

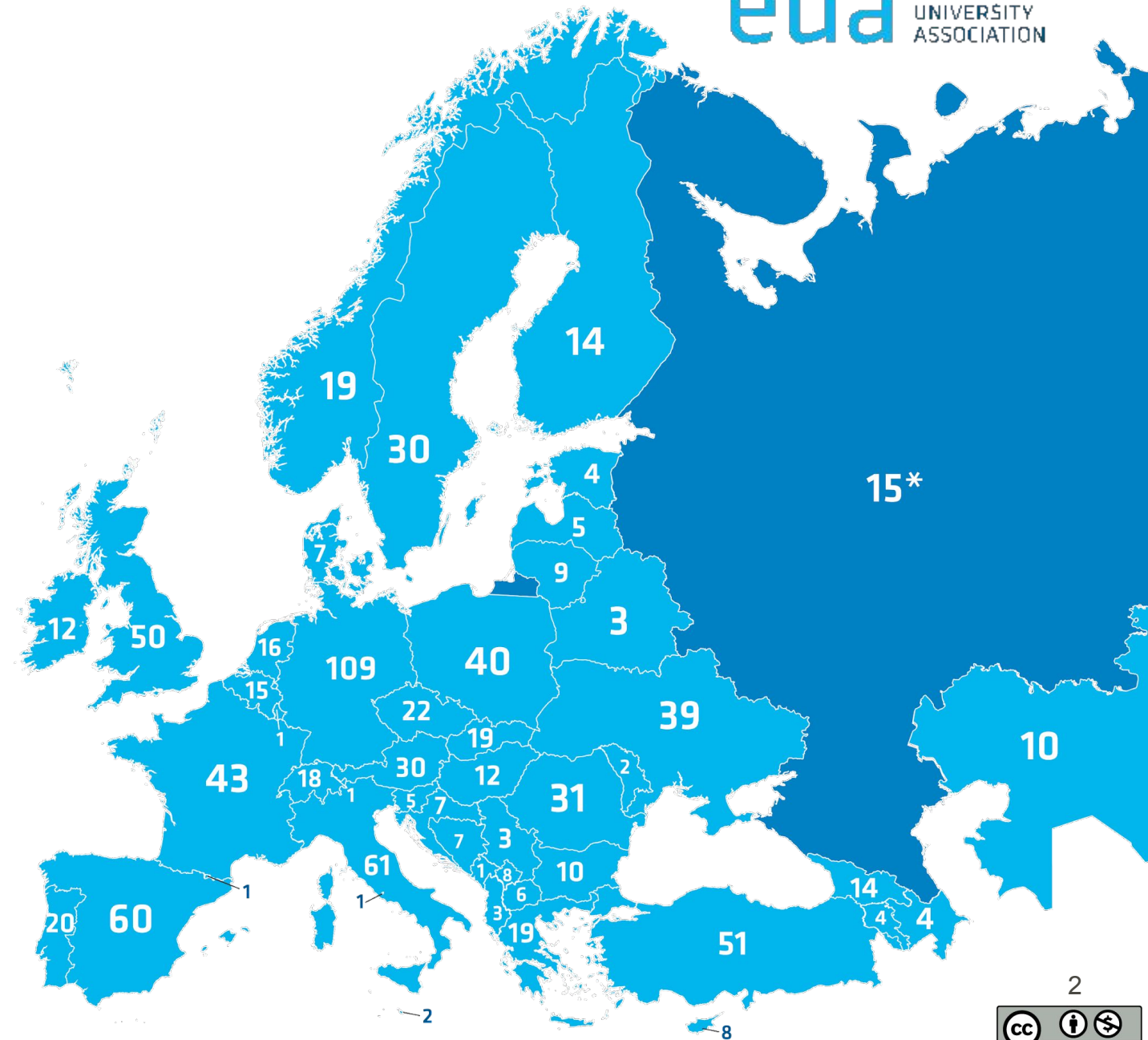
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

A closer look at research data practices in Europe's universities

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30 November 2023

**EUA has 866 members
based in 51 countries**
(as of 1 April 2023)



EUA and Open Science

- Since 2014, EUA has been actively supporting universities in the transition to Open Science, through evidence-based policy making and regular consultations with its members.
- EUA takes a holistic approach to Open Science in line with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.
- As laid out in the EUA Open Science Agenda 2025, the Association has three key priority areas in Open Science:
 1. Universal and perpetual Open Access to scholarly outputs, in a just scholarly publishing ecosystem.
 2. Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) research data.
 3. Institutional approaches to research assessment.

Priority area #2 FAIR research data

By 2025, Europe's universities will be part of a scholarly ecosystem characterised by:



FAIR research data as
the norm in producing
and sharing scientific
knowledge



New professional
profiles for data-
intensive careers



An active engagement
in EOSC

Highlights from the EUA follow-up report on research data

Background

- Part of a series of three follow-up reports to the main [EUA 2020-2021 Open Science survey report](#).
- 272 valid responses from institutions in 36 European countries.
- Focus on research data practices and not just FAIR data management.
- **Research data** is defined as a set of information, knowledge and results generated by, and which at the same time support, research projects in different scientific fields.
- **4 recommendations for universities** to foster the implementation of research data practices at institutional level.

Source:

<https://eua.eu/resources/publications/1016:a-closer-look-at-research-data-practices-in-european-universities.html>

Recommendation #1

Universities should develop measures to support the implementation of research data practices at institutional level.

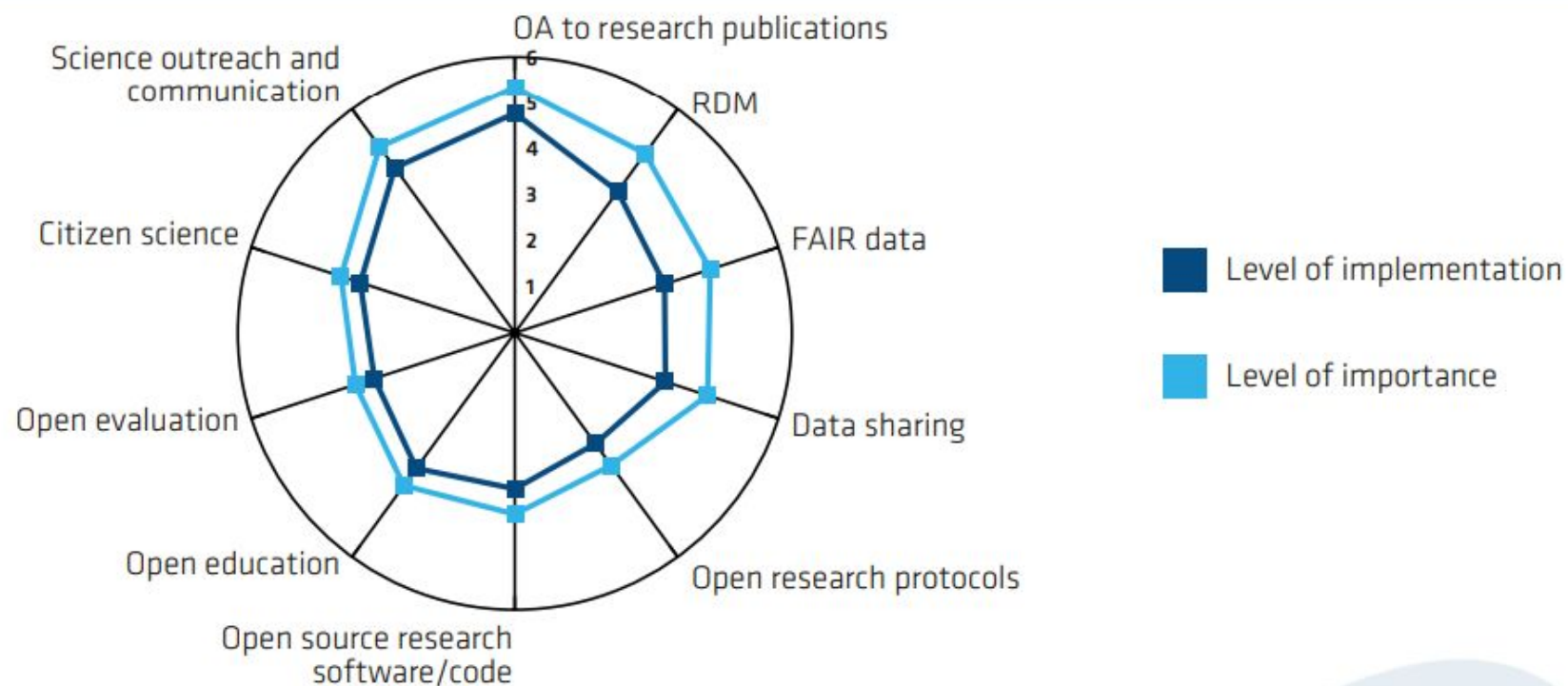
- Support measures should ensure that the university community can comply with institutional policy objectives, by providing the right infrastructure and skills to practice research data management.
- Due consideration should be given to the recognition of research data-related activities in university approaches to academic assessment.

Gap between strategic importance and implementation

Figure 2 – Importance and implementation of various areas of Open Science

Number of respondents: 265-270/272.

Note: scores represent mean values. Higher values indicate a higher level of importance or implementation. Data from the 2020-2021 EUA Open Science Survey report.



Recommendation #2

Universities should continue to invest in research data infrastructure and explore opportunities to engage with EOSC.

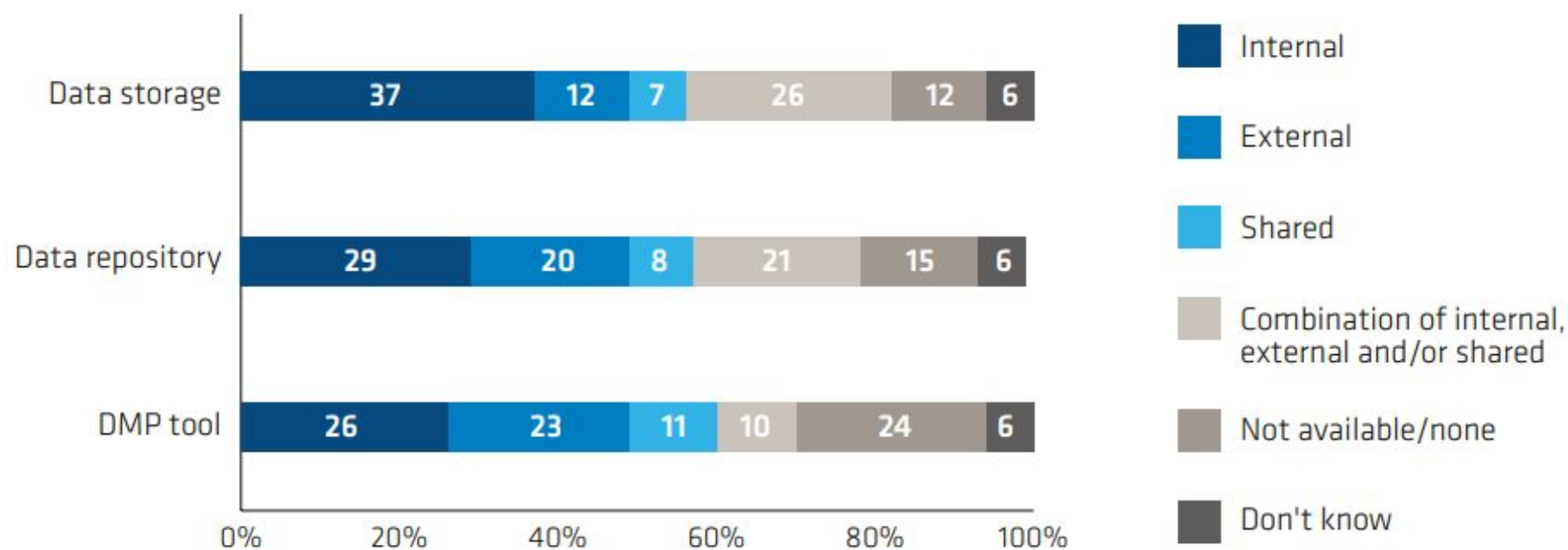
- Infrastructure is key to the implementation of research data practices, and universities should invest in securing the presence of infrastructures that address the needs of the different disciplines.
- National and European support will also be needed to facilitate university engagement with EOSC.

Types of research data infrastructure

Figure 3 – Types of research data infrastructure

Number of respondents: 270/272.

Note: data from the 2020-2021 EUA Open Science Survey report.



Recommendation #3

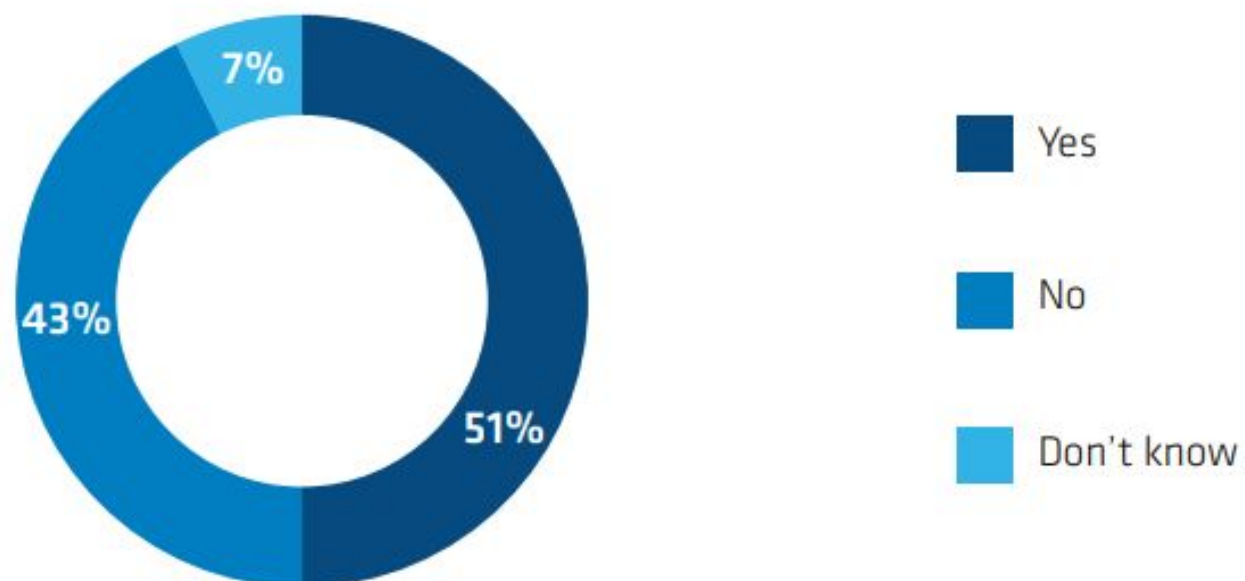
Universities should create dedicated research data support services and hire specific data support roles.

- FAIR research data management should not be considered an additional research task, but an ad hoc responsibility.
- Providing dedicated support and staff is essential to fostering the implementation of research data practices and a research data culture at institutional level.

Figure 6 – Existence of dedicated research data support services

Number of respondents: 269/272.

Note: data from the 2020-2021 EUA Open Science Survey report



Dedicated VS non-exclusively research data support services

Figure 7 – Level at which dedicated research data support services are implemented

Number of respondents: 136/136.

Note: this question was only visible to respondents who answered "Yes" to the previous question (Figure 6). Multiple choice question.

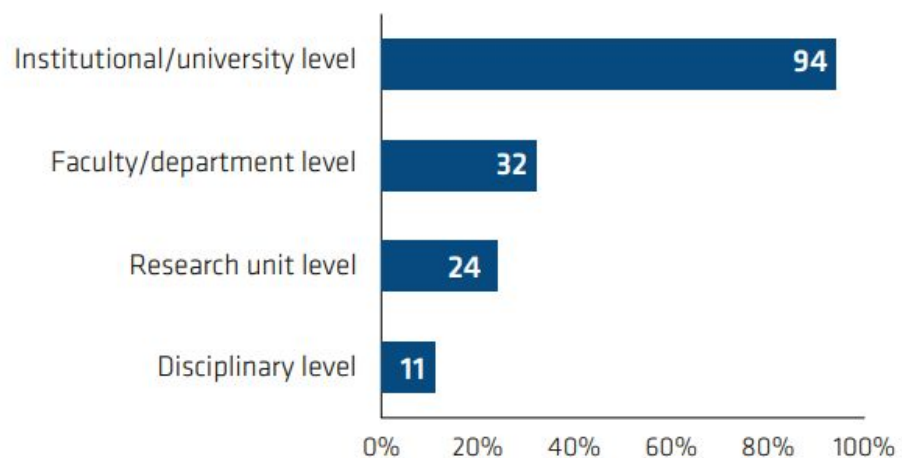
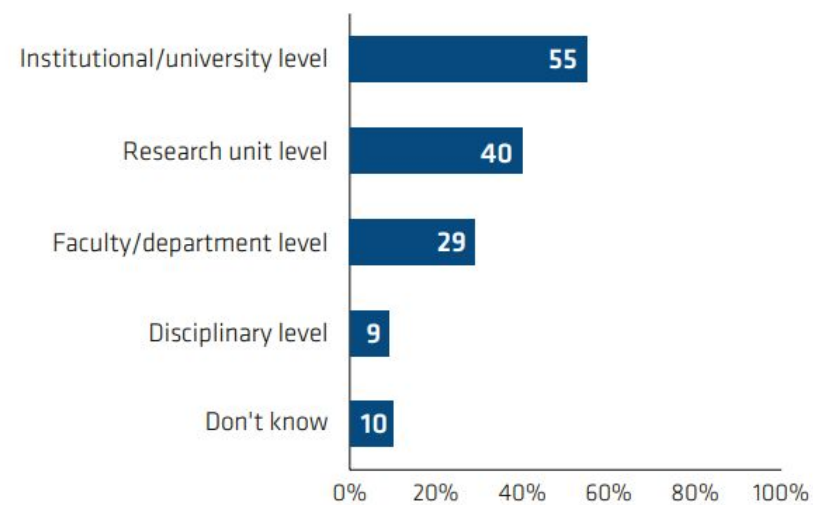


Figure 8 – Level at which non-exclusively research data support services are implemented

Number of respondents: 115/115.

Note: this question was only visible to respondents who answered "No" to the previous question (Figure 6).

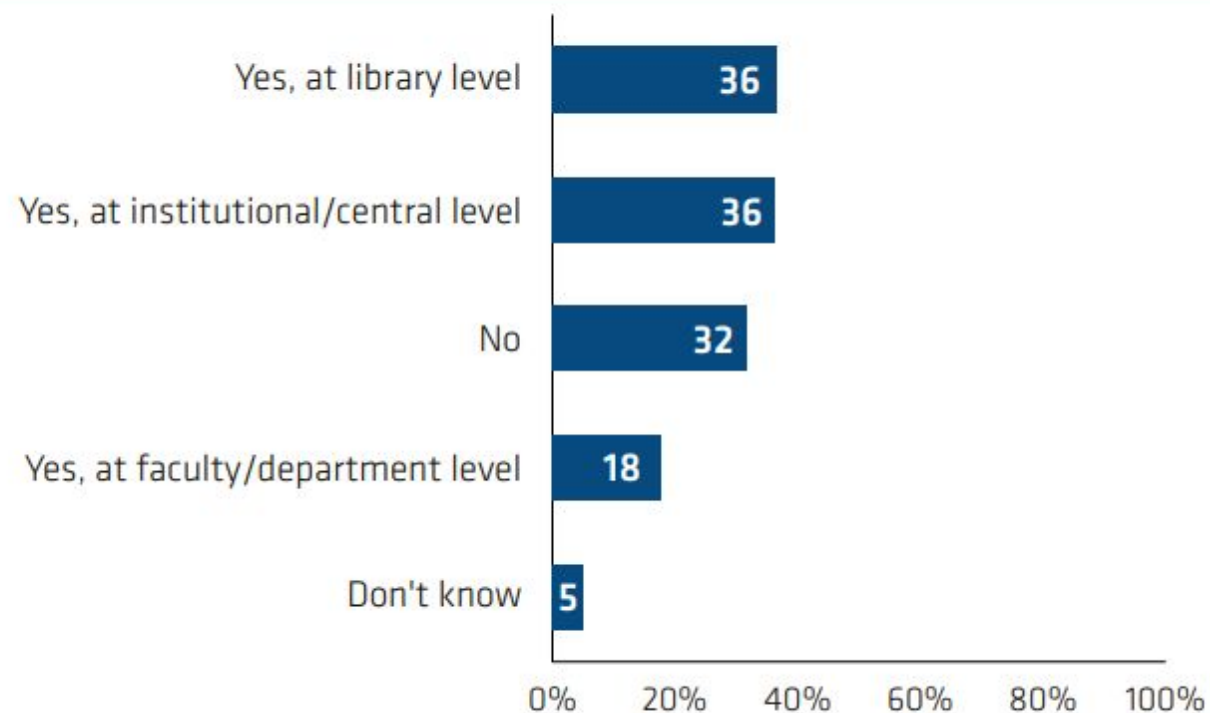


Dedicated research data support staff

Figure 9 – Existence of specific research data support staff at institutional level

Number of respondents: 271/272. Multiple-choice question.

Note: data from the 2020-2021 EUA Open Science Survey report



Recently hired profiles include:
Data Stewards, Research Data
Officers/Managers, Data
Administrators, Open Science
Coordinators and Open Science
Policy Officers.

Recommendation #4

Universities should look for sustainable funding sources to cover the costs related to research data management.

- This should include national support, as national bodies increasingly require universities to practice FAIR research data management.

Table 4 – Sources of funding for institutional data management infrastructure and services

Number of respondents: 134/272.

Note: open-ended question, multiple answers possible.

Sources of funding	Number of institutions
Institutional budget	76
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central budget• Individual unit budget (including libraries, faculties, IT departments)	62 14
Regional and national funding	39
National, European and international projects	31
Costs shared with other universities	10
Costs borne by individual research teams or researchers	2

Thank you for your attention

