

The Leibniz Association's Commitment to the EOSC Declaration

The Leibniz Association welcomes the European Commission's initiative for a European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and, with its present position paper, endorses the principles of the EOSC Declaration that resulted from the first EOSC Summit on June, 12 and proposes specific actions relating to its implementation.

The digitization of science fundamentally changes the way research is done. It offers many opportunities to enrich and enhance the scientific output. Hence, recognizing research data as one of the most valuable resources [Data culture], securing its long-term availability [FAIR principles], and making research data reusable [Data stewardship] is of utmost importance.

Leibniz institutes are very active in the creation, dissemination and (re-)use of research data of all kinds and across all disciplines. Moreover, Leibniz institutes are at the forefront in providing innovative research data services reaching across institutional and disciplinary limits.

The Leibniz Association plays a leading role in science policy related to research data. Leibniz representatives are actively involved in the German Council for Scientific Information Infrastructures (RfII), in the European Open Science Policy Platform, in the High Level Expert Group on the European Open Science Cloud and in the Horizon 2020 Advisory Group on European Research Infrastructures. Also, members of the Leibniz Association hold leading positions in the GO FAIR initiative that aims to bring together existing research data infrastructures from across the different member states and thus provide a sound basis for (the further development of) the EOSC.

The Leibniz Association's evidence-based policy advice builds upon strategic research networks and long-term projects in the relevant fields. For example, the Leibniz Research Alliance 2.0 represents a Europe-wide unique research community that brings together the expertise of more than 30 research institutions and information infrastructures in the context of Science 2.0 and Open Science. The Leibniz Association's expertise in Research Data Management (RDM) and the provision of research data infrastructures asserts itself in the Leibniz Network for Open Research Data (Leibniz Data) that is ready to support the development of the EOSC.

Furthermore, Leibniz institutes provide a range of services for the whole cycle of research data management to make data better findable, accessible, interoperable and

reusable. Examples for long-term flagship activities to this effect are the projects GeRDI, GFBio, the repository service RADAR and the research data registry DataCite.

In addition, the Leibniz Association is actively involved in the creation of a National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) that is requested by the RfII. The NFDI will help integrating German data resources and services with initiatives of other European partners and the EOSC.

The Leibniz Association strongly supports the principles of FAIR Data at institutional, national, European and global level, open access as main form of publication as well as inclusive stakeholder participation in the implementation of the EOSC Declaration. These fundamental components are essential to turn the EOSC into a successful one-stop-shop to find, access, and use research data and services from multiple disciplines and platforms. The Leibniz Association agrees that it is very important to incentivize the re-use of existing building blocks [Legacy] and to mobilize efforts at all levels accordingly. While RDM needs to remain a science-driven, bottom-up venture, strong funding efforts at all levels are indispensable. Consequently, we would like to highlight that there is an increasing need for the development of new interoperable research data infrastructures and provision of further support in disciplines where there are no or little established RDM infrastructures. Moreover, the implementation of new services built upon research data will become more and more important for all research activities.

The Leibniz Association, representing a community of more than 9,500 researchers from various disciplines spanning from the Humanities over the Life Sciences to the Natural Sciences and including several information infrastructures, offers the following support:

- **[Data culture]** Awareness raising among researchers to help them recognize that publishing the research data of a project may enhance its visibility as a whole and that it will strengthen the value of research data as a legitimate scientific output.
- **[Data stewardship and skills]** Developing and implementing on-the-job training and apprenticeships for data stewards.
- **[Research Data repositories]** Contributing towards the establishment of sustainable solutions for the long-term preservation of data including repositories that specifically address the needs of long-tail data.
- **[Rewards and incentives]** Identifying incentives for the publication of research data (like data journals) and instruments to incorporate the publication of research data in the career assessment of researchers.
- **[FAIR principles]** Establishing and fostering the FAIR data principles in the different research fields that represent the diversity of the Leibniz Association.

Facilitating the interoperability of data, especially through services contributing to a common understanding of data semantics with light-weight semantics, automatic annotation of metadata and other innovative IT-based tools.

- **[Standards]** Contributing to the development of standards for research data management in and across the disciplines (for example generic and discipline-specific meta-data standards) and providing support to transfer these standards into the research communities.
- **[Data management plans]** Providing know-how and best practices for the standardization of the documentation of research data as well as standardizing the access to research data and data management plans.
- **[Governance model]** Offering the experience of a lightweight governance model that conjuncts 91 independent research institutions, ranging in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities.

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About the Leibniz Association:

The Leibniz Association connects 91 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services. The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Leibniz institutions collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of “Leibniz ScienceCampi” (thematic partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad.

They are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the importance of the institutions for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federation and the Länder, employing some 18,700 individuals, including 9,500 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.8 billion Euros.