

FAIR maturity of Nordic and Baltic research data repositories – **FAIR is possible!**

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Mari Kleemola, Tampere University, Finnish Social Science Data Archive
Hannah Mihai, DeIC



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FAIR

- FAIR = Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable
- Research data will not become nor stay FAIR by magic.
- FAIRness requires curation and care both now and in the long term.

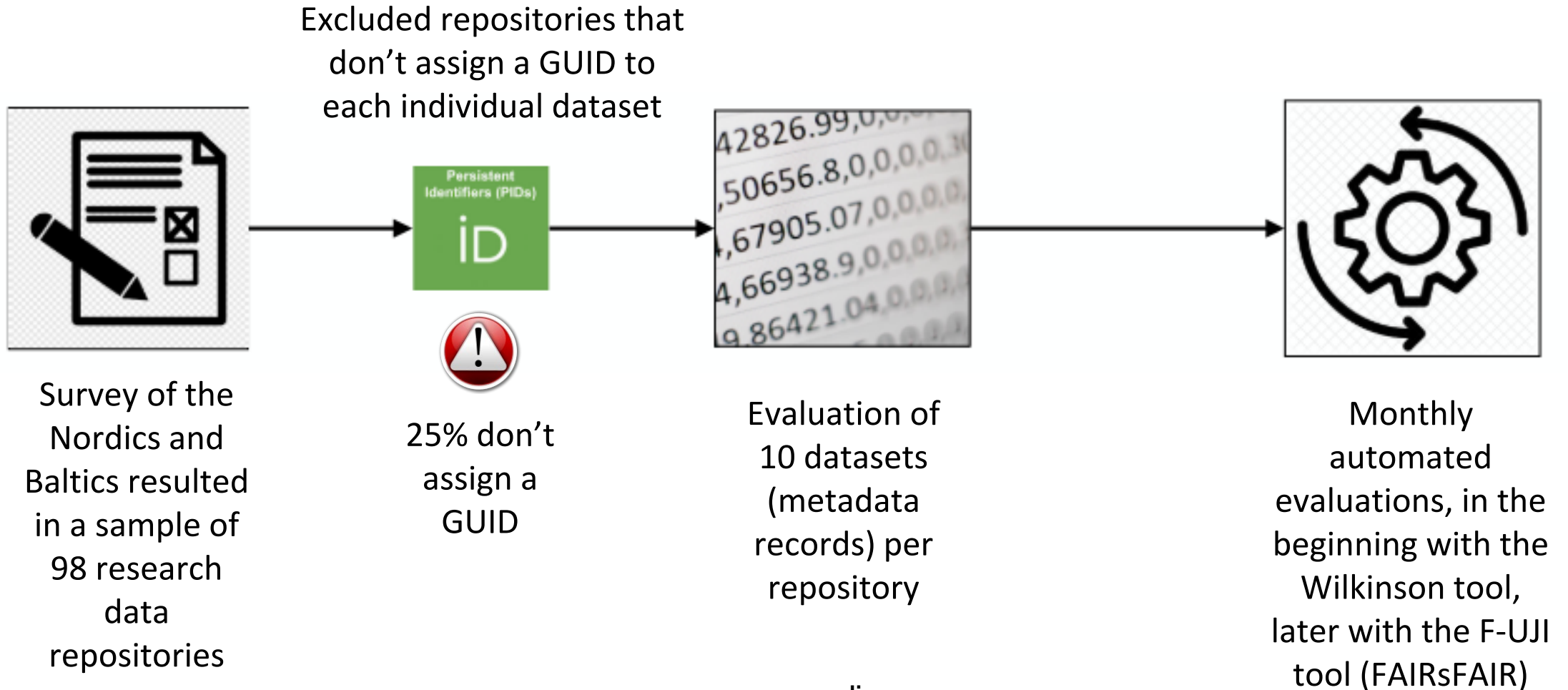
“FAIR Digital Objects can only exist in a FAIR ecosystem, comprising key data services that are needed to support FAIR. These include ... stewardship and repositories ...”

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

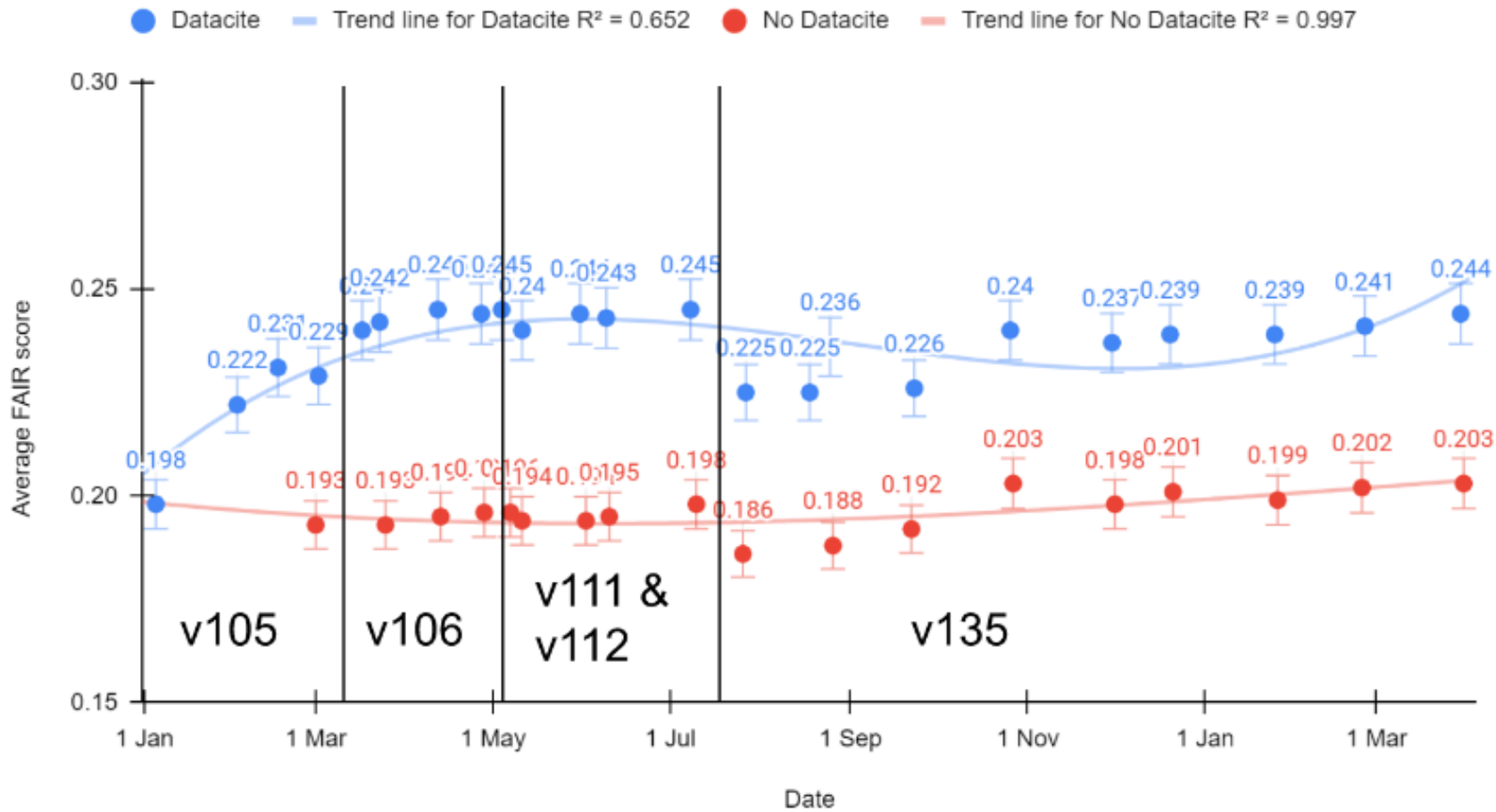
European Commission expert group on FAIR data (2018). Turning FAIR into reality. <https://doi.org/10.2777/1524>



Tracking the FAIR uptake in the Nordics and Baltics



Development of average FAIR score over time in EOSC-Nordic sample



- F-UJ assessments from January 2021 to April 2022
- DataCite metadata gives added FAIR-value
- To minimise variations resulting from F-UJ version changes, in July 2021, we fixed the version of F-UJ that we used to v135
- General (slight) increase over time
- **Overall, the maturity level is still low(ish) - there is a lot of room for improvement**

FAIR is possible, time to start is now!

- Including many small repositories in our sample may have contributed significantly to the lowish scores
- For most repositories, the FAIR score stayed unchanged
- Repositories that run on established platforms (such as Dataverse, Figshare, and others) have noticeably higher FAIR scores
- CoreTrustSeal certified repositories have somewhat higher FAIR scores
- **Several repositories improved their FAIR score significantly** (see other presentations in this session)

DO's and DON'Ts in FAIRification

DO

- Focus on metadata
 - Metadata available, but only some datasets can be downloaded without registration → FAIRness of metadata is crucial
- Take basic steps:
 - Embedded JSON → multilingual and vocabulary based
 - Enriched DublinCore
 - Typed links / signposting
 - Vocabularies, ontologies, keywords, mappings...

DON'T

- do it for the evaluator
- worry if not reaching 100%: understand the results and limitations
- think FAIR only now. Keeping data FAIR needs to be addressed, too

Why FAIR evaluations?

- Increases “FAIR Awareness” within organisations
- Increases the trust-factor of repositories and communities
- Preserves the FAIR Principles’ intent (prevents “watering down”)
- Essential for interoperability within data-exchange projects
- Drives convergence across domains and countries

Read more

- D4.1 An assessment of FAIR-uptake among regional digital repositories <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4045402>
- D4.3 Report on Nordic and Baltic repositories and their uptake of FAIR <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6880904>
- STEP-BY-STEP Webinars:
 - STEP1 “Global Unique Identifiers for Datasets” (Nov 26, 2020) [summary](#)
 - STEP2 “FAIR principle F3 – Metadata includes the identifier of the data it describes” (Feb 3, 2021) [summary](#)
 - STEP3 “Generic metadata standards” (Apr 29, 2021) [summary](#)
 - STEP4 “Domain specific metadata” (Oct 7, 2021) [summary](#)
 - STEP5 “Value and Limitations of (FAIR) Automated Evaluators” (Feb 8, 2022) [summary](#)
- All materials available in the [EOSC-Nordic Knowledge Hub](#)

Thank you!



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