# A FAIR reality check for the ENLIGHT university alliance



Dr Birgit Schmidt State and University Library Göttingen FAIRsFAIR Roadshow, Tartu, 18 Nov 2021

https://book.fosteropenscience.eu/

### **European Universities Initiative**



European Universities are transnational alliances that will become the *universities of the future*, promoting European values and identity, and revolutionizing the quality and competitiveness of European higher education.

Initiative in 2017: "enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and contribute to the international competitiveness of European universities"

Pilot Call 2019: 17 alliances, 114 HEIsPilot Call 2020: 24 alliances, 165 HEIs

5% of HEIs in Europe

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Additional funds to create a joint R&I agenda: Transformative Modules were an essential element, e.g. on sharing research infrastructures and resources, mainstreaming Open Science, embedding citizens & society.

# ENLIGHT E+/H2020: same alliance



- 9 comprehensive, researchintensive universities
- Sharing a deep commitment to their **social responsibility:** 
  - University of the Basque Country University of Bordeaux Comenius University Bratislava National University Ireland Galway Ghent University University of Göttingen University of Groningen University of Tartu Uppsala University



- ENLIGHT serves over **5.5M inhabitants**, important **diversity in size** 
  - With 11 official languages, a strong intercultural diversity

#### **RISE** | FOCUS ON RESEARCHERS and THEIR ENVIRONMENT



# Research infrastructures: Roadmap towards shared digital research infrastructures & a responsible DI/AI index

- → Map digital research infrastructures of relevance to the five challenges of ENLIGHT & develop a roadmap to digitally connect identified research infrastructures across the alliance. Access to worldclass digital research infrastructure is a cornerstone of a competitive ENLIGHT RISE R&I agenda.
- → Focus on digital research infrastructures (DRI), tools and services that allow researchers to turn big data into scientific breakthroughs.
- → Enhance connections with European digital infrastructures (e.g. the recently launched European Open Science Cloud [EOSC])

#### **Open Science: Optimize practices and identify frontiers**

- → Build a shared Open Science vision and implementation plan
- → Improve Open Science (OS) support practices across the ENLIGHT alliance
  - Develop common approaches for assessing OS efforts & recognizing achievements
  - Encourage and support researchers in engaging with the public and making their results accessible
- → Create incentives for an OS Culture as a basis for a joint ENLIGHT research infrastructure

# ENLIGHT activity: A scoping exercise

#### Research infrastructures

- What facilitities and services are offered at the local level?
- Roles in national infrastructures
- Involvement in European infrastructures (e.g. ESFRI, EOSC)

#### Open Science more broadly

- Infrastructures and services (for data, publications, etc.)
- Teaching and training, communities
- Policies, governance, environment, sustainability

# Why care about FAIR data?

- Research data plays a central role across the research cycle in almost all disciplines
- Research data management (RDM) enables reproducibility and (re)use
- Data is meant for use by humans and machines
  - Many actions: plan, discover, reuse, process, describe, archive, share, publish, cite, etc.
  - Enabled by: documentation, infrastructure, standards



# Has FAIR arrived on institutional agendas?

- Creating a technical ecosystem for FAIR
  - Data repositories, DMP services, PID services, etc. on a good way, but there are still gaps
  - Integration with disciplinary infrastructures, EOSC via collaborations
- Creating a culture of FAIR data
  - DMPs increasingly mandatory via policies, however, not the norm yet
  - Recognise and reward FAIR data and data stewardship not much action yet
- Skills and capacity building
  - Data managers / librarians, developers established roles
  - Data stewardship emerging, not common yet
    - A recognised need, overlaps with established roles but stronger focus on individual disciplines
    - Some data stewards via service unit, other via projects No specific network established
  - Training established, mainly targeting ERC researchers and staff



# Data policies at ENLIGHT partner institutions

#### 4 policies in place, 3 under development, 2 not started yet

FAIR in RMD policies at ENLIGHT institutions

9 responses

Making data FAIR is recommended.

FAIR will be included in the policy under development.

FAIR will be included in a future revision of the policy.

FAIR is not covered by the policy.

No explicit mention but kind of aligns with FAIR



## Open data and data sharing



### **RDM** services





## **RDM** actions

#### RDM actions at ENLIGHT institutions

#### 9 responses



### Example: RUG Data policy (est. 2015, revised 2021)



### Example: Data services @ UGOE



Göttingen Research Online is a portal for researchers to central eResearch Services. The first available services are <u>GRO.plan</u>, a tool to support data management plan writing, <u>GRO.data</u>, a place to store, edit and publish research data and <u>GRO.publications</u>, a system to manage ones research related publications and create publication lists.



#### Data management planning tool

GRO.plan is the data management planning tool for the Göttingen Campus. Across all disciplines, research data becomes more and more valuable to ensure valid and reproducible research results. Adressing proper data ...

#### Access GRO.plan

Operated by:

SUB | NIEDERSÄCHSISCHE STAATS- UND UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK GÖTTINGEN



#### **Research Data Repository**

GRO.data is the general purpose research data repository for the Göttingen Campus. Researchers belonging to Göttingen Campus institutions can use it for free. GRO.data serves various purposes such as: to simply store ...

#### Access GRO.data



www.eresearch.uni-goettingen.de/services-and-software/goettingen-research-online

# GÖTTINGENRESEARCHONLINE



#### www.goettingen-research-online.de

### Example: Data stewards @ UGENT

								In het Nederlands
GHENT UNIVERSITY								Search
	PROGRAMMES	RESEARCH	UNIVERSITY LIFE	JOBS	ABOUT US	INFORMATION FOR 🗸		

Home > Research > Data management > RDM support > Data stewards

On this page

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→ About

→ How can we help?

#### 👬 OSFHOME 🗸 Search Support Donate Sign In **Data stewards** UGent Data Stewards Files Wiki Analytics Registrations 0 20.6MB Public ¥ 0 .... Ghent university has appointed data stewards to provide researchers from PhD student le UGent Data Stewards Management. Contributors: Myriam Mertens, Dries Moreels, Thomas Van de Velde, Laura Standaert, Stefanie De Bodt, Paula Oset García As data stewards, we act as your **first point of contact** for RDM questions. As advisors, we Affiliated institutions: Universiteit Gent Date created: 2019-07-16 08:13 PM | Last Updated: 2021-01-22 09:57 AM Category: Project Get in touch with us via rdm.support@ugent.be. Follow our activities via @UGentRDI Description: Outputs of Ghent University's data steward team License: CC-By Attribution 4.0 International () Wiki C Citation This is the project page of Ghent University's data stewards, where we make our publicly shareable outputs available. Components We are a team at Ghent University Library, dedicated to supporting researchers with Research Data Management (RDM). How can we help? Follow us at @UGentRDM and via our YouTube channel RDM Training We offer a range of advisory and training services regarding RDM: Read More Mertens, Lammertyn, Moreels & 4 more Materials from training activities by Ghent University's data stewards → Data Management Plan support (templates, guidance, feedback, examples) Files C. External events → Online information and guidance Mertens, Lammertyn, Moreels & 4 more Content related to external events contributed to by Ghent Q Filter i → RDM helpdesk University's data stewards Modified ~ ~ Name A V → Consultations with individual researchers & groups RDM guidance documents UGent Data Stewards Mertens, Lammertyn, Moreels & 4 more → Training, info sessions & other events Guidance documents for researchers about various RDM topics - 🎲 OSF Storage (Germany - Frankfurt) → User support for Library RDM tools (e.g. DMPonline.be; OSF for UGent) + 🖿 About us – RDM Training Recent Activity - 🎲 OSF Storage (Germany - Frankfurt)

# However, there are still challenges

#### **Collaboration & coordination**

- Little collaboration across Professional Services
- National coordination is on its way but not finalised
- Organising sustainable (faculty-)support

#### **Resources & regulations**

- Lack of staff & infrastructure
- No institutional policy and regulations
- Balance data protection and openness
- Availability of **financing** to develop the project
- Alignment with **national / European developments** (e.g. EOSC, national KPIs for research institutions) Establish & run services
- Setting up an institutional data repository
- How to tailor our support services to the needs of researchers

#### **Training, benefits & incentives**

- Lack of incentives
- Convincing researchers of **benefits** for themselves
- Promoting the inclusion of open science-related criteria in research evaluation
- Understanding, correct use and implementation of FAIR data among researchers (training & creation of new communication channels are necessary)
- Provide training to researchers for the creation of the DMP & in search and reuse of existing datasets. <sup>19</sup>

"If you want to go **fast**, **go alone**. If you want to go far, go **together**." African Proverb

Source: J van Cise, https://www.flickr.com/photos/jvancisephotos/15137022127



Thank you for your attention! Any questions?

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Image source: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/open-ideas\_0.jpg

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