Certification of trustworthiness at NSD – an adoption story
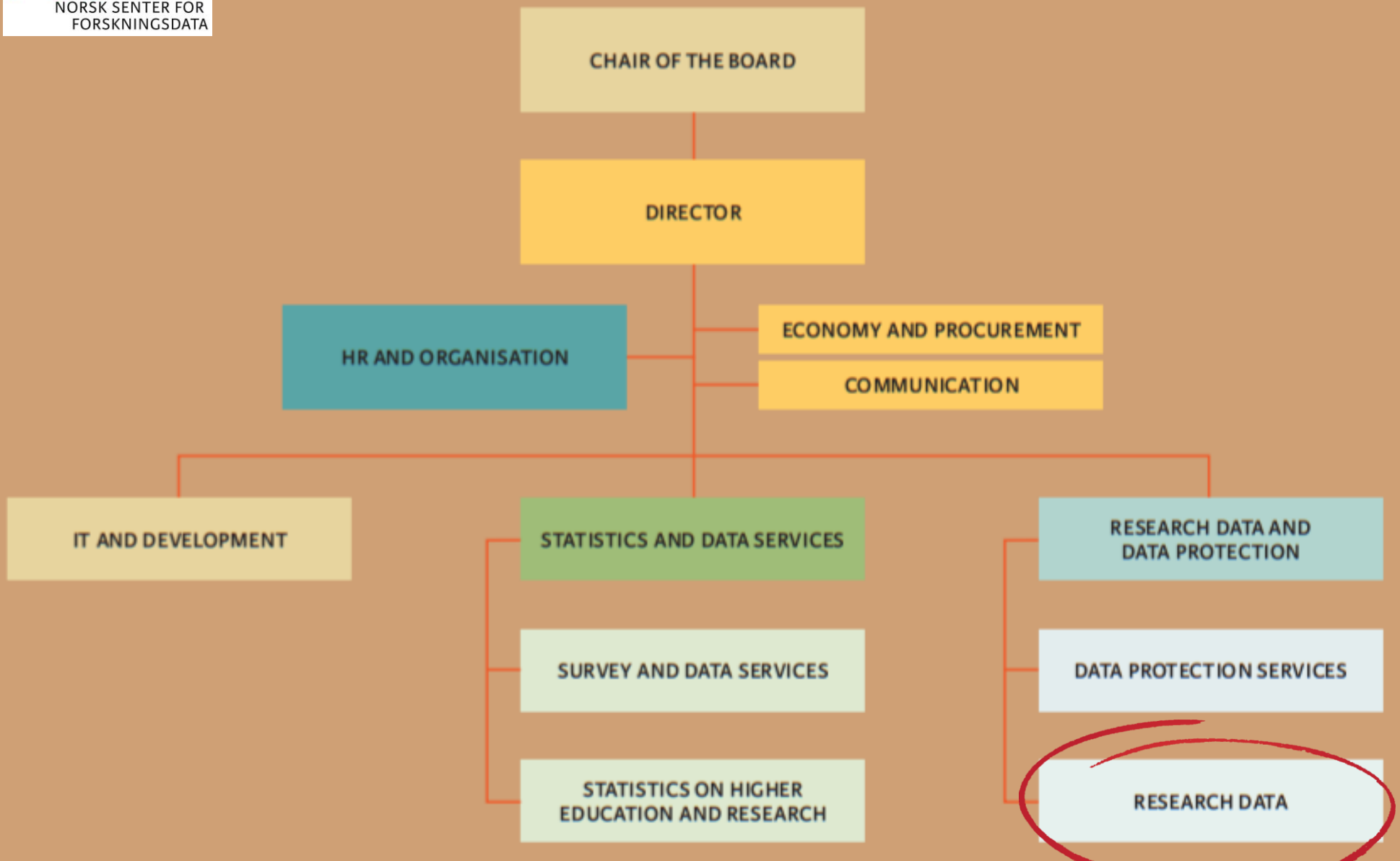
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EOSC Nordic, Webinar on certification, September 3, 2020

About NSD

- NSD – Norwegian Centre for Research Data - is a national archive and research data centre, owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

- Mission: ensure free and open access to research data through a broad range of data and support services.

- Around 100 employees, 20 working within the department that deals with archiving, curation and dissemination of research data.

Why certification

- Review and improve our internal processes and documentation.

- Show our stakeholders, funders, users, the trustworthiness of our archive services.

- Contribute to raising awareness to the subject of data curation, long-term preservation of - and access to - research data.

Certification process

✓ Started in 2014 (at the time: Data Seal of Approval)

✓ Self-assessment 1: a quick internal discussion/review of each of the requirements.

✓ Self-assessment 2: more detailed review of each requirement; what do we actually have, what do we lack.

✓ Iterative process with the Board of reviewers (self-assessment was sent back and forth two times)

✓ Acquired the Data Seal of Approval in January 2015.

✓ Renewed / re-processed in 2018, and aligned to the new Core Trust Seal certification.
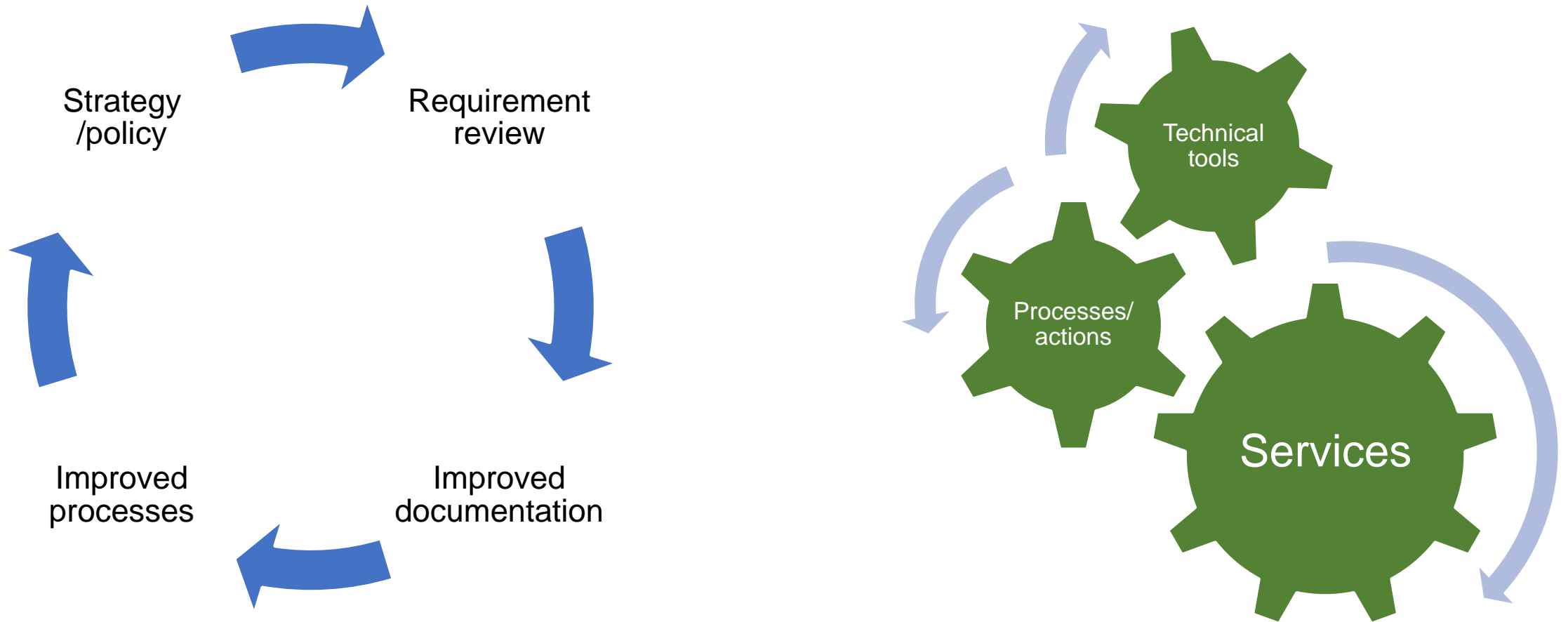
Certification process

Helpful resource:

the CTS 'database' of certification documents from other repositories and archives.

- ✓ Read the implementation documents from other organisations so that we could learn from their experiences and approaches at addressing the requirements.

- ✓ Gave us insight into what was needed to reach a certain level (statement of compliance)

What we achieved

- Closer aligned to the OAIS model.

- Improved documentation of processes → more efficient processes.

- Reinforced the links between our hands-on, day-to-day process in the archive, and the overarching strategy/policy departments

- Facilitated structured discussion across several areas of the organisation.

- Provides a context and a framework for thinking about and planning towards technical challenges → better technical solutions

- More efficient use of resources.

Main take-away

Strategy/policy → Requirement review → Improved documentation → Improved processes → (cycle)

Technical tools

Processes/actions

Services

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Main take-away

The self-assessment process (when performed on regular intervals) keeps services, processes and documentation updated and relevant, and has made us better equipped for dealing with FAIR-requirements.

Science Europe:

"*In order to facilitate the recognition of trustworthy repositories for researchers, it is strongly recommended that repositories that have not yet been certified seek certification by such a body*".

Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020:

"*Preference should be given to certified repositories which support open access where possible*"

Sources:

Science Europe: Practical Guide to the International Alignment of Research Data Management: https://www.scienceeurope.org/media/jezkhnoo/se_rdm_practical_guide_final.pdf;

Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf