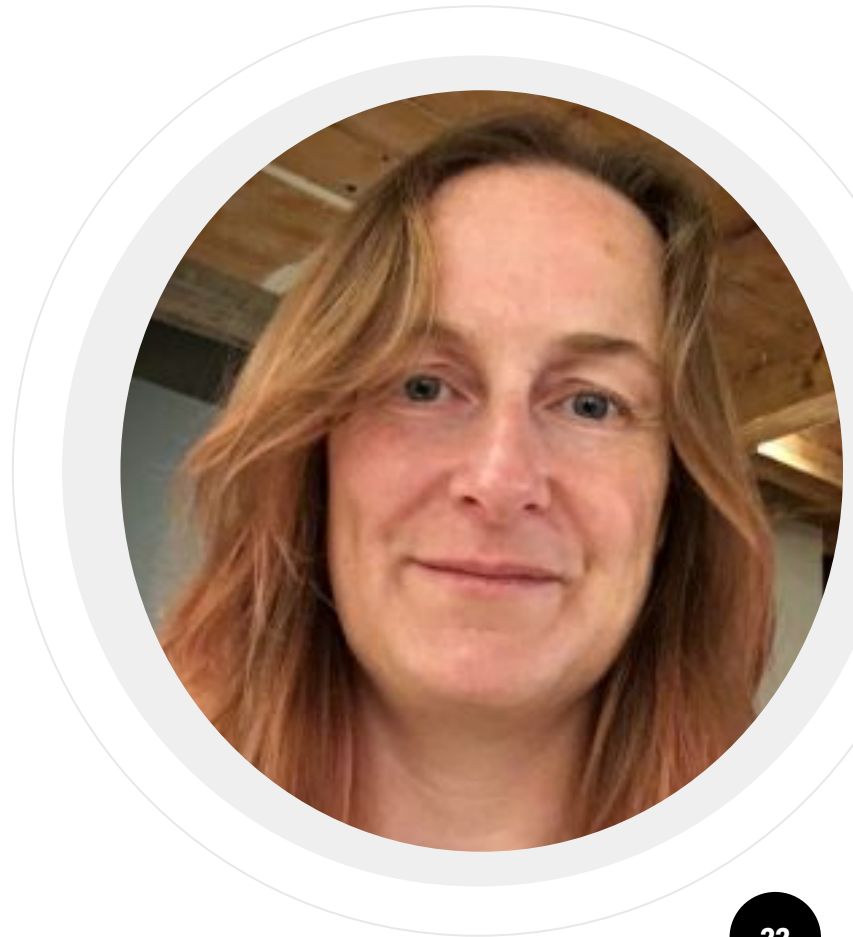
She wants to go paperless and is
piloting Electronic Lab Notebooks at
her department

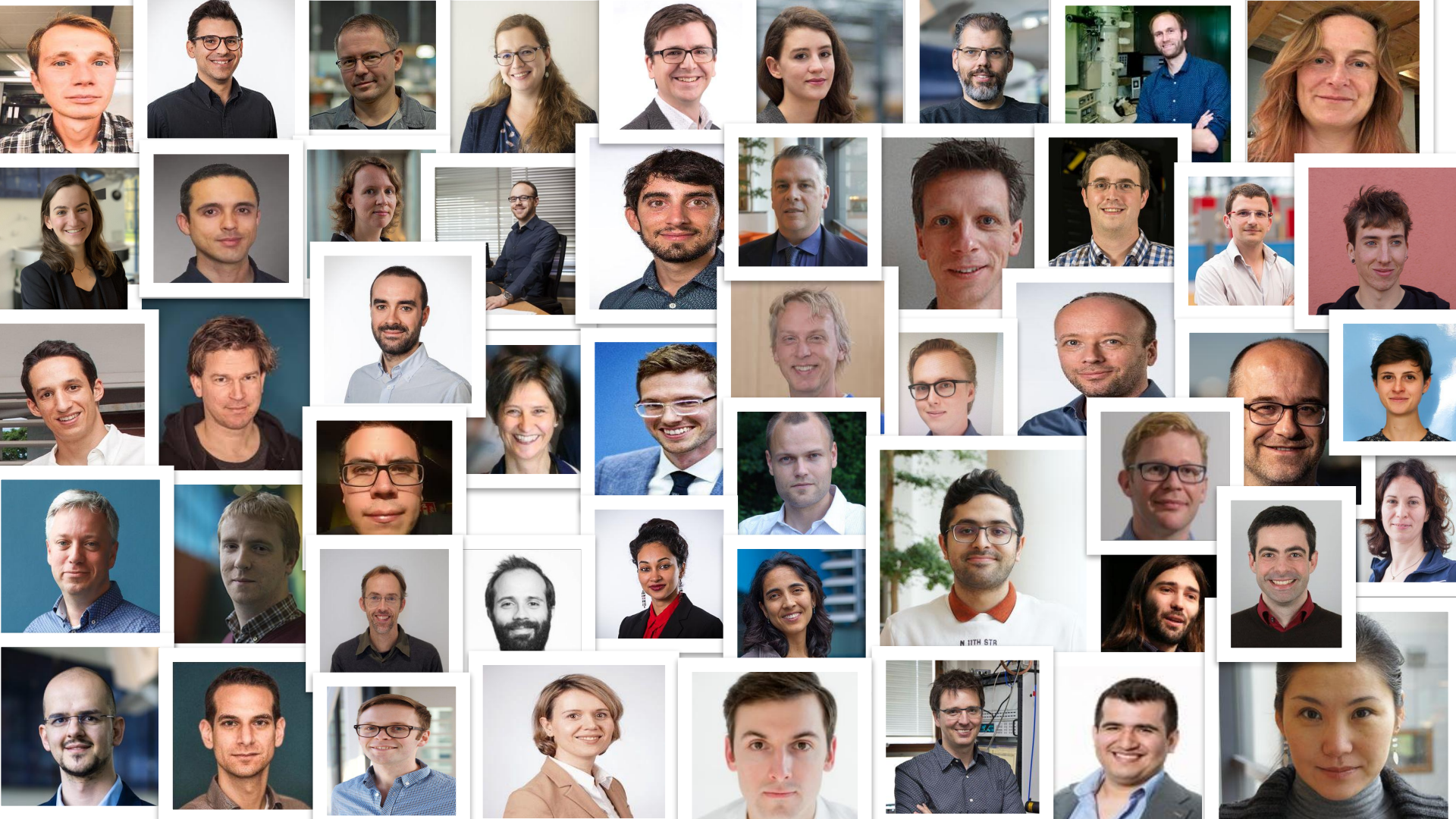


Meet Siân

She volunteers her free time to be part of researcher-led, bottom-up community of Data Champions

Data champions not only teach and support each other, but also inspire other researchers who haven't yet heard about Open Science or FAIR data





The image features a large white circle on a black background. Inside this circle, the text "People who believe in people" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the left of the main circle, there is a smaller, semi-transparent grey circle containing the number "5". To the right, there are several concentric white circles of varying sizes, some overlapping the main white circle.

5

**People
who
believe in
people**

Meet Alastair

Head of Research Data Services at TU Delft and Head of 4TU.Research Data

He has research background in the Humanities and he brings human-centric approach to Delft University of Technology

He has a big team to manage, but he always smiles

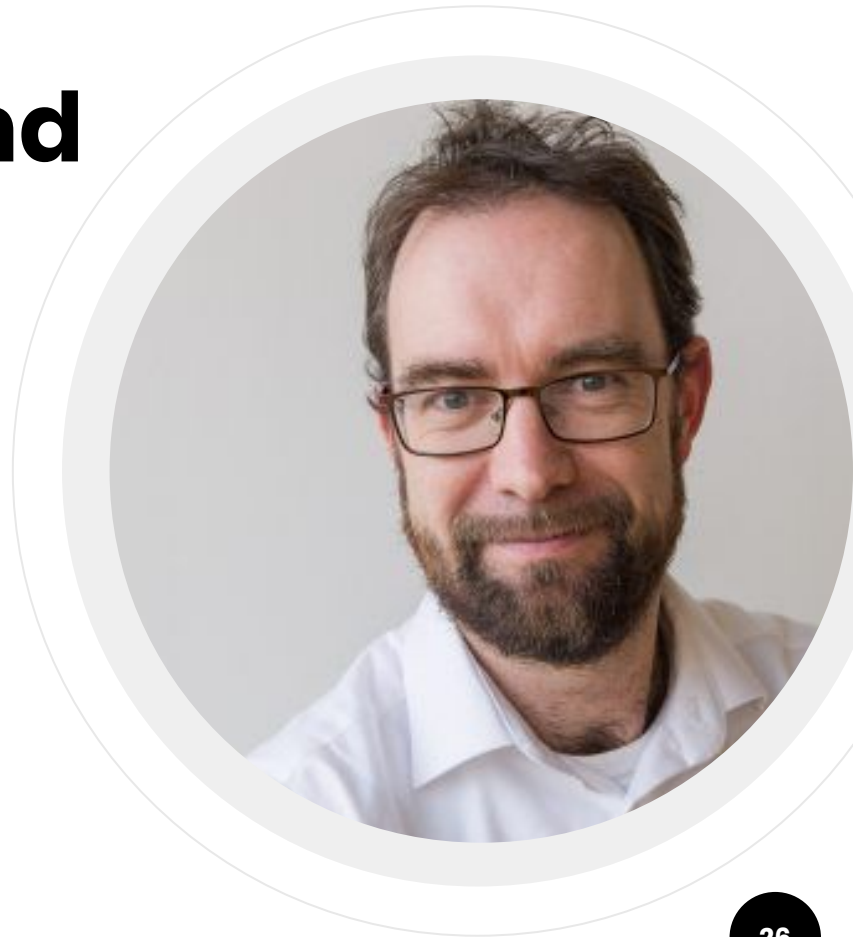


(Disclaimer: Alastair is my boss and he didn't see these slides)

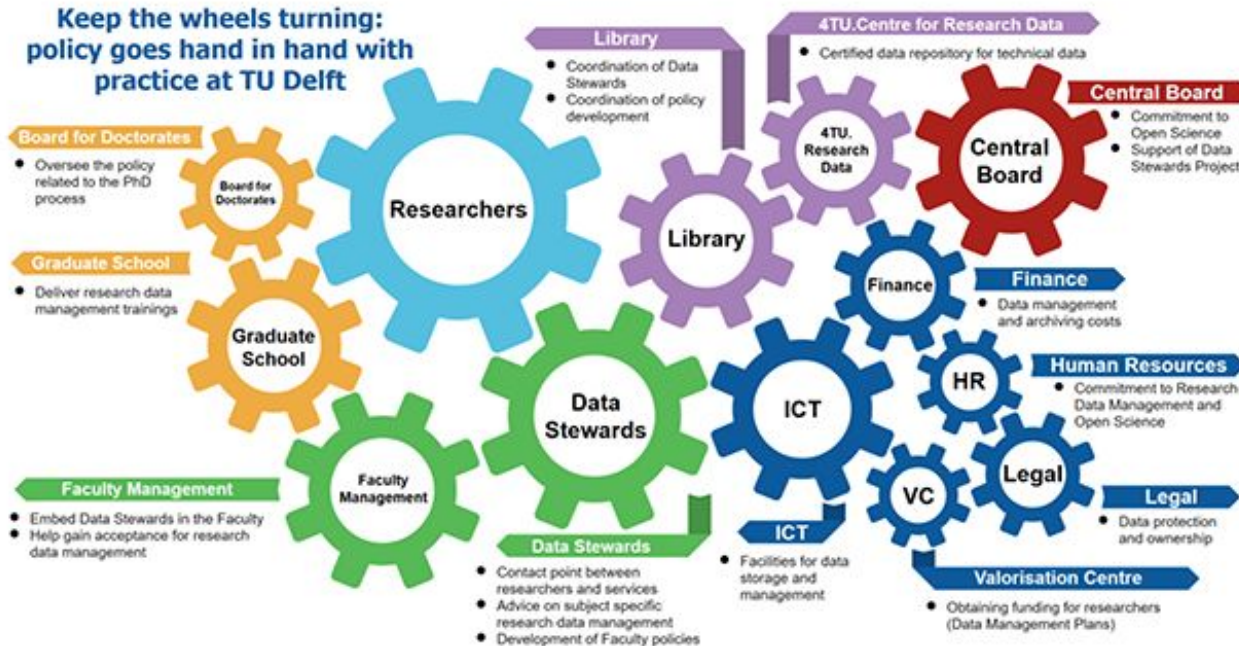
Alastair believes and invests in people

Alastair thinks that we should not focus too much on “do we have the right infrastructure” but on “do we have the right people?”

He trusts people, encourages them and appreciates them for their contributions



Alastair keeps the wheels turning



Summary - 5 key ingredients of research data support

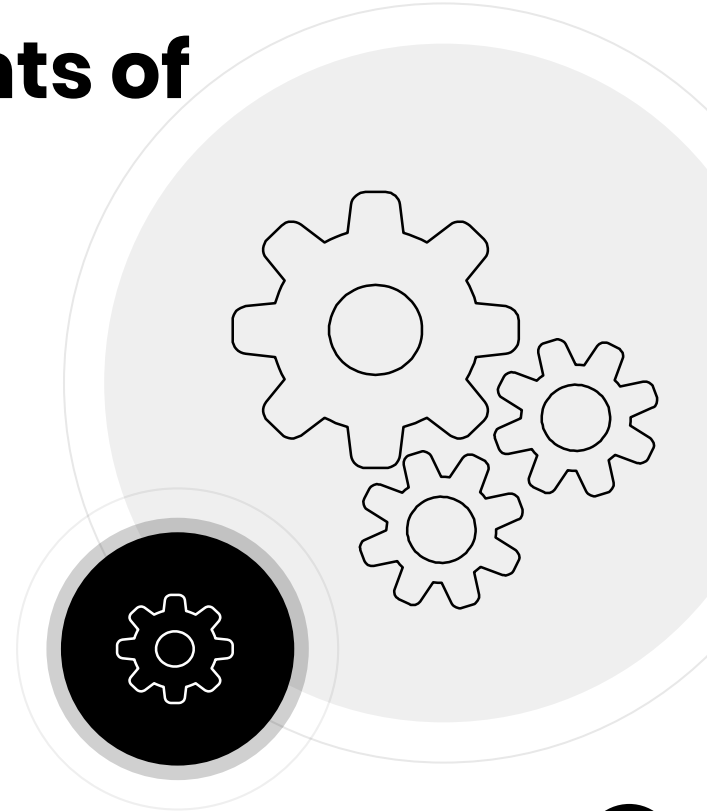
1. Data Stewards
(PEOPLE)

2. Data Managers
(PEOPLE)

3. Coding Assistants
(PEOPLE)

4. Data Champions
(PEOPLE)

5. PEOPLE who believe in PEOPLE
(and keep the wheels turning)





Read more

Cultural obstacles to
research data management
and sharing at TU Delft

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Thank you

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- Data Champions
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