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1 MS10/M2.1 Cascading grants and open call launched

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Dissemination Level

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PU: Public
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2 Versioning and contribution history

Version	Date	Author	Notes
0.1	09.05.2023	Joy Davidson and Ryan O'Connor (DCC-UEDIN)	TOC and V0.1
0.2	10.05.2023	Vasso Kalaitzi and Lisa de Leeuw (DANS)	review of v0.1
1.0	11.05.2023	Joy Davidson (DCC-UEDIN)	updated version for publication

Disclaimer

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TERMINOLOGY

Terminology/Acronym	Description
EC	European Commission
TRUST-GRANTS	Dedicated platform for applicants to the FAIR-IMPACT open calls operated by Trust-IT

4 Introduction

One of the goals of the FAIR-IMPACT project is to support the implementation and adoption of FAIR-enabling practices, tools and services across scientific communities at European, national and institutional level. It will do so with a series of activities, including open calls for cascading funding and in-kind support.

Through at least three open calls, interested parties can apply to receive financial support to facilitate the wider adoption and/or adaptation of FAIR-enabling tools, approaches, solutions and methods. FAIR-IMPACT aims to support around 50 organisations in this way over the life of the project.

During the first eight months of the project, the WP2 team worked to define the overall approach to the provision of financial and in-kind support and to develop a transparent evaluation procedure for applications. A set of FAQs was developed and has been periodically updated to ensure that the process is clear to potential applicants. During the rest of the project, the approach for each call will be tailored, when needed. The first of the open calls for financial support was launched at the end of March 2023. This brief milestone report provides details of the first call launch and related activities.

5 Description of the Milestone

FAIR-IMPACT launched the first of three open calls for financial support on 31st March, 2023. The first open call provides applicants with two defined support actions that they can apply to join - each designed to enhance the FAIRness of data, semantic artefacts, and data-related services.

- **Support action #1: FAIRness assessment challenge¹**
More harmonised use of semantic artefacts such as ontologies, terminologies, taxonomies, thesauri, vocabularies, metadata schemas and standards is a key element to achieving a high level of FAIRness. However, it can often be difficult to find and use semantic artefacts as they themselves are not always FAIR. This targeted support action will help a cohort of dataset providers or semantic artefact developers to self-assess and work towards maximising the level of FAIRness of their resources.
- **Support action #2: Enabling FAIR Signposting and RO-Crate for content/metadata discovery and consumption²**
The findability of both data and metadata is central to the FAIR principles. FAIR-IMPACT will provide a method to increase the discoverability of the metadata and content using a combination of two approaches; RO-Crate and Signposting. These two approaches are being used in combination as a pragmatic approach to making digital scholarly and research objects more FAIR.

5.1 Role of the milestone

This milestone report provides evidence that the first open call for financial support was launched via the FAIR-IMPACT website as planned on 31st March 2023. The report also provides details on dissemination and other relevant activities related to the first open call, as well as a brief summary of next steps.

5.1.1 Means of verification

Outline information about the open calls for financial support has been available via a dedicated webpage³ on the FAIR-IMPACT website since 12th February 2023. Frequently asked questions, the timeline for the first open call, details of the first two support offers and information about the application process were added to this dedicated webpage during February and March. An 'Expression of Interest' form was also added to the webpage to allow those who wished to be kept up to date with the open call to sign up to receive

¹ <https://fair-impact.eu/support-offer-1-fairness-assessment-challenge-datasets-and-semantic-artefacts>

² <https://fair-impact.eu/support-offer-2-enabling-fair-signposting-and-ro-crate-contentmetadata-discovery-and-consumption>

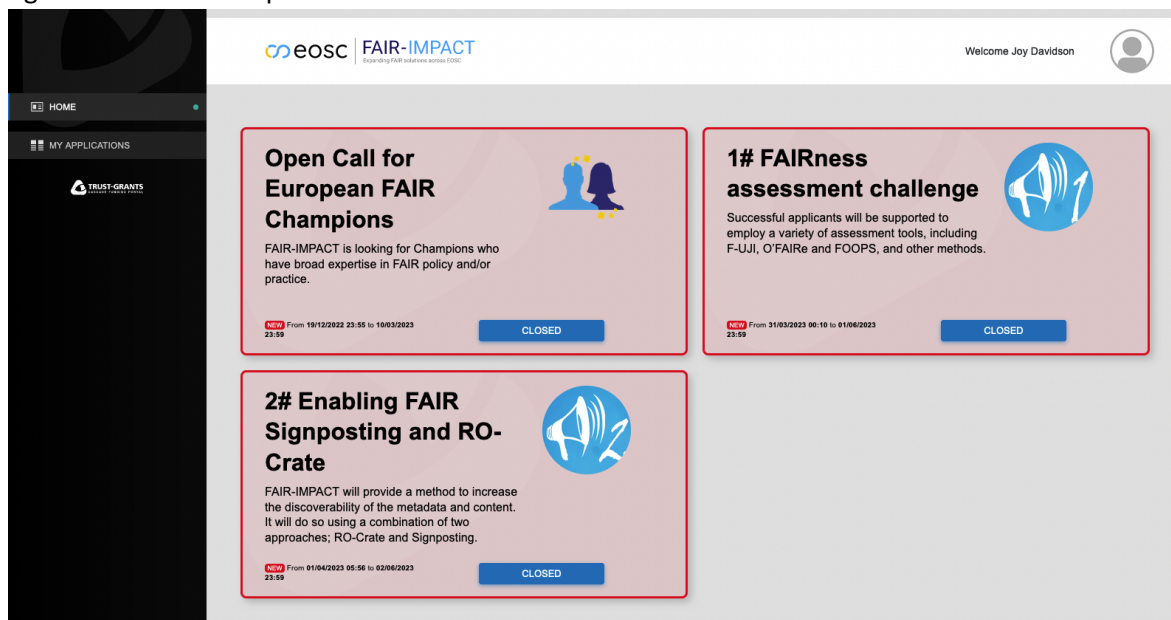
³ <https://fair-impact.eu/fair-impact-open-calls-support>

updates. A blog⁴ post was published in early March 2023 and provided a summary of the two support offers to be provided via the first open call.

A dedicated webinar was delivered on 27th March, 2023 to provide an overview of the first open call, to introduce the two defined support offers, and provide a run through of the application process. The webinar had 125 registered participants (including speakers and project staff) and a recording of the session⁵ has been made available via the FAIR-IMPACT website for those who were not able to join the live session.

The application platform⁶ was opened to accept applications on 31st March, 2023 (Figure 1) and will remain open for two months in line with EC guidance. The deadline for applications is 1st June, 2023 at 17:00 CEST. Applicants can apply to one or more of the defined support offers; however the selection process will take action to ensure that as broad and diverse a pool of candidates as possible is selected.

Figure 1. Trust-Grants platform dashboard



In addition to the detailed information provided directly via the FAIR-IMPACT website, the first open call has also been published on the European Commission funding & tenders opportunities portal⁷ (Figure 3).

⁴ <https://fair-impact.eu/articles-and-blogs/fair-impact-open-call-support-coming-soon>

⁵ <https://youtu.be/DoQezGZO97c>

⁶ <https://grants.fair-impact.eu/dashboard>

⁷

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/2502;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=FAIR-IMPACT;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0,1,2,8;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionPros>

Figure 3. First FAIR-IMPACT open call as published on the European Commission funding & tenders opportunities portal

The screenshot shows the 'Funding & tender opportunities' page on the European Commission portal. The main heading is 'First FAIR-IMPACT Open Call for Support'. Below the heading, there are two tabs: 'Cascade funding' and 'Grant', with 'Grant' selected. A 'Go back to search results' link is visible. The main content area is a table with the following details:

Opening date 27 March 2023	Deadline model single-stage	Call deadline 01 June 2023 17:00 (Brussels time)	Open for submission
Expected duration of participation 2 months during: 1 September 2023 - 31 December 2023	Total funding available € 100000		
Project acronym FAIR-IMPACT	Full name of the EU funded project Expanding FAIR Solutions across EOSC		
Grant agreement number 101057344	Topic HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EOSC-01-05 - Enabling discovery and interoperability of federated research objects across scientific communities		

FAIR-IMPACT has been actively promoting the first open call via the project newsletters and our social media channels (Twitter⁸, LinkedIn⁹). The launch of the first open call was also announced via the EOSC Forum¹⁰ and picked up in the April issue of the EOSC newsletter¹¹.

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⁸ https://twitter.com/fairimpact_eu

⁹ <https://www.linkedin.com/company/fair-impact-eu-project/>

¹⁰ <https://forum.eosc.eu/message/64270414686177ebd9758807>

¹¹ <https://mailchi.mp/eosc/eosc-association-newsletter-april2023?e=0c73ad0073>

6 Next steps

FAIR-IMPACT will run a free virtual clinic¹² for potential applicants on 16th May, 2023 (Figure 4). During the clinic, participants will be able to ask any questions they have about the support actions, applicant eligibility, and the application process.

Figure 4. Virtual clinic for potential applicants

Evaluation and selection of successful applicants will be carried out during June and applicants will be informed of the outcome in early July. The support action workshops will kick off in mid September and run to December 2023. The second open call for financial support will be opened at the end of January 2024.

¹²

<https://fair-impact.eu/events/fairimpact-events/webinar-fair-impacts-virtual-clinic-potential-applicants-first-op-en-call>