

“FAIR Office Austria” Workshop Summary Report

Date of event: 8 September 2020

Venue: TU Wien, Center for Research Data Management, Favoritenstraße 16/DG, 1040 Vienna

Authors: Eva-Maria Asamer (TU Wien), Sarah Stryeck (TU Graz), Tereza Kalová (Universität Wien), commented by the FAIR Data Austria Core Team members

Version: 1.2, Date: 10.11.2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25365/phaidra.235>

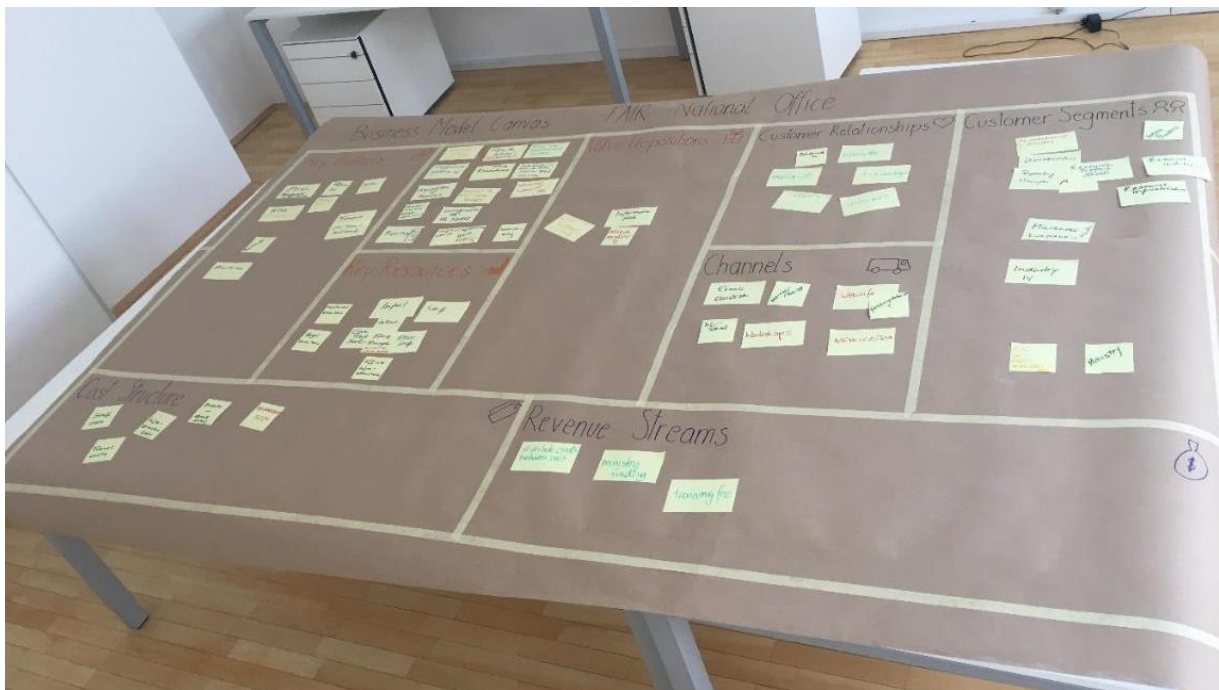


Figure 1 Finalized Business Model Canvas FAIR Office Austria



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1 Abstract

1.1 English

This report presents the results of a full-day workshop held with partners of the project FAIR Data Austria¹ and a representative of the Horizon 2020 project EOSC-Pillar². The aim of the workshop was to determine the objective of the FAIR Office Austria. The participants explored whom a FAIR Office Austria should serve, who the partners and the clients are, which services it should offer as well as what is in scope and what is out of scope in relation to the overall project. The workshop was designed to find a clear mission statement and help the participants develop a common understanding and expectations. The results will be the basis for a concrete action plan. The participants agreed that a FAIR Office Austria should serve predominantly as an information hub and a mediator between (international) organizations (e.g. GO FAIR³, EOSC⁴, RDA⁵) and local reference points located within the Austrian research institutions and other stakeholders. A FAIR Office Austria must furthermore be organized and run by several (research) institutions to reflect a truly transdisciplinary, trans-institutional and national dimension. The local FAIR reference points shall be installed at research-performing institutions. Other types of institutions will be encouraged to appoint local reference points as well.

1.2 German

Dieser Report enthält die Ergebnisse eines Ein-Tages-Workshops, der mit Partnern des Projektes FAIR Data Austria¹ und einer Vertreterin des Horizon 2020 Projekts EOSC-Pillar² durchgeführt wurde. Ziel des Workshops war es, herauszufinden, wofür ein FAIR Office Austria stehen sollte. Die Teilnehmenden diskutierten über mögliche Partner und Kunden und über konkrete Services, die angeboten werden sollten. Ebenso wichtig war die Definition der Nicht-Ziele. Der Workshop sollte zur Findung eines klaren Mission-Statements dienen und den Teilnehmenden dazu verhelfen, ein gemeinsames Verständnis und Erwartungen zu entwickeln. Die Ergebnisse werden die Grundlage für einen konkreten Maßnahmenplan bilden. Ein klares Ergebnis war, dass ein FAIR Office Austria in erster Linie als Informationsdrehscheibe und Vermittler zwischen (internationalen) Organisationen (z.B. GO FAIR³, EOSC⁴, RDA⁵) und lokalen Referenzpunkten innerhalb der österreichischen Forschungseinrichtungen und anderen Stakeholdern dienen sollte. Ein FAIR Office Austria, so eine weitere Erkenntnis, muss von mehreren, unterschiedlichen (Forschungs-)Organisationen aufgebaut und betrieben werden, um eine wirklich transdisziplinäre, trans-institutionelle und nationale Dimension widerzuspiegeln. Lokale FAIR-Referenzpunkte sollen an Universitäten eingerichtet werden, aber nicht auf diese beschränkt sein. Weitere Forschungseinrichtungen werden ermutigt, ebenfalls lokale Referenzpunkte zu benennen.

2 Motivation

The FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles⁶ form the basis of a trusted environment where researchers, innovators, companies, and citizens can publish, find, and reuse each other's data and tools for research, innovation, and educational purposes. The FAIR principles

¹ <https://forschungsdaten.at/projekte/fda/>

² <https://aussda.at/ueber-aussda/projekte/eosc-pillar/>

³ <https://www.go-fair.org/>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/index.cfm?pg=open-science-cloud>

⁵ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/>

⁶ <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

also underpin the endeavors of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) to create a trusted, virtual, federated environment in Europe to store, share and reuse digital outputs from research (including publications, data, metadata and software) across borders and scientific disciplines.⁷ It should however be noted that FAIR does not equal Open Data. In some research projects data cannot be made publicly available. FAIR is a broader concept that can be applied regardless of intellectual property rights concerns or the use of sensitive data.

FAIR is the central theme in the proposal of FAIR Data Austria, one of the projects funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in the 2020-2022 funding call “Digital and Social Transformation”. The focus of the FAIR Data Austria project is the development of tools and services for Research Data Management (RDM) in alignment with the FAIR data principles. The concept and launch of the “FAIR National Node Desk”, as well as the implementation of the “local FAIR reference points as contact points for researchers concerning FAIR principles and dissemination of research output at their institution” represent two of the main goals of the Work Package 5 “Process Development, RDM-Training and Support”.⁸

3 Findings

The workshop followed the Business Canvas Model method (please see Annex 5.2) and produced the following results.

3.1 Customer Segments

Austrian universities, research-performing institutions and research infrastructures were identified as the main customers of the FAIR Office. The FAIR Office Austria could also support other Austrian service providers and the industry at a later stage. The communication with the (research) organizations should be conducted through embedded local FAIR reference points. The ministries, funders and international (EU) organizations represent another set of customers as well as partners (see below for further explanation).

3.2 Value Proposition

The FAIR Office Austria will be an information hub. It will carry out continuous monitoring of FAIR-related activities on the international level and survey open science activities, data initiatives, infrastructures and services in Austria. It aims at being recognized as a reliable source of information, facilitating a two-way knowledge transfer – bottom-up and top-down. The office will therefore be able to contribute to reports demanded by national and international organizations, including the ministries, the EOSC Association, and the EOSC Mandated Organization. Providing direct support to researchers was identified as out of scope of the National Office and will not belong to its tasks.

The development of the FAIR Office Austria will be facilitated through interactions with the FAIR reference points at the local level. The FAIR Office will establish and coordinate a network of local stakeholders, supporting them with solutions for specific issues and challenges, such as discipline-specific requirements. The local desks will be responsible for support within their institutions, assisting researchers in making their data FAIR and consulting them on how to address the topic FAIR in project proposals and Data Management Plans (DMPs). The local reference points together with the National Office will also ensure that the development of technical infrastructure and services will

⁷ Open Consultation for the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

⁸ Project proposal FAIR Data Austria, 05.09.2019, TU Graz

be compliant with the FAIR principles and aligned with the strategic roadmaps as set by the EOSC (FAIRification of services).

3.3 Channels

The Office will use various communication channels. The domains go-fair.at and fair-office.at were reserved during the workshop. The website will be clearly marked as a collaborative effort of the (initial) universities TU Wien, University of Vienna, TU Graz and the University of Innsbruck. The goal is to integrate further partners in the future. Communication will be conducted continuously in German and English. The FAIR Office Austria will be reachable via email and phone. Relevant information will also be made available via social media. The FAIR Office Austria will organize webinars and facilitate workshops, as well as regular meetings with the local reference points.

3.4 Customer Relationships

The above-mentioned channels will be used to foster customer relations. In addition, the FAIR Office will use mailing lists targeting appropriate customer segments. The office will also organize events and meetings.

3.5 Key Resources

The workshop attendees identified three types of key resources:

1. Information (immaterial value)
2. Staff
3. Office infrastructure

“Information” comprises expertise on the FAIR principles; the FAIRification of services; certification mechanisms such as the Core Trust Seal; Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure; APIs; machine-actionable Data Management Plans; FAIR-related content in Horizon Europe and FAIR-related topics in the EOSC. The FAIR Office will continue to identify further key topics and add to this list based on the customers’ needs.

3.6 Key Partners

The key partners include: the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organization, the EOSC (FAIR components), the European Commission, the GO FAIR Initiative, the Research Data Alliance (global), funders (both national and international such as Horizon Europe), rectorates and ministries.

3.7 Key Activities

The key activities will consist of networking, communication and the dissemination of information. Notably, the following measures were discussed:

- Training of local reference points (train-the-trainer approach)
- Communication with GO FAIR International
- Organization of FAIR Roadshows
- Providing information on how to make services FAIR
- Acquisition of partners
- Assistance in establishing local FAIR reference points and their coordination
- Promotion and support of GO FAIR Implementation Networks (INs)

- Reports and outreach activities (e.g. to Uniko⁹, Austrian EOSC Mandated Organization)

The FAIR Office Austria will establish connections among the FAIR reference points and match requests with other parties/institutions that currently deal with or have overcome similar challenges (e.g. certification of a repository). It is important to note that the FAIR Office Austria will generally not provide direct support to researchers as this is the task of the local desks. A dynamic collaboration between the two support levels will be essential. The FAIR Office will conduct a short online survey of (future) FAIR Reference Points on their expectations of the National FAIR Desk.

3.8 Cost Structure

Costs will include expenses for staff, travel and infrastructure. The FAIR Office will also need to cover the costs related to the organization of events as well as membership fees for international initiatives and organizations.

3.9 Revenue Streams

As the FAIR Office Austria should become a permanent national and international contact point beyond the FAIR Data Austria project, securing long-term funding needs to be addressed. During the workshop, the group suggested dividing the costs among the participating institutions. Ministry funding should also be considered, as the FAIR Office Austria will represent Austria on the international level. Additionally, the office might be able to generate income through training fees.

4 Outlook

This report includes input and comments from the FAIR Data Austria project partners. Each of the three major project partners TU Wien, University of Vienna, TU Graz assigned one person to the FAIR Office core team. The core team is responsible for drawing up the report, distributing it to the other partners and creating a detailed project plan based on their feedback. In addition, the core team will assess the impact and benefits of becoming a GO FAIR National Office.

4.1 Implementation of Local FAIR Reference Points

Since the appointment of dedicated FAIR experts as reference points within all Austrian research institutions is not in the scope of the project, the topic FAIR should rather be added to established support units. These might include existing RDM support teams, repository offices or project service units. The staff are generally familiar with relevant topics such as open science, project proposals, data management (planning), data publishing and data stewardship. They could therefore assume the role of FAIR reference points. The participating institutions may nominate and implement the local FAIR desks differently depending on their organizational structure.

Smaller institutions that do not have such support teams can contact the FAIR Office Austria directly.

4.2 Becoming a GO FAIR National Office

For reasons of recognition and participation in international organizations, it is advisable for the Austrian National FAIR Desk to become an official GO FAIR National Office in alignment with the go-fair.org standards. The tasks of a GO FAIR National Office currently include engagement and alignment with the national stakeholders related to the GO FAIR initiative. The conditions for joining will be further explored by the core team.

⁹ <https://www.uniko.ac.at/index.php?lang=EN>

FAIR is sure to play an important role in the EOSC. The specifics of the collaboration are yet to be determined based on further development of the EOSC.

5 Annex

5.1 Workshop Participants (in alphabetical order)

Eva-Maria Asamer (TU Wien)
Susanne Blumesberger (Universität Wien)
Raman Ganguly (Universität Wien)
Malgorzata Goraczek (TU Wien)
Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi (TU Graz)
Lisa Hönegger (Universität Wien, AUSSDA)
Tereza Kalová (Universität Wien)
Tomasz Miksa (TU Wien)
Maximilian Moser (TU Wien)
Barbara Sánchez (TU Wien)
Christiane Stork (TU Wien)
Florian Wörister (TU Wien)

5.2 Methodology

The method of a business model canvas¹⁰ was used to generate ideas and then distill them into key aspects. The business model canvas is divided into nine thematic fields: customer segments, value proposition, revenue streams, channels, customer relationships, key activities, key resources, key partners and cost structure. Each field must correspond to the other fields, e.g. at least one customer segment must be reached through every defined (communication) channel.

The twelve participants formed two groups for brainstorming. The results were then discussed and merged in a plenary session. During the next step, the attendees eliminated all duplicates and contradictions to find a clear focus.



Figure 2 Introduction to Business Model Canvas

¹⁰ Osterwalder, A., Pigneur, Y., Business Model Generation: A Handbook for Visionaries, Game Changers, and Challengers, 2010.

5.3 Business Model Canvas Templates

The Business Model Canvas

Designed for:		Designed by:		Date:	Version:
Key Partners	Key Activities	Value Propositions	Customer Relationships	Customer Segments	
	Key Resources		Channels		
Cost Structure			Revenue Streams		

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