

Learning from data stewards: strengthening knowledge exchange in social sciences and beyond

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ODISSEI

Open Data Infrastructure for Social Science and Economic Innovations



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A national infrastructure for Social Science

ODISSEI creates a federated data infrastructure for the social and economic sciences in the Netherlands, on behalf of more than 40 member organisations.

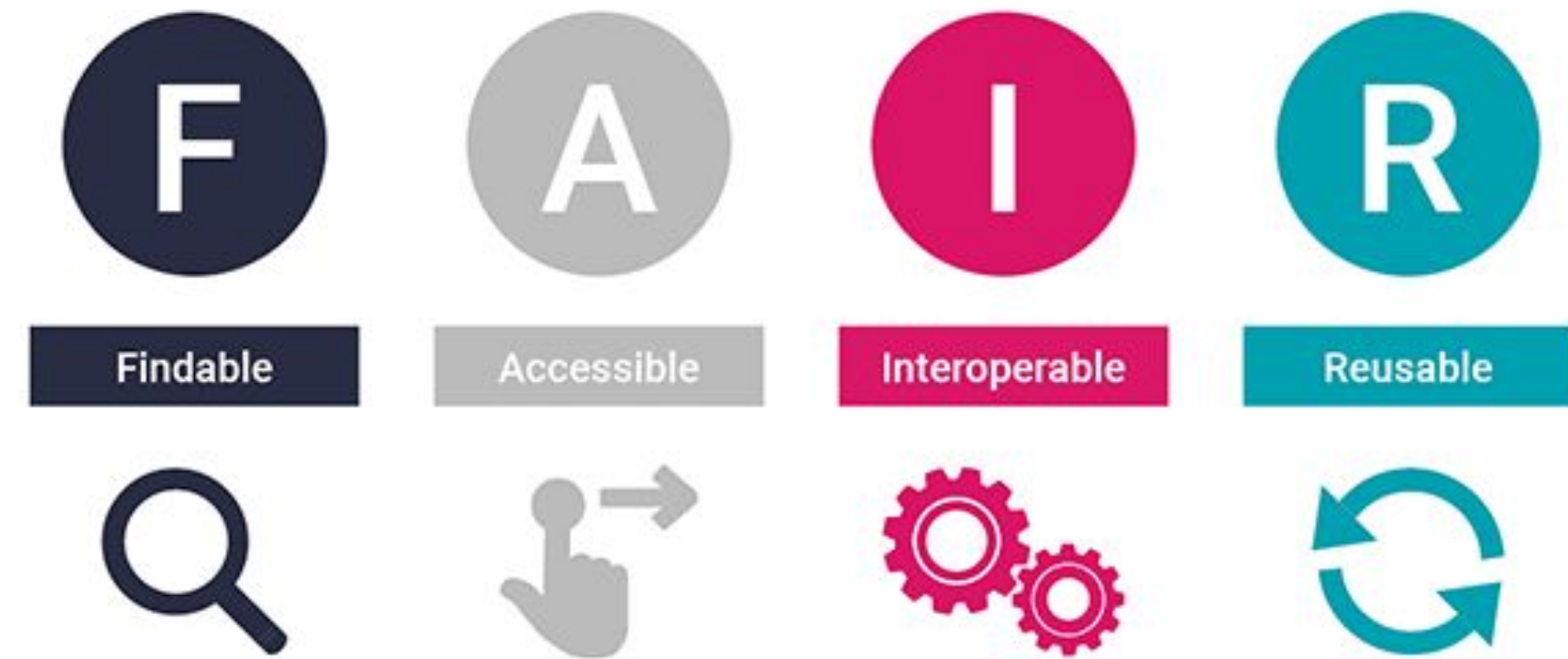
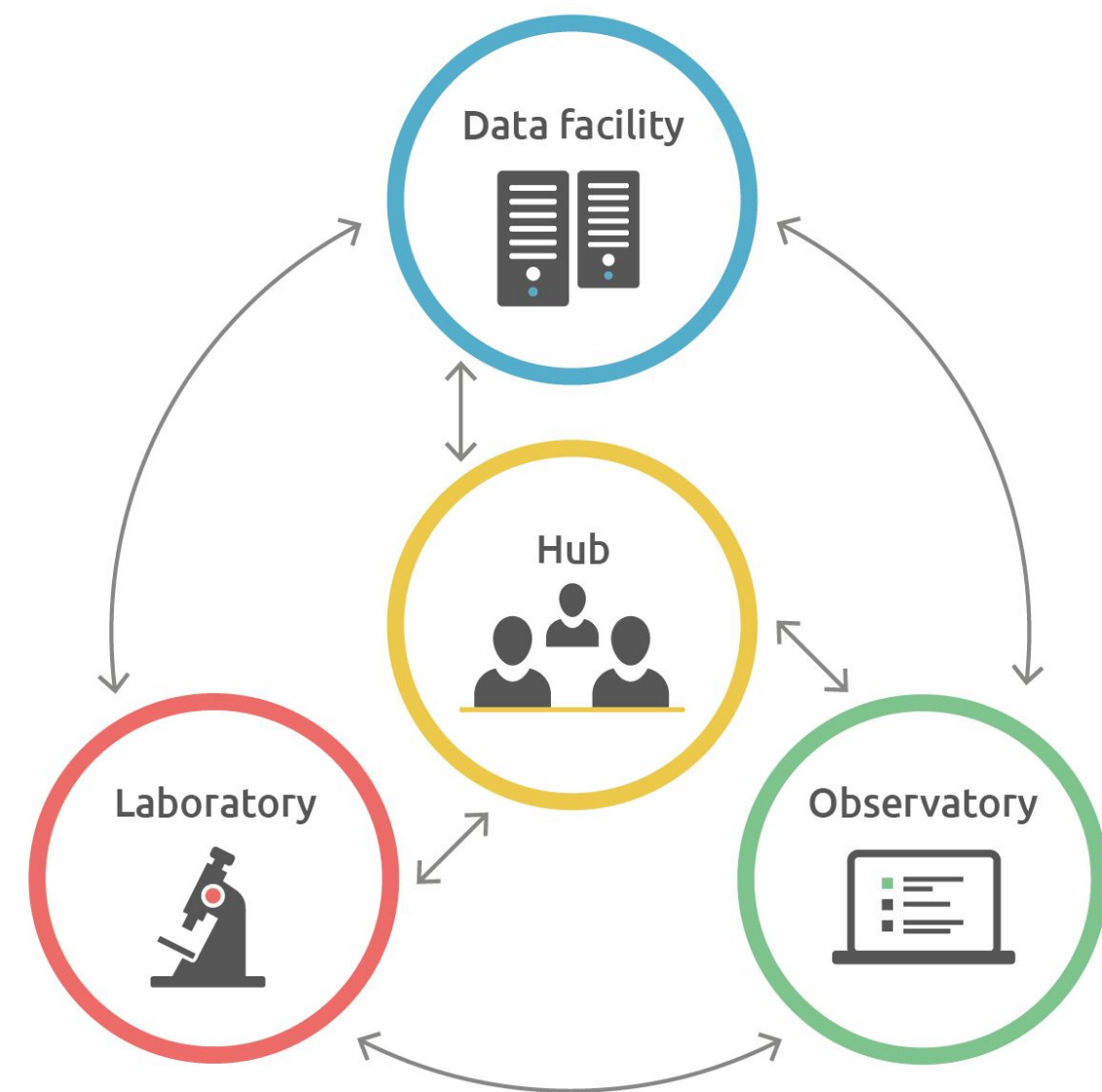


ODISSEI, DANS and TDCC

- Fall 2022 - thematic Digital Competence Centre (TDCC) for Social Science and Humanities will be hosted at DANS
- Goal of the TDCC: strengthen existing networks and knowledge exchange across the (sub)domains,
- in touch with the local Digital Competence Centers and the other two TDCCs
- SSH TDCC will be governed by a board consisting of ODISSEI (social sciences) and CLARIAH (humanities)



ODISSEI & FAIR



ODISSEI FAIR Support Desk

- (1) build [webpage](#) with best practice examples applied to social science

- (2) Tailored support
 - (a) Contact us at fairsupport@odissei-data.nl
 - (b) See also DANS's [Open Hour SSH](#): live Q&A on Monday mornings from 10 to 11 (CET)

- (3) Networking



Photo by [Marissa Grootes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

FAIR support for data supporters - Survey



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Assessing FAIR Data Support Needs (i)

AIMS :

- **learn more** about the established Research Data Management (RDM) and FAIR data practices
- **identify the challenges** in relation to RDM and FAIR

METHODS:

- survey
- 16 questions, open for three months



Assessing FAIR Data Support Needs (ii)

SURVEY RESULTS:

- 27 respondents (social sciences and economics, humanities, law)
- the implementation of the Open Science and FAIR principles is perceived as challenging → **need for practical guidance on how to 'do FAIR'**,
- difficulty and lack of consensus on how to anonymize data → **training and tailored support for RDM professionals**
- little awareness of RDM → **raise awareness among researchers**



Assessing FAIR Data Support Needs (iii)

Our proposal

- **a webpage on examples and resources on how to 'do FAIR'** applied to the social sciences (including a "Social sciences FAIR help desk")
- **networking activities**



Break-out session

2 Topics

- FAIR: when is it “good enough?” (Marjan)
- RDM awareness (Francesca)

All split across

- interesting case studies/resources
- General reflection
- Your proposal



Session “FAIR: when is it good enough?”

Starting point: FAIRness is a gradual notion, and we all know that achieving perfect FAIRness requires a) clarity about what that would be, plus b) time/expertise/budget to get there. Hence: what do we see as “good enough” for the moment? How do the workshop participants deal with it?

- Focus, e.g. on early-career researchers (more motivated), or on valuable data (but challenging to identify), or on F and A for now.
- Start small, e.g. in a collaborative project: what is needed to exchange data among the partners?
- Share good practices, e.g. <https://library.maastrichtuniversity.nl/research/rdm/rdm-and-fair/>
- A funder’s “stick” to deliver FAIR data is not ideal, but can be effective.
- It would also be interesting (proposal!) to explore this cross-domain, e.g. across thematic DCCs.

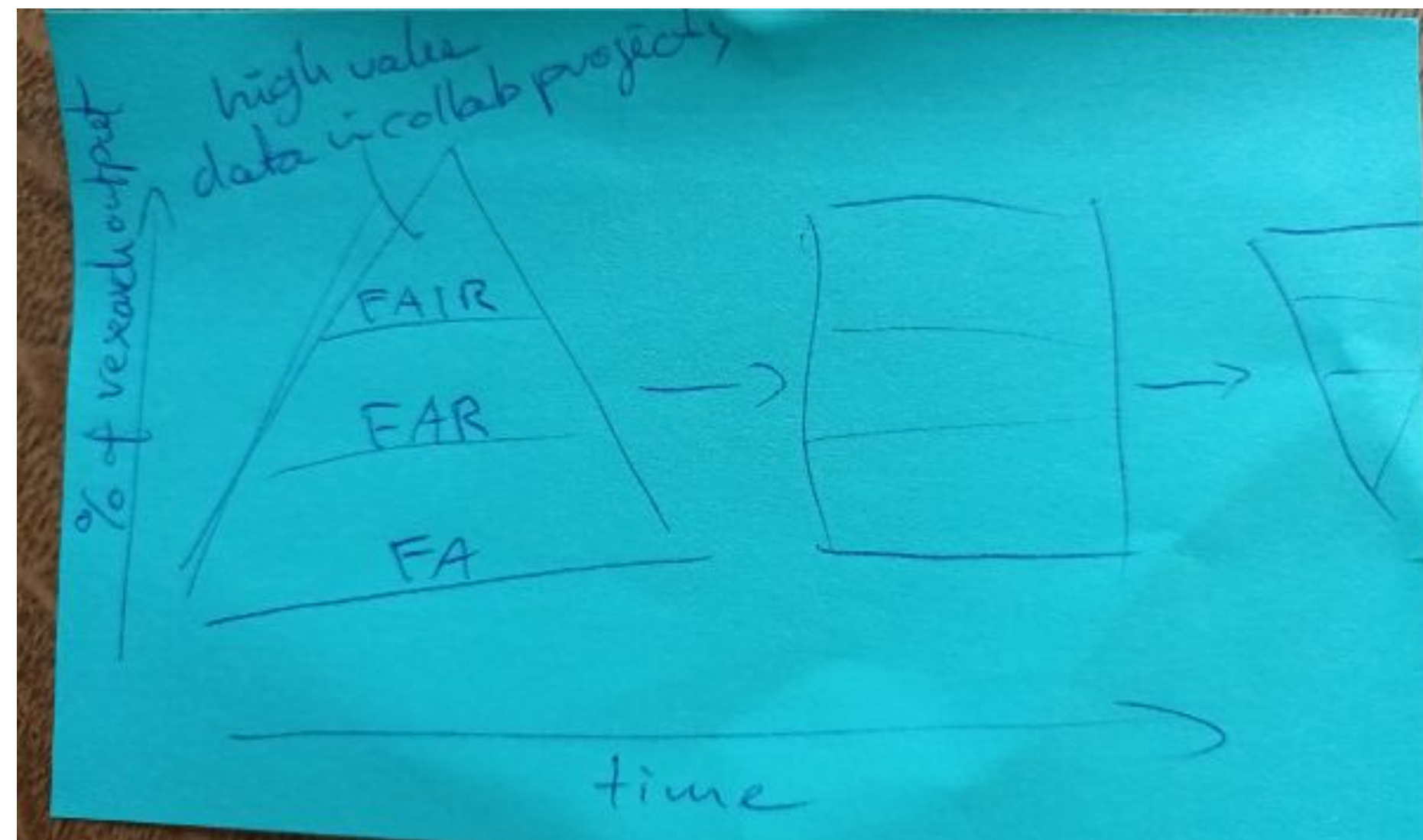
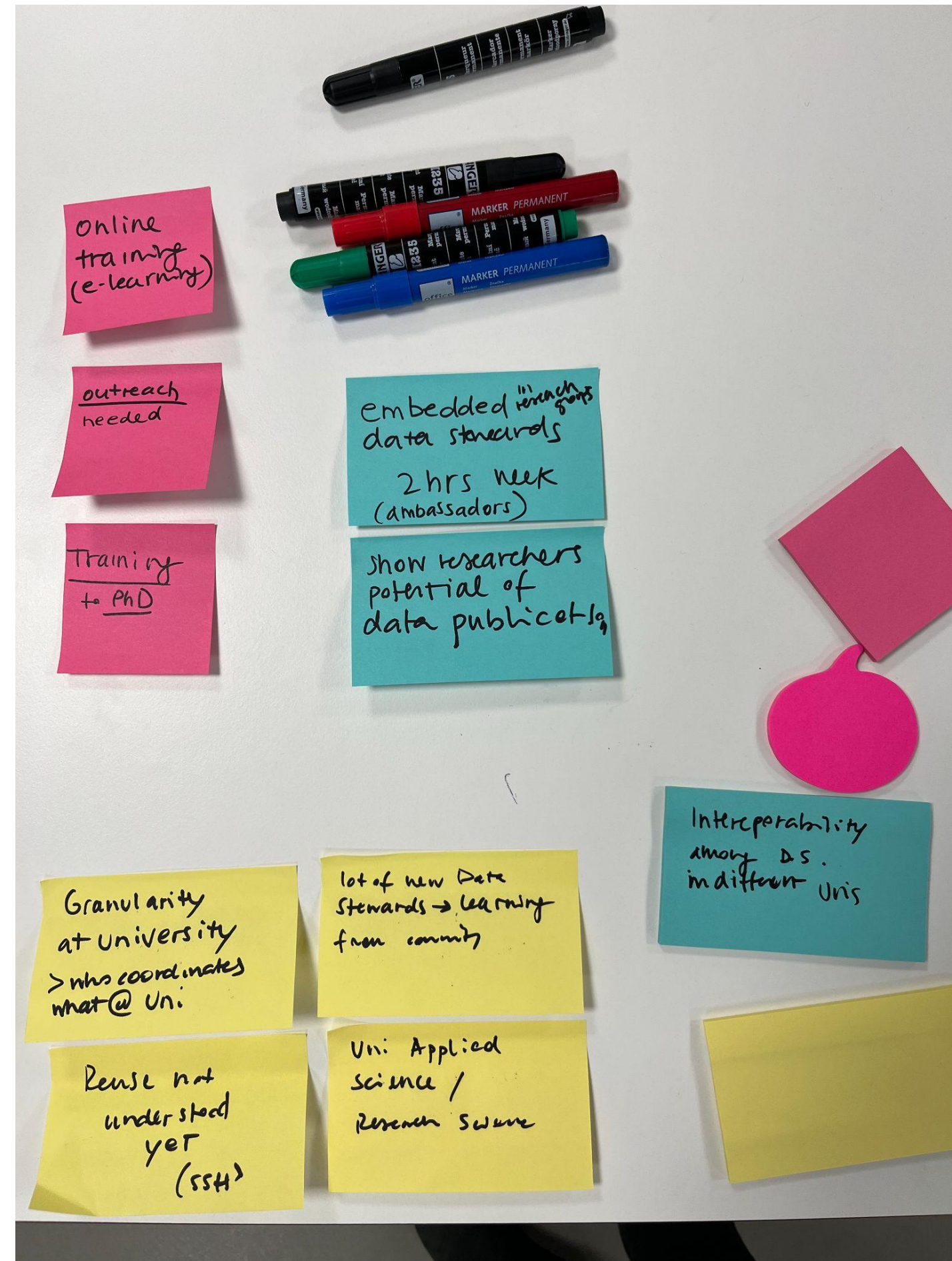


Image by J. Rombouts.

In words: currently, a (very) large share of research output scores mainly on F and A (bottom of pyramid). A far smaller share (at the top) can be called reasonably FAIR. These are valuable data, for instance coming from collaborative projects. Over time, we hope/expect the proportions to change, even to a reversed pyramid.

Session “Raising RDM and FAIR Awareness”



The break-out group was attended by five data stewards, coming from different departments and Universities (both research and applied research). It was very significant that three of the five data-stewards are very new to this profession (they started 8, 6 and 3 months ago): this makes them eager to learn on how to raise awareness of RDM and FAIR practices.

The discussion was centered around three focal points and ideas on how to raise awareness:

1. **Interesting Ideas**

- show researchers potential of RDM for data publication
- embedded data stewards in research groups (sort of ambassador), two hours per week
- create more interoperability (exchanges) among data stewards in different universities (e.g. reuse same material)

2. **General Reflections**

- online training for PhD students
- more training for PhD students

3. **General Reflections**

- experience of Data stewards in Research Universities is different from that of Applied Universities
- Many new data stewards, they need to learn from the community of peers
- Reuse of data is not understood yet, more awareness is needed in this directions
- Need for more clarity on the role division at the university (e.g. data steward VS data manager)

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