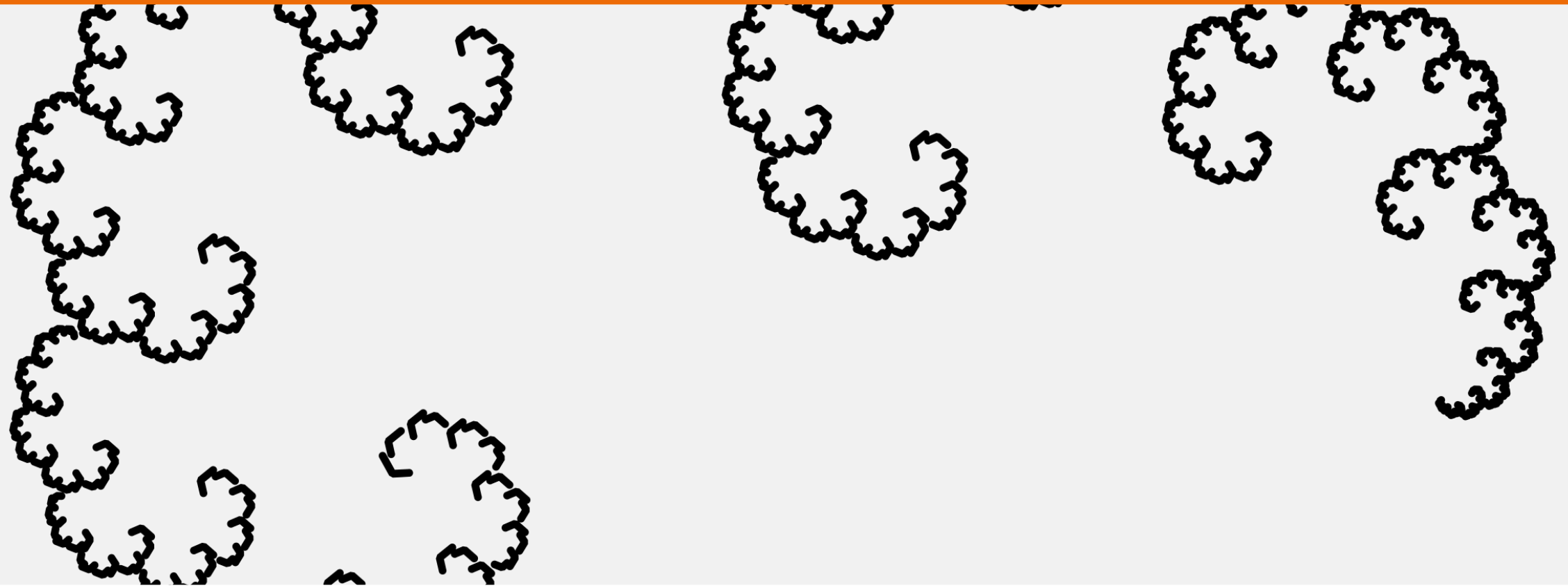# The GO FAIR initiative

Erik Fledderus, SURF

Barend Mons, University of Leiden

SURF

Storyline

- GO FAIR – Global Open FAIR, but as usual: GO FAIR has a message in itself
- Recall: March 2016
- What happened since then?
- GO FAIR / GER-NL statement by state secretaries Schütte & Dekker
- Frequently asked questions … and some initial answers

March 2016 – e-IRG workshop in Amsterdam

- Presentation by prof Barend Mons, (then) chair of HLEG on European Open Science Cloud
  - EOSC: 'internet approach'

- Main messages:
  - Open Science IS NOT (the same as) Open Access
  - Open data is about more than disclosure ➔ FAIR
  - FAIR data IS NOT (the same as) Open / Free data
  - Several recommendations regarding governance, implementation, rules of engagement, policies

The European Open Science Cloud

e-IRG
Amsterdam

JC Burgelman, W. Lusoli, B. Mons

A lot has happened since then …

- Start of EOSC-pilot and eInfraCentral projects, important exploration-projects what EOSC can be, should not be
  - Gaining experience and collecting practices on e.g. governance, implementation, rules of engagement, policies
- Start of GO FAIR: a global initiative addressing the connecting, re-enforcing & building of strong national "open science cloud"-nodes
  - A fractal view on EOSC
  - Started in NL
  - Connecting e-infra / users / government
- Stepping-down of BM as chair of HLEG

Courtesy: Patrick Aerts, EOSC-presentation, Poznan

Something more about GO FAIR

- GO FAIR (Global Open FAIR) …
  - … proposes a completely inclusive, open and practical implementation of the
    recommendations of the [EOSC High Level Expert Group](#) through a federated approach,
    liaising with initiatives and infrastructures that already exist in the EU member states.
  - The Netherlands has initiated and co-leads the early development of the GO FAIR initiative.
    Professor Barend Mons (DTL) and Professor Erik Fledderus (SURF) will lead GO FAIR's preparatory
    phase with a growing group of representatives from other countries.

- Challenges:
  - Grow beyond NL – include 'triangle' gov-user-einfra
    - Anchor in research-policy, improve 'who should pay?' condition
  - Grow beyond life sciences
    - new domains appear, often close-to LS, but also energy

Press release from the EU Competitiveness Council (May 30, '17)

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

press release

Germany and the Netherlands call for rapid action on the European Open Science Cloud

30 May 2017

At the occasion of today's Competitiveness Council, Germany and the Netherlands made clear that it is important to boost the development of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and capitalise on the momentum of the digital era. 'Time for action is now,' say State Secretaries Georg Schütte (Germany) and Sander Dekker (the Netherlands) in their position paper on the EOSC that was presented during today's Council meeting in Brussels.

Research data should not be stored away on personal computers or USB-sticks, nor in research infrastructures only researchers themselves know how to use. Making data easily accessible for other researchers will enhance scientific progress. Making them accessible for a broader audience such as citizens and entrepreneurs will greatly boost the impact and utilisation of science. The sooner we are able to make this happen, the better.

What's behind the GER-NL paper?

- Observations:
  - General 'open science (cloud)', general 'FAIR'
  - Many bottom-up initiatives for data standards: excellent, but with the danger of growing into non-interoperable partial solutions [*make hay while the sun shines / strike while the iron is hot*] – compare to our discussions at this and other workshops – prevent 'standard no 15'
  - Converting to FAIR data is not mere a standards / technical challenge: its about culture, its about training / skills, its about finance / responsibilities
  - Standards are source of trust … and of clash ☹

HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:
(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC)

SITUATION: THERE ARE 14 COMPETING STANDARDS.

14?! RIDICULOUS! WE NEED TO DEVELOP ONE UNIVERSAL STANDARD THAT COVERS EVERYONE'S USE CASES. YEAH!

SOON:
SITUATION: THERE ARE 15 COMPETING STANDARDS.

SOON:
SITUATION: one really thick standard with 14 independent chapters.

What's the aim of GO FAIR?

- **SPEED-UP / IMPULSE / COHERENT APPROACH based on ESSENTIAL TRIANGLE**

- Collecting good practices:
  - On content, on process, on implementation

- Influencing government about Open Science and FAIR – taking it into account in research / granting policies

- Influencing curricula (training) for new students & Life Long Learning

- Influencing / promoting cultural change that values (FAIR) data as important research results

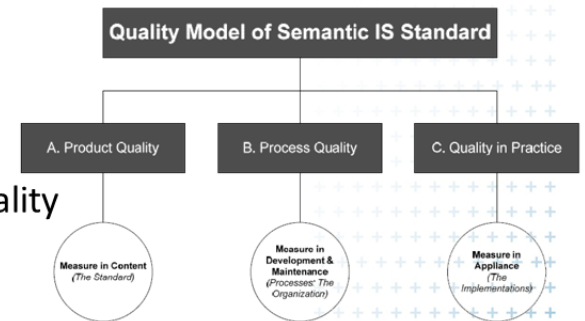- Working with partners to create FAIR-framework for existing and new data

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Design rules to make good standards

- Information standards ensure interoperability, and therefore trust
- Good standards:
  - Internal quality
  - Process quality
  - Implementation quality

Quality Model of Semantic IS Standard

A. Product Quality

B. Process Quality

C. Quality in Practice

Measure in Content
(The Standard)

Measure in Development & Maintenance
(Processes: The Organization)

Measure in Appliance
(The Implementations)

© E. Folmer, PhD thesis, 2012

MILESTONES MOVING METROLOGY

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4TH EDITION 9-11 MAY 2012 VENICE, ITALY

Any suggestions for governance in the GER-NL paper?

- GO FAIR is intended to be a self-coordinating, board-governed organisation drawn from the stakeholder community, taking decisions driven by community consensus and consideration of different interests.

- GER/NL will start creating a support office – open for other contributors – focusing on:
  - Assisting implementation networks/hubs to align themselves with the GO FAIR Rules of Engagement in order to prepare them to join the GO FAIR initiative.
  - Supporting the implementation and further development of GO FAIR e.g. by organising GO FAIR events such as workshops and meetings of the governing board.
  - Fostering compliance with the self-prescribed Rules of Engagement by supporting the establishment and implementation of a monitoring mechanism for the GO FAIR implementation networks.

Frequently asked questions

- Is GO FAIR the same as EOSC?
- What is the relation with the EOSC-pilot?
- Is it more than life sciences?
- Do you want to build infrastructure?!
- Why are you talking to "internet-guru's"?
- What are you adding?
- …