



FAIRsFAIR
Fostering Fair Data Practices in Europe

Workshop Pre-Read Document

The FAIRsFAIR Synchronisation Workshop will be held as a series of virtual workshop sessions from 29 April to 10 June, according to the following schedule:

- 29 April, 10:00-11:30: plenary introduction, webinar-style: what will we do in this series and what do we expect from you the participants.
- 11-21 May: six working sessions, each builds around one of the 'pillars' of the Turning FAIR into Reality Report.
- A summary of the sessions will be circulated to all participants in the form of a draft 'workshop report'.
- 10 June, 10.00-11.30: plenary discussion with working session participants, providing an opportunity to refine the content of the draft reports.

Workshop Objectives

The objective of the FAIRsFAIR Synchronisation Force virtual workshops (to be held as a series from 29 April-10 June) is to discuss and compare the FAIR-oriented activity of a number of projects and initiatives in Europe. To do this, FAIR representatives from ESFRI clusters, FAIR Task Force representatives from INFRAEOSC-5 projects, so-called horizontal projects, the EOSC Board of Directors, EC project officers, the FAIR Champions, and the FAIRsFAIR High-level Advisory Committee have been invited to discuss the Turning FAIR into Reality Recommendations. The findings of the workshop will inform the FAIRsFAIR Synchronisation Force's task of helping ensure dialogue and coordination between different actors and initiatives in FAIR and EOSC.

Context and Background: the role of the FAIRsFAIR Synchronisation Force

A key challenge for FAIRsFAIR is to ensure that project activities dovetail with work carried out by the former Working Groups (WG) of the EOSC Governance, and feed into and complement the work that is being done or will be done by other projects in the research data and FAIR space. For this reason the FAIRsFAIR project set up the Synchronisation Force, a team tasked with establishing a dialogue among the various projects and actors in both the EOSC and FAIR ecosystems whose work touches on FAIR in order to:

1. Maximise coordination and minimise unnecessary overlap or duplication;
2. Encourage the dovetailing of projects' and actors' activities with EOSC governance;
3. Promote mechanisms to collaborate on turning FAIR into reality.

The European Commission Expert Group report Turning FAIR into Reality (TFiR) lays out an Action Plan for what is needed to implement FAIR. That Action Plan also provides a framework for comparing and tracking activities which will inform the work of the FAIRsFAIR synchronisation force.

The objective of the Synchronisation Force, and the specific focus of the third workshop, is to try to understand how actors within the EOSC and FAIR ecosystems are addressing the TFiR recommendations; and responding to and implementing the TFiR Action Plan. By examining their activities in relation to the TFiR recommendations, FAIRsFAIR will report in the White Paper on progress towards implementing the recommendations; likewise any gaps can be identified.

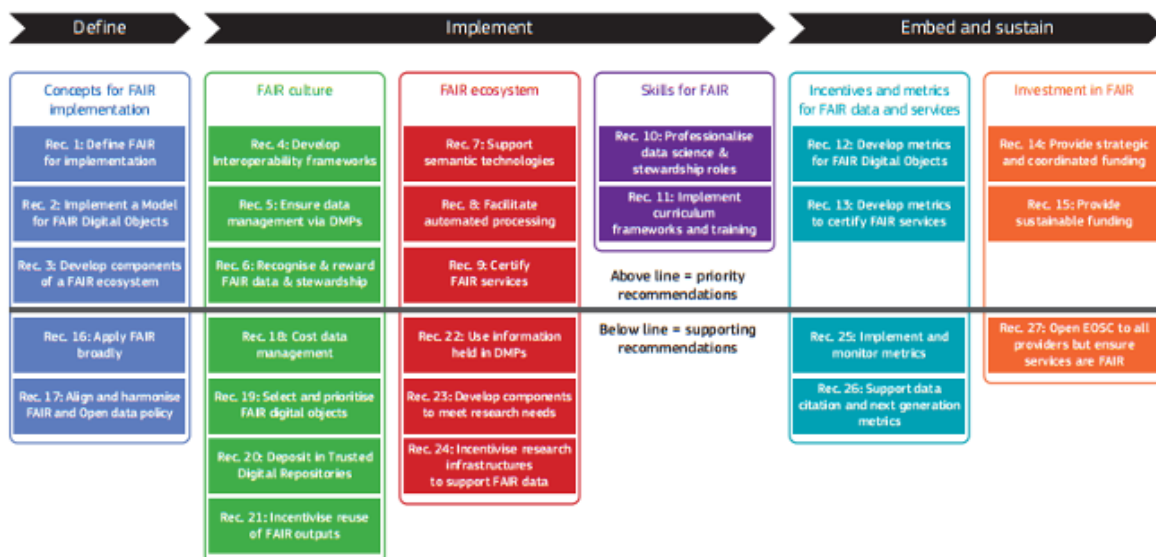
A first workshop, held in Budapest, 25 November 2019, explored interaction between FAIRsFAIR and the five established EOSC Working Groups. The report, structured around the themes of those Working Groups is available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3629159>.

A second workshop, held as a virtual series of working sessions between April and June 2020, broadened the engagement with other projects and actors in the EOSC ecosystem. In line with the findings of the first report, the second workshop placed greater focus on ‘clustering activities and outputs around recommendations from the Turning FAIR into Reality report’. The report, with an inventory of activities and recommendations against the TFiR background, is available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3953979>.

The objective of the current, third, workshop is to learn about progress against last year’s inventory.

Activities for the Virtual Working Sessions

The virtual working sessions are structured according to the ‘pillars’ of recommendations laid out in the [TFiR report](#) (p.17):



Throughout the workshop series we will use this [overview to match the current activities against the TFiR recommendations](#).

1. Core Concepts: FAIR Digital Objects and technical components of the FAIR ecosystem
2. FAIR Culture: agreements on data availability and description, data management plans, recognition and reward, policies

3. FAIR Ecosystem: key services, semantic technologies, trust and certification of services
4. Skills for FAIR: data science and data stewardship, curriculum frameworks
5. Incentives and Metrics
6. Investment, Sustainability and Governance

Participants of each working session are requested, **in advance** to consult [this spreadsheet](#) and to complete as much information as possible **at least two working days in advance of each session**. The objective is to produce as comprehensive a picture as possible of how the various projects, groups and initiatives are addressing the TFiR recommendations. Each project, group or initiative (listed on the horizontal axis) is requested to work collectively to complete the information in each cell corresponding to the TFiR pillars and recommendations (listed on the vertical axis). The richer and more precise the information provided the better (name of activity/output, short description; title, PID, URL, deliverable number and due date where possible). **Please note that the input given by last year's workshop attendants is available in the spreadsheet. Where it concerns a project you represent, please update that information.**

In completing the spreadsheet and in the working session discussions, the participants will be asked to consider the following questions:

- 1.a. What have you already done that addresses the recommendations?**
- 1.b. What has your project planned and scheduled which will address these recommendations?**

- 2.a. Are you doing anything of significance related to implementing FAIR in the context of the EOSC that is not covered by the recommendations?**
- 2.b. Does this need to be included in an updated action plan and revised set of recommendations?**

We are interested in products that correspond directly with TFiR recommendations (Q1) *and* in products that are not covered by the recommendations. We are also keen to identify where there are gaps (whether there are recommendations that are not being addressed or whether there are important activities which are not covered by the recommendations). Either of these scenarios would suggest the need to revise and update the TFiR recommendations and this will be an important area of discussion (Q2). As noted above, the primary objective of this activity is to gather information to build a thorough view of the landscape of activities. It is hoped that this will be a valuable exercise and output for all those involved in EOSC and in European activities to implement FAIR.

We look forward to meeting you in this workshop series!
The FAIRsFAIR Synchronisation Force