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The **FAIRsFAIR Competence Centre** (D6.1: Overview of needs for competence centres, D6.2 Initial Core Competence Centre Structures) is a shared hub of expertise in implementing FAIR principles, offering leadership, coordination and services to connect relevant people, guidance, learning resources and curricula in different thematic areas. It serves as a nexus between the FAIRsFAIR project and research communities for a two-way communication, and a source of knowledge about how FAIR competences can be enhanced in ways relevant to their research data practices.

The operations of the FAIRsFAIR Competence Centre are expanding along the its three main roles: **Advisory** (including training resources and guidance links on FAIRdata Forum), **Dissemination** (community engagement and exchanges on the FAIRdata Forum), and **Harmonisation** (metadata interoperability).

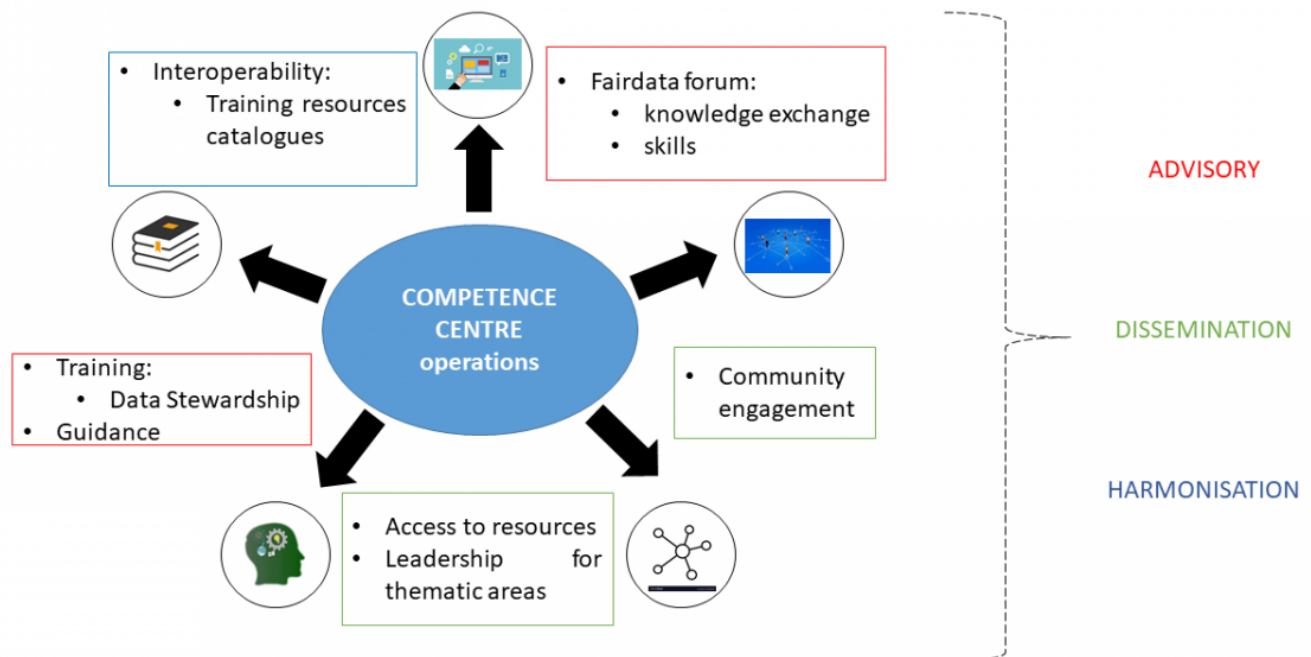


Figure 1 - FAIRsFAIR Competence Centre roles: Advisory-Dissemination-Harmonisation

Advisory

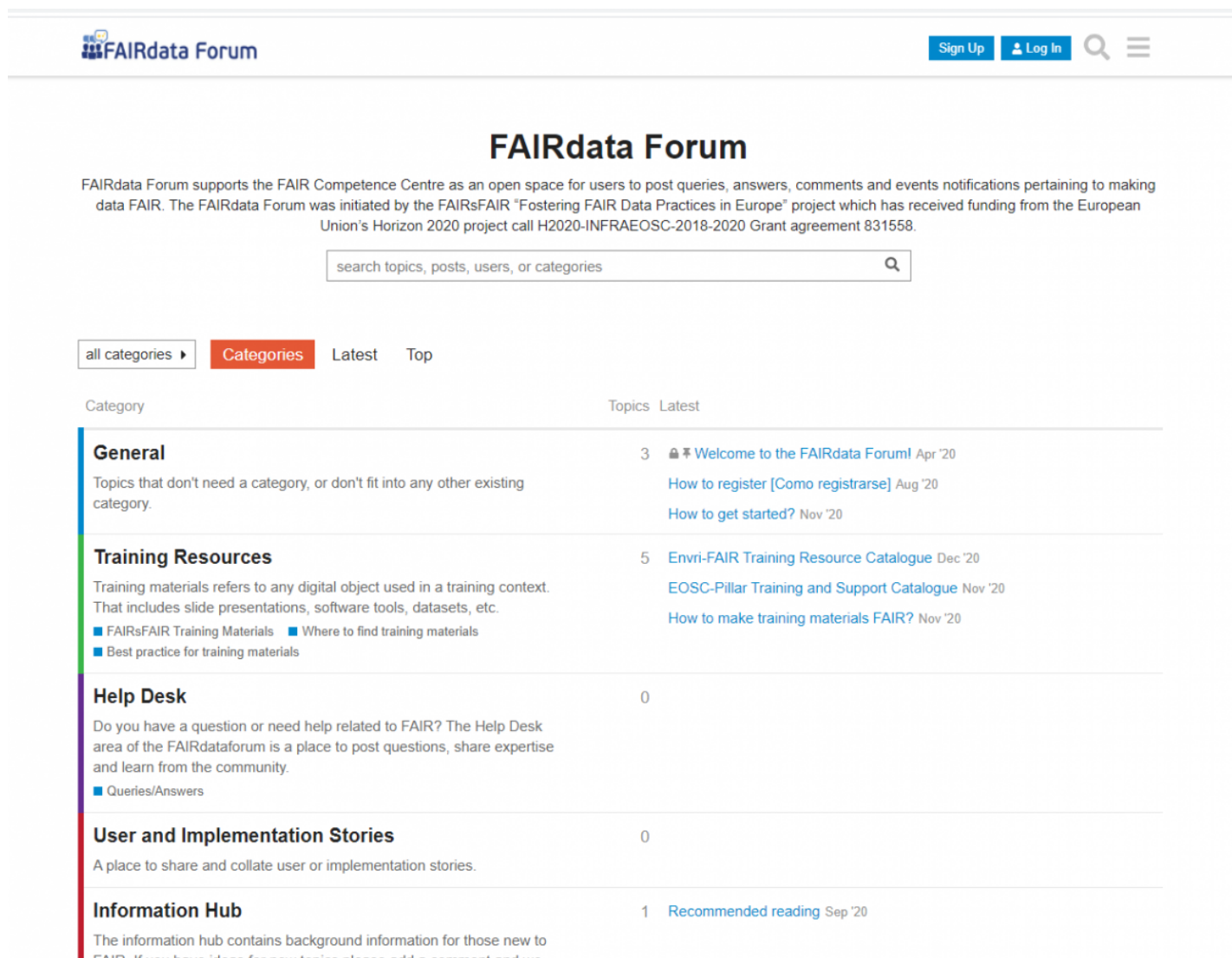
“Networking space to enable stakeholder collaborations and routing people to expertise in thematic areas”

A central question in establishing a virtual competence centre is “What form should it take and how can the function of the competence centre be delivered?”. Building on the concept that a competence centre is a shared hub of expertise that connects people and resources we have approached the practicality of creating a virtual competence centre through the development of an online space, the FAIRdata Forum.

FAIRdata Forum

The FAIRdata Forum (Fig.2) is a core component of the Competence Centre. This is the place where operations related to community engagement, support to knowledge/skill transfer through training is concretely materialised. In addition to the links to a host of training materials, the posts on the forum are envisaged to remain for the future as part of a body of knowledge, thus shaping the forum as an important pole in the Competence Centre advisory role.





The screenshot shows the FAIRdata Forum website. At the top left is the FAIRdata Forum logo. To the right are links for 'Sign Up' and 'Log In', along with search and menu icons. The main heading is 'FAIRdata Forum'. Below it is a paragraph explaining the forum's purpose and funding. A search bar is provided. Below the search bar are navigation options: 'all categories', 'Categories' (highlighted in red), 'Latest', and 'Top'. The main content area is a table with columns for 'Category' and 'Topics Latest'. The categories listed are:

- General**: 3 topics. Sub-topics include 'Welcome to the FAIRdata Forum! Apr '20', 'How to register [Como registrarse] Aug '20', and 'How to get started? Nov '20'.
- Training Resources**: 5 topics. Sub-topics include 'Envri-FAIR Training Resource Catalogue Dec '20', 'EOSC-Pillar Training and Support Catalogue Nov '20', and 'How to make training materials FAIR? Nov '20'. It also lists 'FAIRsFAIR Training Materials', 'Where to find training materials', and 'Best practice for training materials'.
- Help Desk**: 0 topics. Description: 'Do you have a question or need help related to FAIR? The Help Desk area of the FAIRdataforum is a place to post questions, share expertise and learn from the community.' Sub-topic: 'Queries/Answers'.
- User and Implementation Stories**: 0 topics. Description: 'A place to share and collate user or implementation stories.'
- Information Hub**: 1 topic. Sub-topic: 'Recommended reading Sep '20'. Description: 'The information hub contains background information for those new to FAIR. If you have ideas for new topics please add a comment and we'.

Figure 2 - FAIRdata Forum: online space for networking and community engagement.

The FAIRsFAIR Competence Centre advisory role has also been met by working with communities in addressing the gap in skills, identified as a priority in Turning FAIR into Reality (Hill, T., 2019). The FAIRdata Forum has been used as a platform to support: training interventions for the data science community in Europe, in a concerted effort between FAIRsFAIR and CODATA-RDA; mapping data science programmes at universities; and integrating FAIR data skills into existing training offerings.

Dissemination

“Dissemination of training material and courses; enable sharing of best practices.”

Dissemination constitutes the second main role of FAIRsFAIR Competence Centre. It has been



materialised through activities on the FAIRdata Forum (collection of posts and exchanges) but also, by the provision of training material. Both are developing into becoming parts of building up the Competence Centre's body of knowledge.

Harmonisation

“To consistently describe resources relating to FAIR data stewardship; provide leadership in harmonisation of policies, tools and resource”

One of the aims of the FAIRsFAIR Competence Centre is to collaborate with communities on training materials and contribute to developing standards for describing these.

With this end in mind, the competence centre is looking at the issues relating to **making our training materials FAIR**, and contributing to joint initiatives that **address the problems of a fragmented landscape** specifically addressing the core issues of classification and exposure of metadata as being the most challenging but highest priority to the interoperability of training resource catalogues.

Harmonisation of cataloguing standards and processes is one of the main aims of a Collaboration Agreement between FAIRsFAIR and the INFRAEOSC-5.

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