

Abstract for a Poster Presented at the 3rd FAIR Digital Objects Conference

PID Competence Centre Austria: National Coordination for Persistent Identifiers

The Persistent Identifier Competence Center Austria (PCCA) is a TU Wien–funded initiative established to develop a national knowledge and support hub for the persistent identifier (PID) landscape in Austria. The project focuses exclusively on PIDs and aims to coordinate national activities, provide guidance, and establish a sustainable governance structure.

As PIDs are global community standards, the PCCA also serves as a national contact point for international collaboration and alignment within the global PID ecosystem. Its mission is to broadly integrate established PIDs (e.g., DOI, ORCID, ROR) and to pilot emerging ones (e.g., RAiD for projects, ConfIDent for conferences, PIDs for scientific instruments).

A core element of this long-term initiative is a comprehensive cost-benefit and “cost of inaction” analysis of PID implementation within Austria’s research, development, and innovation information systems. This analysis provides a solid foundation for decision-making by identifying the investment, operational, and follow-up costs associated with establishing persistent reference systems, as well as the potential costs and inefficiencies if such systems are not implemented.

The PCCA establishes a conceptual link to FAIR Digital Objects (FDOs). PIDs and their metadata form the essential basis for identity and linkage, thereby enabling the addressability and interoperability required by FDO frameworks. While the PCCA does not directly implement an FDO infrastructure, it enhances Austria’s FDO-readiness by systematizing the PID landscape, promoting consistent identification across object classes (persons, organizations, projects, datasets, instruments), and preparing the foundation for future FDO profiles, types, and operations.

In this way, the PCCA acts as an enabling facilitator — an initial but crucial step toward improved interoperability, traceability, and sustainability of digital research objects. The overall objective is to establish PCCA as an Austrian excellence cluster for knowledge sharing, experimental development, and pilot implementation.

The poster presents the project’s structure, outlines its prioritized work packages (Policy & Governance; Technology & Services; Community & Training; Evaluation including Cost-Benefit Analysis), and illustrates how consistent PID practices already contribute to measurable FAIRness today, while laying the groundwork for future FDO-based processes.