

Session date: 10th of June 2021

Chair: Marjan Grootveld

Rapporteur: Lisa de Leeuw

Event Host: Sara Pittonet Gaiarin (Trust-IT), Marialetizia Mari (Trust-IT)

Draft report:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cayl5T9jRECRfHLP0UXWd4wbwqBaQxgxxA9kFMVYAj0/edit#>

All recommendations and action plan on pp. 59-75 in [Turning FAIR into Reality](#)

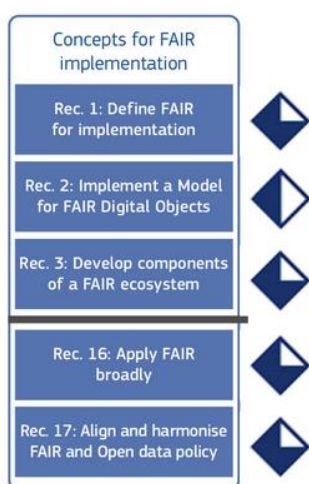
Meeting Attendance:

	Name	Organisation and project
1	Vinciane Gaillard	EUA, FsF
2	Elizabeth Newbold	UKRI/STFC, FAIRsFAIR
3	Richard Dennis	Royal Danish Library / Copenhagen University Library
4	Abigail McBirnie	UKRI/STFC- ExPaNDS
5	Sandro Fiore	Univ. of Trento, FAIRsFAIR Champion
6	Gerard Coen	DANS, EOSC Synergy, FAIRsFAIR
7	Susanna-A Sansone	University of Oxford; FAIRsFAIR Eu FAIR Champion; EOSC-Life, FAIRplus, FAIRsharing
8	Mari Kleemola	FSD/TAU, EOSC-Nordic, SSHOC
9	Katrin Seemeyer	Forschungszentrum Juelich, ENVRI-FAIR
10	Ingrid Dillo	DANS, FAIRsFAIR
11	Simon Hodson	CODATA
12	Antti Pursula	EUDAT
13	Erzsébet Tóth-Czifra	DARIAH-EU/SSHOC (only for the first part)
14	Barbara Magagna	Environment Agency Austria, ENVRI-FAIR
15	Olivier Rouchon	CINES, EOSC-pillar
16	Josefine Nordling	CSC, FAIRsFAIR
17	Angus Whyte	DCC, FAIRsFAIR
18	Hugh Shanahan	RHUL, FAIRsFAIR
19	Andreas Gavrielides	NI4OS-Europe, The Cyprus Institute
20	Mustapha Mokrane	DANS/FAIRsFAIR
21	Ornela De Giacomo	CERIC-ERIC/PaNOsC

22	Isabel Bernal	CSIC, EOSC SYNERGY
23	Sara Pittonet Gaiarin	Trust-IT, FAIRsFAIR
24	Marialetizia Mari	Trust-IT, FAIRsFAIR
25	Marjan Grootveld	DANS, FAIRsFAIR
26	Lisa de Leeuw	DANS, FAIRsFAIR

Joint Meeting Notes June 10, 2021

Menti meter: menti.com code = 5183 816



Pillar 1: Concepts for FAIR implementation

Turning FAIR into Reality Pillar 1: Concepts for FAIR implementation defines how the FAIR principles apply in the context of research communities - based on the data types, the nature of research and the level of existing support for data sharing. It also identifies points where the FAIR principles need to be supported with additional concepts and policies to be further expanded and unpacked.

The recommendations address the concept of “Defining” with a two-fold focus:

- **FAIR Digital Objects** - Defining what is needed for digital objects to be made FAIR.
- **FAIR Ecosystem** - Defining which components are needed in the FAIR ecosystem.

Elizabeth: waiver - are you are just listing what is going on? It depends on how far the implementation is quality. -> We are just listing what is going on, not the quality of implementation.

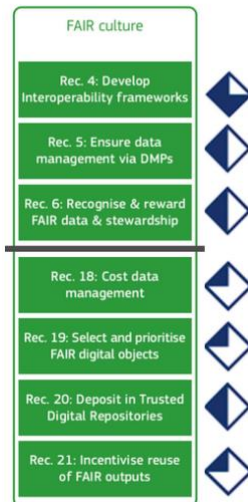
Chat:

- + 1 Elizabeth: having declared that work is happening or the concept has been adopted is not equal to being implement and being in action
- +1
- But remember the heading is CONCEPTS for FAIR implementation
- +1, I had the same thoughts on this point
- Turning FAIR into Reality Pillar 1: Concepts for FAIR implementation defines how the FAIR principles apply in the context of research communities - based on the data types, the nature of research and the level of existing support for data sharing. It also identifies points where the FAIR principles need to be supported with additional concepts and policies to be further expanded and unpacked.
- Ingrid's point is valid, but Rec. 3 does apply to key components which could be implemented (e.g. the FDO)
- I agree, the extent of activity does not necessarily indicate extent of 'progress'
- So I think the indicators give a relatively accurate level of the level of activity, but not necessarily the progress on Rec. 3

An indication of the level of activity in response to the recommendation. The indicator does not necessarily give an impression of the challenges encountered.

It is good that there is represented what is going on, but we need to keep the pressure on!

Pillar 2: FAIR culture

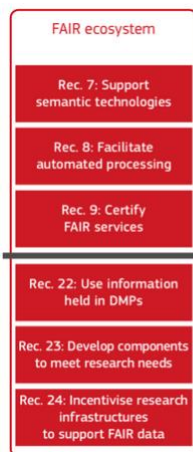


Turning FAIR into Reality Pillar 2: Creating a culture of FAIR data defines how FAIR attitudes and workflows can be improved - by means of interoperability, data management planning, and better recognition for FAIR practice. This also relates to selecting which data to deposit in Trustworthy Digital Repositories, costing data management, and encouraging that FAIR data are actually reused.

chat:

- Culture is hard to measure
- Oh yes...
- +1
- The diamonds provide an indication of the level of activity: many activities, some activities, not many activities
- The diamonds refer to level of activity, not necessarily progress as such. But it is hard to abstract this from a sense of the progress being made.
- An this is like the concept adoption: n of activities is not equal to progresses or changes
- +1 Hugh
- Very often there is a difference probably between the level of activity and the level of actual progress in relation to the goal.
- +1 Hugh, I voted 'accurate' in general, but also noticed this one would be too positive
- Maybe you can consider a colour coding for the progress
- Rose coloured glasses?
- is this debate about progress and activity something to comment on in the white paper?
- I would say it is mostly an accurate representation of 'activity to address the recommendations' but I do think it is misleading to refer to it as progress towards the recommendations being met.
- *1
- thanks Angus, for clarifying your view - and I very much agree

Hugh: about rewards, the feeling is that not so much was done so I would tend to give a lower score. **Simon:** The diamonds refer to level of activity, not necessarily progress as such. But it is hard to abstract this from a sense of the progress being made. So there is a gap, but what's important is to mark the progress there, too. **Angus:** I would say it is mostly an accurate representation of 'activity to address the recommendations' but I do think it is misleading to refer to it as progress towards the recommendations being met.



Pillar 3: FAIR ecosystem

Turning FAIR into Reality Pillar 3: Creating a technical ecosystem for FAIR data centers around FAIR Data Objects. It addresses semantic technologies and automated processing, as well certification of FAIR services and incentives for research infrastructures. Ecosystem components should meet research needs and information in DMPs should be used.

Chat:

- Rec. 4 is the keystone to the whole enterprise - although there is a good level of activity we might be cautious about how much progress we are making so far.
- + 1 on Elizabeth's suggestion for the white paper
- Gerry: I said too positive. I don't think either the activity towards or level of completion for Rec #9 should be so high.
- Ingrid: I had the same thought about 9 Gerry!
- Simon - Gerry, Ingrid: it seemed to me from the session and notes that there was a lot of activity, but as Marjan says, we reduced the score this year.
- Gerry - Also regarding Rec #7 support semantic technologies - I agree that a lot of work is being done but this is a huge challenge. We are at the tip of that iceberg I think.
- Ingrid - I think again it is the difference between activities and progress towards implementation
- +1 Ingrid and that is why it is difficult to vote
- +1 Ingrid
- Good point that we need to check if possible Abigail!
- Simon: @Gerard - I agree completely with the substance of what you say, we are indeed only at the tip of the iceberg. But measuring the progress would be a far larger, more challenging undertaking so we are trying to indicate the level of activity and whether that is appropriate. Should we add in the report a statement for each recommendation that balances our indicator of the level of activity with an impression of the amount of progress / remaining work to be done?
- Gerry: Hi Simon, yes. I think a good caveat and lens for considering this might be to consider the activity levels in the context of the EOSC implementation phases. We are now moving from phase 1 to phase 2.
- Angus: @Simon maybe a conclusion to draw from the lack of clarity about how activity relates to progress is that maturity frameworks are necessary?
- Mustapha: @Simon: The problem is that for Rec 13 the repositories are well covered but not really the other "services"
- Gerry: +1 Simon. There is more complexity to FAIR Digital Objects because how to enable this concept is not commonly agreed so it remains abstract while Services are something that many actors can get to grips with more easily due to familiarity.
- Simon: @MM yes, I think you're right. I would still feel cautious about the indication of the level of activity for Rec. 12
- Simon Hodson: Rec. 14 and 15 are challenging. All we can indicate here is the level of activity to produce outputs that we hope will influence funders, as well as projects thinking about their own sustainability / that of their services.
- Mustapha Mokrane: @Simon I agree but still we need to be careful with the messaging here
- Ingrid Dillo: @Simon: agree, we should mention this point explicitly in the report I think

- Isabel Bernal:
- EC is absolutely pumping quite significant funding however the situation may not be this rosy concerning national funders
- Mustapha Mokrane: @Isabel I fully agree. It is at the national level that I am worried.
- Isabel Bernal: right
- Susanna-A Sansone: Rec 14: I have just noticed that is specific on funds 'coordination' - any reason?
- Ingrid Dillo: EC funding is not structural
- Isabel Bernal: so maybe the focus in this range of recommendations should address national funders mostly

Barbara: hard to say if it is correct as I'm not sure what is going on in my entire community.

Simon: This column has been lowered as a whole. There is a lot of activity, but we where to optimistic last time. The automated processing of data is not as far as it should / could be.

Abigail: not all the information is in the report. I think it is too negative as I think a lot is going on, but not all projects reacted.

Karsten: too negative score, a lot is being done in his area.



Pillar 4: Skills for FAIR

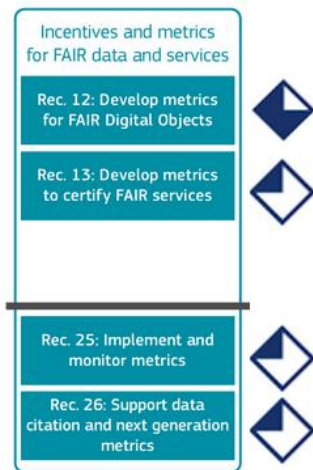
Turning FAIR into Reality Pillar 4: Skills and capacity building identifies the need for professionalising roles and curricula in data science and data stewardship.

Chat:

- +1 for Hugh
- Hugh: Fair point Elizabeth.
- +1 Hugh and Elizabeth
- Ingrid: Would stick to our chosen method for the workshops reports in order to also keep them comparable. But I do think that this is something we should address in the white paper, that will synthesise the whole activity and all reports and lok forward.

Hugh: half diamond is about right for the rec 11. Rec 10 there has been an initial activity in the beginning, but is has slowed/ stopped now. So should be half a diamond.

Elizabeth: Rec 10. There is a lot of activity on training, which should also be taken into account. But make it half a diamond should be ok.



Pillar 5: Incentives and metrics for FAIR data and services

Pillar 5: Incentives and metrics for FAIR data and services identifies the need to develop metrics to certify FAIR objects and services and their implementation.

Chat:

-

Karsten: too negative. Rec 25 and 26 there is activity going on, but the progress is slow.

Simon: I'm torn. There activity for FAIR services than for digital objects. The digital object are a good concept but are under specified. Rec 13 more. Rec 12 less. We should have a look at the notes.

Susanna: Will the diamonds be changes according to this meeting? How will you process the input from this meeting? Cross check the outcome with the report of the sessions.

Marjan: not yet decided how to process the comments. Will be decided by the report writers.

Abigal: activities in this pillar need to start after other activities have been done. It depends on where you are in the process. Not all 'project' are in the same place in the process, which could explain the lower score.



Pillar 6: Investment in FAIR

The recommendations under Pillar 6: Investment in FAIR, of the Turning FAIR into Reality report, primarily concern funders as the key actors in relation to investment. Nevertheless, other organisations have a role in contributing to the coordinated and strategic approach to sustain a FAIR ecosystem. In relation to this pillar, the questions for the projects consulted in the FAIRsFAIR Synchronisation Force workshops are:

- How are they contributing to a view of coordination and strategic funding?
- What are they saying that contributes to a view of the strategically important parts of the FAIR ecosystem and how funding can be coordinated to meet these objectives?

Chat:

Simon Hodson: Rec. 14 and 15 are challenging. All we can indicate here is the level of activity to produce outputs that we hope will influence funders, as well as projects thinking about their own sustainability / that of their services.

Mustapha Mokrane: @Simon I agree but still we need to be careful with the messaging here

Ingrid Dillo: @Simon: agree, we should mention this point explicitly in the report I think
 Isabel Bernal: EC is absolutely pumping quite significant funding however the situation may not be this rosy concerning national funders

Mustapha Mokrane: @Isabel I fully agree. It is at the national level that I am worried.
 Isabel Bernal to Everyone (10:59 AM)
 right

Susanna-A Sansone: Rec 14: I have just noticed that is specific on funds 'coordination' - any reason?

Ingrid Dillo: EC funding is not structural

Isabel Bernal: so maybe the focus in this range of recommendations should address national funders mostly

Mari Kleemola: As a note, high level of activities is not always good or beneficial, especially if there is no coordination and if activities are diverging instead of converging (of course one size does not fit all).

Mustapha: too positive. The activities on sustainability are being seen from the project side not the funders side. Long Term preservation is well addressed but there are much more topics that need to be taken into consideration.

Simon: +1 for Mustapha but this pillar was the most challenging to do. It's not in the gift of the projects to monitor this. It is more to see how the projects are making it possible for the funders to make sustainability possible.

For questions 7 and 8 see input in the Mentimeter.

Hugh: Would like to think more about the professionalisations platform. Likes the CoreTrustSeal approach to raise the level of compliance gradually.

Chat reactions:

- **Isabel Bernal :** the comment about professionalization is a very Good one. all this FAIR ongoing discussion makes clear that this whole process requires specific professional profiles at different levels

- **Ingrid Dillo:** @Hugh: a vital element there is the building of community consensus and that is always a long path
- **Hugh:** +1 Ingrid

Question 9:

Chat:

- **Susanna:** Missing is: Share Synchronisation Force lessons learnt with EOSC clusters and projects. Many are already applied to FAIR-related infra projects, so this is very timely.
- **Sara Pittonet:** Nice @Susanna
- **Isobal Bernal:** I would like to see involvement of repository softwares and other services developers in this whole conversation as a significant number of recommendations depend on technical developments/harmonization that is not yet here. We need standards not local developments to make sure that all things FAIR are complied with
- **McBirnie, Abigail:** Apologies all, I need to leave to present at another event. Thank you for such an interesting discussion and also to you Marjan for great chairing (as always)! Look forward to reading the final report.
- **Simon Hodson:** @Isabel agree, and I would add organisations that curate metadata specifications and vocabularies. A larger EOSC-wide Synchronisation Activity could do that and start trying to assess the level of progress, not just the level of activity.
- **Sara Pittonet:** For the same reason we should also try and extend this beyond the current Cluster and 5b projects, involving for instance the EOSC thematic clouds
- **Hugh Shanahan:** Isabel - one thing I've noticed is that while HEIs across Europe are employing people who are effectively Data Stewards they are not using that title. It's not clear to me why that is happening (basic ignorance is always a base assumption) but as a result this means that they don't have an obvious voice.
- **Isabel Bernal:** +1 simon
- **Isabel Bernal:** I agree, Hugh...getting into the FAIR universo may be frightening:-)

Hugh: continue in the next initiative. That would be the right level for people to meet. Make an assessment of needs being met, not just tracking activity.

Elizabeth: How do the projects and EOSC work together / are synchronised? The wider approach being taken now is good and appreciated.

End of the presentation:

Comments are welcome until end of next week.

Chat:

- **Isabel Bernal:** @marjan, until when we can contribute to the report? I started yesterday but then got distracted with other things
- **Gerard Coen:** @Hugh, there are also some jobs for 'data stewards' being published but which end up being very much related to privacy and data protection which is a bit left of centre in my opinion.
- **Katrin Seemeyer:** when will the slides be available?
- **Isabel Bernal:** please give us a few more days..until next week..?
- **Sara Pittonet:** Slides can be available immediately after this call, we'll publish them here <https://fairsfair.eu/advisory-board/synchronisation-force> and on the event page
- **Hugh Shanahan:** +1 Gerry
- **Isabel Bernal:** THANK YOU!!!
- **Katrin Seemeyer:** Thank you!
- **Hugh Shanahan:** Seconded!!