

**Poster Session**

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# Human layer for FAIR Digital Objects

## Understanding and Supporting Data Stewards in the Czech Republic

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**Abstract:** Infrastructures provide IT systems and standards (FDO), but their adoption and sustainability ultimately depend on people. In this case, data stewards transform abstract principles into practical workflows. As part of the EOSC CZ initiative, we focus on strengthening these human capacities and communities that form the basis of the National Data Infrastructure (NDI).

The process has evolved into three complementary pillars forming the data stewards' layer of the Czech NDI:

1. The Data Steward Community and National Map – a communication and support network connecting professionals across institutions, knowledge exchange, and building shared capacity for FAIR implementation. It includes a map visualising more than 85 active data stewards across Czechia [1].
2. The Awareness Campaign "Data Guardians: Mission FAIR" – a national communication and education initiative raising awareness of data stewards' roles and supporting cultural change toward FAIR and Open Science [2].
3. Validated Data Steward Personas – personas offer an understanding of different data stewards' roles in the Czech research ecosystem. This builds on earlier work for visualising stewardship competencies [3] and EOSC efforts to embed user-centred design in research infrastructures [4].

Based on data stewards' insights, we can now design targeted actions, services, campaigns, etc. This user-centred approach allows the EOSC CZ initiative to strengthen the data steward community and provide stakeholders with a clearer understanding of their role in research and

data management. Moreover, by supporting data stewards in implementing FAIR Digital Objects, we move closer to achieving a safe, structured, and interoperable data ecosystem.

**Keywords:** FAIR Digital Objects; Data Stewards; User-Centred Design; Open Science; EOSC CZ Initiative,

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## AI Disclosure

During the preparation of this manuscript, the authors used the AI assistant ChatGPT (OpenAI, GPT-5 model) for language editing, structural improvements, and stylistic suggestions. The use of AI was limited to non-substantive editorial support; all data analysis, interpretation, and conceptual content were produced and verified by the authors. All sources and references cited in this manuscript were independently checked for accuracy and authenticity by the authors.