

FAIR certification

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WP4 Webinar 3.9.2020



EOSC-Nordic project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 857652



Topics

- FAIR ecosystem and TRUST principles
- Trusted Digital Repository Certification
- Benefits of certification

FAIR ecosystem

- Research data will not become nor stay FAIR by magic.
- FAIRness requires curation and care both now and in the long term.

“FAIR Digital Objects can only exist in a FAIR ecosystem, comprising key data services that are needed to support FAIR. These include ... stewardship and repositories ...”

“Repositories offer databases and data services and should be certified to ensure trust.”

European Commission expert group on FAIR data (2018). Turning FAIR into reality. <https://doi.org/10.2777/1524>



TRUST principles

- To make data FAIR whilst preserving them over time requires trustworthy digital repositories.

Source: Lin, D., Crabtree, J., Dillo, I. *et al.* The TRUST Principles for digital repositories. *Sci Data* 7, 144 (2020).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-020-0486-7>

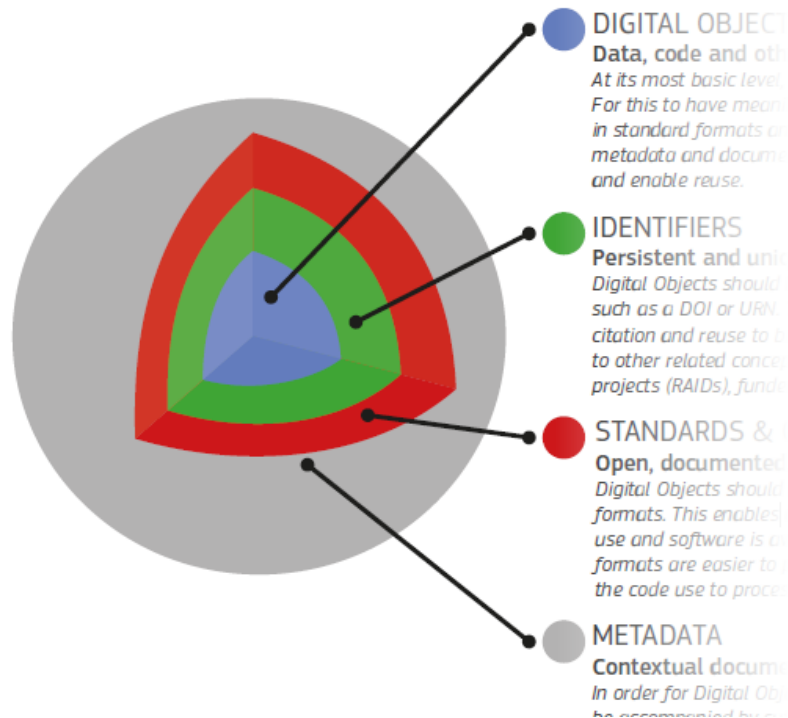
Principle	Guidance for repositories
T ransparency	To be transparent about specific repository services and data holdings that are verifiable by publicly accessible evidence.
R esponsibility	To be responsible for ensuring the authenticity and integrity of data holdings and for the reliability and persistence of its service.
U ser Focus	To ensure that the data management norms and expectations of target user communities are met.
S ustainability	To sustain services and preserve data holdings for the long-term.
T echnology	To provide infrastructure and capabilities to support secure, persistent, and reliable services.

In summary: the goal is...

FAIR Digital Objects

IN

Trustworthy Digital Repositories



Digitalbevaring.dk

Illustration by Jørgen Stamp
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Turning FAIR into reality (2018).
<https://doi.org/10.2777/1524>

Trusted digital repository certification 1(3)

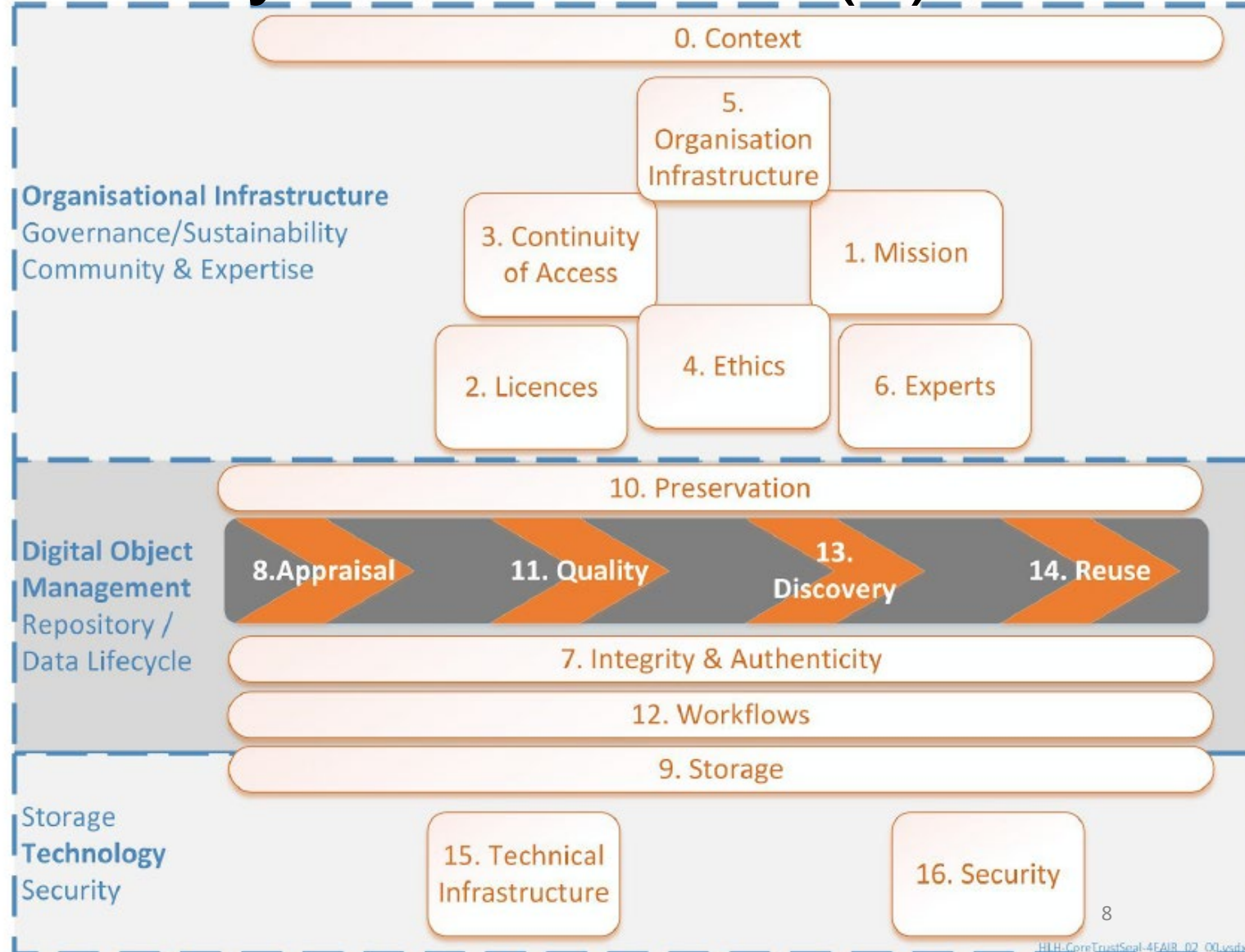
Three levels of certification

([European Framework for Audit and Certification of Digital Repositories](#), 2010)

Basic	CoreTrustSeal a merger of Data Seal of Approval and World Data System self-assessment process for digital repositories
Extended	nestor Seal: verification according to DIN 31644 extended self-assessment process for digital archives
Formal	ISO 16363 certification full external audit

Trusted digital repository certification 2(3)

- *Turning FAIR into reality* recommends CoreTrustSeal as the basis for certification of repositories.
- CoreTrustSeal is a community-driven foundation offering basic certification against 16 core Requirements.



Source of picture: FAIRsFAIR D4.2
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3835697>

Trusted digital repository certification 3(3)

- FAIRsFAIR project suggests CTS + FAIR and applying a capability/maturity approach:
 - CTS as a baseline and elaborate it in ways which demonstrate that a repository enables FAIRness
 - FAIRsFAIR D4.2, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3835697>
- Or... something partial/lighter? You might wish to focus on CTS, or certain aspects/requirements of FAIR and CTS, pending on your needs.

Certification requires effort - why to do it?

- Data infrastructures can improve and build competence through self-assessment and peer review.
- (Self-)Assessment against CTS and FAIR standards helps to define where you need to focus your resources to improve.
- Certification demonstrates your FAIRness and trustworthiness to data depositors, users, funders and to other stakeholders.
- Users and funders can see that you manage data according to best practices, that you are accepted by your designated community.

- See also RDA's [CTS adoption stories](#) across domains and regions.
- FAIR is not always easy but being FAIRer is possible!
- Let's make our resources FAIR and trusted and enable better research together!

Thank you!

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