



Mustapha Mokrane - FAIRSFair, Daniel Bangert - RDA Europe, Emilie Hermans - OpenAIRE, René van Horik - EOSC-hub, Maaïke de Jong - FREYA, Hylke Koers - FAIRSFair
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Earlier this year, two workshops were held to formulate recommendations on how services and infrastructures can better support the implementation of the FAIR data principles within the context of building the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The input and conclusions from both workshops were analysed to form the basis for a draft report ['Services to support FAIR data: Draft report and recommendations'](#), and this was tabled for discussion at a concluding workshop held during the [Open Science Fair](#) in Porto, Portugal, and organised in collaboration with OpenAIRE, FAIRSFair, RDA Europe, FREYA and EOSC-hub.

The objective of the workshop was to prioritise the recommendations and then to move beyond recommendations and formulate some clear, pointed actions along with a view on who should be taking



these actions forward. The workshop proceedings are reported below.

The recommendations from previous workshops can be organised in 7 categories:

- Certification
- Essential infrastructure components
- Stewardship
- Costs
- Rewards
- Collaboration and support
- Data Management

The full draft report, provided by OpenAIRE, FAIRsFAIR, RDA Europe, FREYA, EOSC-hub can be found [here](#).

Participants prioritising areas for action!

At the start of the workshop the [draft report](#) was briefly introduced, as basis for the discussion and break-out groups of the workshop. After presenting the list of recommendations, participants split up in three groups: service providers, research institutions and libraries.

The break-out groups started with a priority setting activity: each participant could place ten stickers on posters which listed the recommendations. The total number of stickers for a recommendation determined its ranking. The prioritizing exercise was followed by a discussion about which actions should be taken to implement the recommendations. Before the three breakout groups congregated again, the top action was selected and further discussed.

The highest ranked priorities and related actions as compiled by different groups are given in the table below:

Group	Priority	Action
Libraries	Consider FAIR compliance and data sharing as part of research assessment, among other criteria	Infrastructures should be evaluated and rewarded to be FAIR by e.g. incentives and increasing visibility as a rewarding system to researchers who apply the FAIR principles to their research
Service providers	Domain-specific ontologies, as domain-specific requirements have to be taken into account	Identify disciplines which don't have ontologies and create awareness for the Bartoc registry and enrich it. Make repositories FAIR by developing tools such as APIs and share best practices and user stories.
Research institutions	Establish data stewardship programmes providing simple and intuitive training for researchers, and enable data stewards and researchers who support applications of FAIR	Identify and present cost of developing supporting infrastructure including human resources



The selected priorities and subsequent actions discussed by the breakout groups formed the basis for a discussion on which stakeholders could take on the responsibilities in the services ecosystem for FAIR data for the various actions. To gather input from the audience on the identified actions, we used the interactive presentation tool Mentimeter. See the picture below for an example of feedback on one of the actions. The example states an action formulated by the "libraries" group (see table above) and input from the audience on who should be responsible for executing the action.



Researchers should be rewarded for making data sets FAIR with visibility and attention



Panel discussion on actions

The audience participation part of the workshop was followed by a panel discussion, during which the panellists shared their personal views on the prioritised recommendations and actions. The panel consisted of five experts of diverse backgrounds relevant to FAIR data:

- Ian Duncan (Australian Research Data Commons),
- Françoise Genova (Centre de Données Astronomiques de Strasbourg; EOSC FAIR WG),
- Odile Hologne (French Institute for Agricultural Research; EOSC Rules of Participation WG; FAIRsFAIR Champion),
- Rachael Kotarski (The British Library; EOSC FAIR WG; the FREYA project)
- Tobias Weigel (DKRZ; EOSC Architecture WG; FAIRsFAIR champion)



The panel observed that the selected actions of the prioritising exercise sometimes resembled other recommendations. The connection between different recommendations may not come as a surprise and signals that the intertwined ecosystem of services can make FAIR a reality by collaboration and solutions might have positive outcomes on other issues in the FAIR data research cycle.

The discussion in the final part of the session focused on responsibilities and roles of different



stakeholders. User requirements were put forward as strong incentives, as was the professionalisation of data management and the role of data stewardship herein. Often neglected in discussion, national libraries should and can be more involved in discussions and events around FAIR.

Another critical point was the opportunity and responsibility of services to simplify the process of making data FAIR. It was concluded that making data FAIR is not the sole responsibility of the researcher but should be a common effort of research institutions, funders, service providers and experts.

The results of the breakout groups and panel, in combination with the conclusion of the previous workshops, will be used as input to finalize a report with recommendations on services to support FAIR data. The final version of the report is intended for submission to the EOSC Working Group on FAIR.



Blogpost by Mustapha Mokrane - FAIRsFAIR, Daniel Bangert - RDA Europe, Emilie Hermans - OpenAIRE, René van Horik - EOSC-hub, Maaïke de Jong - FREYA, Hylke Koers - FAIRsFAIR

¹ Workshop 1, April 12 2019, Prague (EOSC-hub week <https://www.eosc-hub.eu/events/eosc-hub-week-2019/programme/services-support-fair-data>).
Workshop 2, April 24 2019, Vienna (Linking Open Science in Austria <https://linkingopenscience.univie.ac.at/agenda/>).

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