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M7.4 - ORGANISATION OF THREE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

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Introduction

In the context of the FAIRsFAIR task “Synergies with FAIR educators” activity, of the Work Package “FAIR Data Science and Professionalisation”, a series of three stakeholders workshops was organised targeting research support staff supporting Open and FAIR science training activities. The workshops were organised with stakeholder organisations developing and offering Open Science and FAIR data education/training and European projects and initiatives active in promoting FAIR to exploit potential synergies with them.

The main goal was to organise workshops within events addressing European or international Research Data Management, FAIR data and Open Science, to share the main results from the Work Package activities and mainly to collect feedback from the participants about distinct topics, such as the role of academic and research libraries on the integration of FAIR data science competencies in higher education curricula; impact and experiences from national policies and support actions for research data skills; and lessons learned from FAIR data implementation, namely good practices from universities across Europe.

Summary of the three workshops

Workshop	Number of participants	Event article
Integrating FAIR Data Science Competencies in Higher Education Curricula: the Role of Academic and Research Libraries	56	www.fairsfair.eu/articles-publications/integrating-fair-data-science-competences-higher-education-curricula-role
National policy and support actions for research data skills - impact and experiences	75	www.fairsfair.eu/articles-publications/national-policy-and-support-actions-research-data-skills-impact-and
Learning lessons from FAIR data implementation. Good practices from universities across Europe	93	www.fairsfair.eu/articles-publications/learning-lessons-fair-data-implementation-good-practices-universities-across



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Workshop1: Integrating FAIR Data Science Competencies in Higher Education Curricula: the Role of Academic and Research Libraries

Organised by EUA, the University of Minho, the University of Göttingen and the University of Amsterdam, with the support of the Liber Digital Skills for Library Staff & Researchers Working Group. Hosted during LIBER 2020 Annual Conference on 23 June 2020 in an online setting.

As part of LIBER 2020 Online, EUA, the University of Minho, the University of Göttingen, the University of Amsterdam and the LIBER Digital Skills for Library Staff & Researchers Working Group jointly organised a workshop which aimed to identify and discuss possible approaches in terms of the integration of the FAIR principles into the curricula of higher education institutions (HEI) – and the role of libraries in this regard.

The workshop started with a brief overview of the findings of FAIRsFAIR landscaping activities on the current state of the art in this field followed by the presentation of four use cases of FAIR data education and training initiatives in HEIs and a discussion session.

The workshop then proceeded to a discussion session based on information gathered from the audience via mentimeter. Questions focussed on three topic areas:

- the role of research and academic libraries in supporting FAIR data education and training,
- common gaps and challenges for developing an action plan for FAIR data competences in higher education curricula,
- the key elements of an institutional strategy towards the integration of FAIR data competences in curricula.

Workshop programme

- **Welcome and introduction to the objectives of the workshop**
 - Pedro Principe, University of Minho
- **FAIR in European Higher Education: A summary of the FAIRsFAIR survey and focus group results.**
 - Lennart Stoy, EUA



- **Use cases on FAIR data education and training initiatives in HEIs: Use cases presented by the LIBER Digital Skills for Library Staff & Researchers Working Group.**
 - Cécile Swiatek, Co-Chair LIBER WG on Digital Skills for Library Staff and Researchers
 - Romain Féret, Couperin.org (France)
 - Mathilde Panes and Eliane Blumer, EPFL Library, Lausanne (Switzerland)
 - Natalia Guenpeter, Open Science Platform (Poland)
 - Päivi Kanerva, University Turku Library (Finland)
- **Plenary discussion on FAIR data education and training initiatives in HEI, exploring the following elements:**
 - Key elements of an institutional strategy towards the integration of FAIR Data competences in curricula.
 - Common gaps and challenges for developing an action plan for FAIR Data competences in higher education curricula.
 - Main elements of the role of researchers and academic libraries on supporting FAIR data education and training.
- **Wrap-up and take home messages**

Workshop participants

The workshop was attended by 56 participants.

Workshop supporting documents

- A blog post sharing the result of the workshop was published online: <https://www.fairsfair.eu/articles-publications/integrating-fair-data-science-competences-higher-education-curricula-role>
- The blog post is based on the event notes available internally at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I9ldPfoSBvp2mW8NdtmKBUIUCyZODEaduH193aeIM8/edit>
- The recording of the workshop was published online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyCgY24NN1Y>
- Presentations used during the workshop and results from the Mentimeter questions were published online on Zenodo: <https://zenodo.org/record/3929098#.YV271ppBw2w>



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Workshop 2: National policy and support actions for research data skills - impact and experiences

Organised by FAIRsFAIR and OpenAIRE on 28 April 2021 in an online setting.

FAIRsFAIR and OpenAIRE organised a joint workshop to discuss the role of national-level initiatives to advance skills development for research data management.

At the European level, the emerging European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) provides impetus for skills development. However, the recent report of the EOSC Working Group on Skills & Training finds that national skills policy is usually fragmented or underdeveloped when concerning skills for research data and data-intensive research. The workshop aims to take stock of different national initiatives and discuss good practices, impact and ways to bring forward such initiatives.

The workshop brought together representatives from different national platforms, projects and organisations active in skills development and policy for Research Data Management (RDM) and FAIR data. It provided an opportunity to inform and debate how national-level initiatives contribute to the awareness and practical solutions for skills development. Participants of the event were also invited to discuss the role and responsibility of individual organisations, such as universities, and national initiatives in aligning and expanding education and training for RDM.

Workshop programme

- **Welcome and introduction by FAIRsFAIR and OpenAIRE**
 - Pedro Principe, University of Minho/OpenAIRE AMKE
 - Bregt Saenen, FAIRsFAIR/European University Association (EUA)
- **National-level initiatives supporting RDM & FAIR data skills development**
 - France: Bénédicte Kuntziger (CCSD, CNRS) on behalf of Gwenn Dossmann (Openedition), Laurence Crohem (Université de Lille), André Dazy (Couperin)
 - Greece: Elli Papadopoulou, Athena Research Center
 - Ireland: Ciara McCaffrey, Skills & Competencies Working Group, National Open Research Forum
- **University use cases and experiences on developing RDM & FAIR data skills**
 - Aude Bax de Keating, swissuniversities
 - Patrick Helling, University of Cologne, Germany
 - Moderator: Bregt Saenen, FAIRsFAIR and EUA



- **National Open Science policies for skills in the Digital skills for FAIR and Open Science: Report from the EOSC Executive Board Skills and Training Working Group**
 - Natalia Manola/Iryna Kuchma, OpenAIRE AMKE
- **Breakout discussion**
- **Closing**

Workshop participants

The workshop was attended by 75 participants.

Workshop supporting documents

- A blog post on the workshop was published online:
<https://www.fairsfair.eu/articles-publications/national-policy-and-support-actions-research-data-skills-impact-and>.
- The blog post is based on the event notes available internally at:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ci4QdEO2PrNzqEeM_tUkCriU-haoaHoM820Xw6u76Uw/edit.
- The recording of the workshop and presentations were published online:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh0VuF-iyW0>.

Workshop 3: Learning lessons from FAIR data implementation. Good practices from universities across Europe

Organised by FAIRsFAIR's WP7 partners with contributions from WP3 and WP6. Hosted during the Open Science Fair 2021 on 20 September 2021 in an online setting.

FAIRsFAIR partners organised the workshop "[Learning lessons from FAIR data implementation. Good practices from universities across Europe](#)" on 20 September 2021 from 16:30 to 18:00 CEST, in the context of the Open Science Fair 2021.

The workshop discussed with participants the analysis of good practices of universities across Europe that are being gathered by the FAIRsFAIR project. Preliminary results from this ongoing



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study were presented, highlighting the drivers, impact and implementation steps behind initiatives taken by institutions to integrate RDM and FAIR data skills in university curricula. The shift towards hybrid models of teaching was also addressed in the analysis, showing how the COVID-19 pandemic created not only challenges but also surprising opportunities for the implementation of Open Science practices in universities.

Findings included information on legal, organisational and cultural differences between regional and national systems in Europe, which allowed to contextualise university initiatives. Comments and feedback from participants beyond Europe were also welcomed to further improve the cross-border exchange of good practices.

The workshop targeted RDM and FAIR data teachers, trainers and practitioners, as well as European and national policy makers. Participants were invited to reflect on their own institutional experiences in an engaging and interactive way, through breakout rooms and a digital workspace set in Mural.

Workshop programme

- **Welcome and introduction of the FAIRsFAIR project**
 - Bregt Saenen, FAIRsFAIR and European University Association
- **Learning lessons from FAIR data implementations: first findings from the report “Good practices in FAIR competence education”**
 - Federica Garbuglia, FAIRsFAIR and European University Association
- **FAIRsFAIR Data Steward instructor training series: our approach and some observations**
 - Elizabeth Newbold, FAIRsFAIR and Science and Technology Facilities Council
- **Assessing capabilities for data stewardship provision**
 - Angus Whyte, FAIRsFAIR and University of Edinburgh
- **Supporting the implementation of FAIR data skills in university teaching**
 - 3 breakout rooms on sharing best practices for universities
- **Wrap up**

Workshop participants

The workshop was attended by 93 participants.



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Workshop supporting documents

- A blog post on the workshop was published online:
<https://www.fairsfair.eu/articles-publications/learning-lessons-fair-data-implementation-good-practices-universities-across>
- The recording of the workshop is available on the Open Science Fair Youtube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_EcIUeLwMs.
- Presentations were published online on Zenodo:
 - Welcome and introduction, [here](#).
 - Learning lessons from FAIR data implementation: first findings from the report “Good practices in FAIR competence education”, [here](#).
 - FAIRsFAIR Data Steward instructor training series: our approach and some observations, [here](#).
 - Assessing capabilities for data stewardship provision, [here](#).

Main findings

The FAIRsFAIR Stakeholders Workshops series was an excellent opportunity to share the FAIRsFAIR efforts to contribute to the implementation of FAIR data good practices, jointly with the speakers who presented and shared their experiences and good practices as well the participants who also contributed with enrichful feedback during the breakout sessions.

Along this path, several contributions have been collected, as showcased in each workshop description, contributing to identify good practices and examples across Europe, namely on the role of the main stakeholders (such as the research library support staff), policies and support, and activities that are supporting the implementation of training initiatives on RDM and FAIR data, as well to implement good practices on the field. The good examples at institutional and national level on implementing FAIR data practices and supporting RDM skills in the European landscape, shows that the culture of FAIR data is already emerging, and may contribute to more higher education institutions following the same path.

Universities will play a key role, contributing to the implementation of good practices across Europe, in supporting the uptake of FAIR and RDM data skills and supporting the development of the new generation of data skilled professionals.

However, universities’ leaders are still perceived as not being engaged enough with matters related to FAIR data. This, together with the lack of dedicated staff, can hinder the capacity of



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higher education institutions to implement and sustain dedicated training initiatives and, ultimately, the emergence of good RDM and FAIR data practices.

In fact, one of the main challenges in the near future to implement a European FAIR data culture as modus operandi, will be the implementation of RDM and FAIR data skills in Higher Education curricula. It's expected to be one of the most relevant initiatives, as it will promote the training and acquisition of key skills to a wider audience.

As future recommendations, linking FAIR data needs to other priorities at an institutional and organisational level is seen as a good strategy to capture the attention of university leaders. Moreover, implementing institutional policies for Open Science and developing new infrastructures are crucial to sustain and enhance the impact of training activities in the long term. It's also key to continue the approach of engaging with key stakeholders to develop the necessary conditions and practical strategies to further develop FAIR data skills and competences at the institutional level.