

Manifesto of the “Other People’s Data and Services” (OPEDAS) GO FAIR Implementation Network

An open, public/private partnership engaging in a concerted action to select, create, and/or agree upon pre-competitive materials/tools, protocols, standards and approaches for organisations involved in making Other People’s Data and Services (OPEDAS) FAIR, and foster a collaborative community with aligned practices for providing professional-quality services that aim to increase the level of FAIRness of digital objects (“FAIRification”) - both commercial and non-commercial.

The undersigned represent major public and private stakeholders in FAIRification services and tools. A core objective of the GO FAIR initiative is optimal reuse of research objects, which requires not just data interoperability, but also the interoperability of tools and services that operate on that data. Given the breadth of potential standards and conventions that could be applied to the problem of FAIRification by the participating stakeholders, we recognise that there is a significant risk for divergence in approaches and standards. This would interfere with our ability to make these research objects interoperable; antithetical to the objectives of GO FAIR. Rather, in OPEDAS, we aim to strive for convergence, and manage divergence in a coordinated manner among these stakeholder groups. Moreover, we recognise that the tools and technologies generated or selected by this stakeholder group and others will be used by other GO FAIR Implementation Networks. For example GO FAIR training networks will be encouraged to utilize these to support their educational activities. Similarly, we would be better-acknowledging the objectives of FAIRness if the 500,000+ data experts who need to be trained are not guided in different directions by different stakeholders, leading them to pursue distinct standards or approaches.

Thus, alignment of the technologies and objectives during training, and harmonization of messaging to the students, is important. Beyond the consistency of training, we also acknowledge that all FAIR stakeholders benefit from consistent public messaging and advocacy materials, a common set of driving examples, use-cases, and other market-building assets. The production of these shared assets falls within the scope of OPEDAS. In a manner similar to that adopted by the W3C, where “Working Groups” include competing organisations (Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, etc.) who have a joint interest in a common objective, the OPEDAS IN will aim to identify a base layer of agreement on what “FAIRification” should produce, and how. The OPEDAS network currently constitutes stakeholders from academia, commercial data and software providers, repository hosts and curators, journal editors, publishers, trainers, and other academic administrators.

Purpose of the Implementation Network

Recognising that FAIR has the overall objective of making data efficiently reusable, we assert that this can be optimally achieved if we harmonise the approach to data “FAIRification” amongst the stakeholders who undertake these kinds of activities on behalf of third-parties.

Deliverables

- Consensus on the steps in the FAIRification process & enumeration of the types of professional services required for each step.
- Consensus on the standards and norms that will be applied during “core” FAIRification (e.g. the metadata elements shared by most resources).

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- Business cases and operational reasons to support FAIRifying data in businesses and research organisations.
- Create common marketing materials, logos, elevator pitches, etc.

Overarching Principle of Operation

We commit to comply with the Rules of Engagement of GO FAIR Implementation Networks.

Targeted Objectives aligning OPEDAS with the vision of the Internet of FAIR Data and Services:

1. Developing and sharing information about what the market can expect from FAIR Service Providers; What are the services offered, and associated artefacts (for example: FAIRification process, FAIR Metrics, Metrics evaluators, and registries for identifiers, ontologies, standards, and (meta)data models) .
2. All services at least following the same approach and objectives collectively decided upon in the IN (for example the FAIRification process).
3. Developing the value proposition for businesses. This would allow for a consistent expectation by end users and clients. Possibly published on the GO FAIR website at some point.
4. Collectively start making data FAIR using the same approach so we converge on a set of targeted, valuable, and well-delineated services and their associated artefacts
5. Developing new business models for data publishing.
6. Speak with one voice, regardless of range of expertise/offerings of the IN participant, via synchronized 'elevator pitches'.
7. Collect convincing use cases and use them for cultural change.
8. Share pre-competitive information that is currently only available within each individual organisation.
9. Professionalisation of resources in general.
10. Joint offerings based upon combined expertise, recognizing that not all partners can do all required FAIRification activities.
11. Coordination with a, hopefully short-term, specialist registry for discovery of FAIR data providers called the FAIRpoint (provided by other GO FAIR core initiatives). We will provide advice to the developers of that registry regarding the (meta)data models recommended by this IN. This allows us to jointly maximize the value to our target data owner communities, until more globally-recognized indexing resources (e.g. Google) replace the need for this specialized registry.
12. Supporting the GO TRAIN Implementation Networks through guiding their selection of tools, technologies, approaches, and messaging at all training levels and modalities – from loosely coordinated “Bring Your Own Data” workshops, to results-oriented FAIR hackathons with professionally linked and published FAIRpoints as a result.
13. Encourage data from all providers to be conceived FAIR (FAIRborn data).

Sunset Conditions

OPEDAS will be considered complete when there is:

- Clear definition of the steps to FAIRification (recognizing that not all steps are required for all OPEAS scenarios).
- A set of shared marketing materials covering all steps of FAIRification.
- Shared training materials covering all steps of FAIRification.
- An open “registry” mapping individual participants onto the steps that they are competent to perform.
- A publicly-available set of use-cases spanning (at least) academia, healthcare, government, and industry.
- A publicly-accessible FAIRport that is successfully interacting with tools provided by this IN.

We will review our progress through remote meetings on a biannual basis. We will begin the sunseting process with GO FAIR once these measurable goals have been achieved.

Though we appreciate diversity, especially in the research field, we consider this joint statement a way to speak with one voice on a number of critical issues that are of generic importance and on which we feel we have reached consensus.

Signed by:

Mark Wilkinson - Centre for Plant Biotechnology and Genomics UPM-INIA, Madrid, Spain

Laurenz Baltzer - Karger publishing, Switzerland

Susanna-Assunta Sansone - FAIRsharing, University of Oxford, UK

Kees van Bochove - The Hyve

Astrid Engelen-Visser - IOS Press, The Netherlands

Mark Musen - BioPortal, CEDAR, Stanford University, USA

George Strawn - BRDI board, NAS, USA (observer/advisor)

Albert Mons - Phortos Consultants

Arie Baak - Euretos

Annika Jacobsen - LUMC, The Netherlands

Christine Kirkpatrick - NDS, SDSC/UC San Diego & NCSA/UIUC, USA

Wouter Haak - Helena Cousijn, Elsevier, The Netherlands

Erik Schultes - GO FAIR International Coordination Office, The Netherlands

Ruben Kok - Dutch Techcenter for Life Sciences, The Netherlands

Peter Doorn- Data Archiving and Networked Services, The Netherlands

Michel Dumontier - Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Chris Evelo - Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Andra Waagmeester – Micelio

Tobias Kuhn - VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Derk Arts – Castor EDC

Myles Axton - Nature Genetics, Springer Nature

Mark Hahnel - Figshare

Maryan Martone – UCSD, USA

Merce Crosas - DataVerse

Richard Finkers - Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands

Jildau Bouwman – TNO, The Netherlands

Marco Roos – Leiden University Medical Centre, The Netherlands

GO FAIR coordinator: Luiz Bonino, GO FAIR International Coordination Office, The Netherlands