

Press Release

First six members named for GO FAIR Steering Committee

The GO FAIR Steering Committee has been established: France, Germany and the Netherlands delegate their first Steering Committee Members who will provide strategic guidance to the initiative.

Leiden/ Hamburg/ Paris, October 29, 2018: The first Steering Committee Members of the GO FAIR initiative have been announced. The Netherlands, Germany and France – the founding member states of the initiative – will each be represented in the Committee by two experts: one from the ministerial level, one from the research community. Aart Jan Bette and Prof Dr Rianne Letschert will represent the Netherlands, Dr Hans-Josef Linkens and Prof Dr Heike Neuroth will represent Germany, and Marin Dacos and Prof Dr Jean-Pierre Vilotte will represent France.

The GO FAIR Steering Committee will provide high-level guidance to the GO FAIR initiative and take strategic decisions based on national coordination and needs.

Prof Klaus Tochtermann, Strategic Director of the GO FAIR initiative and Director of the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, emphasized: “We are excited to have such highly experienced members on board of the Steering Committee. They will be a great asset for the strategic development of the GO FAIR initiative.”

Initially, the Committee will consist of six members – two from each participating country – and will be expanded as further member states join the initiative. Prof Barend Mons, Strategic Director of GO FAIR, will initially serve as the Secretary of the Steering Committee.

Members of the GO FAIR Steering Committee were present at the GO FAIR country meeting on October 26, 2018 that aimed at strengthening the GO FAIR approach on country level in Europe. The country meeting was a huge success: 34 country representatives participated with a total number of 18 countries being represented. The European Commission was also represented: Jean-Claude Burgelman attended the meeting and gave an update on the development of the European Open Science Cloud. The participating countries showed great interest in becoming part of the GO FAIR initiative and building on the on-going momentum within the GO FAIR ecosystems.

Meet the GO FAIR Steering Committee Members:

Ministerial representatives

Marin Dacos, *French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)*

Marin Dacos is the Founding Director of OpenEdition and appointed Scientific Advisor for Open Science to the French Ministry of Research and Innovation.

Dr Hans-Josef Linkens, *Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany (BMBF)*

Hans-Josef Linkens is Head of Division 421, Research Data, at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Aart Jan Bette, *Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of The Netherlands*

Aart Jan Bette is Head of Unit at the Research and Science Policy Directorate for the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

Research representatives

Prof Dr Heike Neuroth, *University of Applied Sciences Potsdam*

Heike Neuroth is Professor of Library Science and Vice Dean of Research at the Faculty of Information Sciences.

Prof Dr Rianne Letschert, *Maastricht University*

Rianne Letschert is Rector Magnificus of Maastricht University.

Prof Dr Jean-Pierre Vilotte, *Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP)*

Jean-Pierre Vilotte is Professor at the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP) and Head of the High Performance Data and Computational Center (S-CAPAD) of IPGP.

More information on the Steering Committee can be found here: <https://www.go-fair.org/go-fair-initiative/governance/steering-committee/>

For more information on the GO FAIR initiative visit: <https://www.go-fair.org/>

Background information:

The GO FAIR initiative is a bottom-up international approach for the practical implementation of the European Open Science Cloud as part of a global Internet of FAIR Data & Services. The initiative aims at avoiding silo formation, undue competition and fragmentation by fostering concerted “FAIRification” efforts by its participants.

France, Germany and the Netherlands have established an internationally operating office at three sites – Paris, Hamburg and Leiden – to support the implementation and further development of the GO FAIR initiative. Strategic Directors are Prof Patrick Garda (France), Prof Klaus Tochtermann (Germany) and Prof Barend Mons (The Netherlands).

The initiative is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI).

