GARR 2019 - Connecting the Future

Managing Research Data
at Institutional Level:
the Experience of the University of Milan

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- There is a need to make **research data FAIR**: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable, to participate in the **EOSC** (European Open Science Cloud) and in the **Open Science** ecosystem.

- Managing research data, particularly datasets produced by research groups that do not have access to large infrastructures of international collaborations, is a **responsibility** of each institution and requires appropriate **strategies**.

- The University of Milan, a member of the **LERU** and one of the largest and most highly ranked universities in Italy, made a decision to provide its researchers with a **FAIR-compliant tool** to collect, manage, preserve, and share their datasets.

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- In **2017**, the University of Milan **interviewed** its researchers to identify and analyse their needs.

- A **policy** was approved to mandate FAIR archiving for research data produced by publicly funded projects.

- **Dataverse**, a free open-source software platform for RDM developed by the Harvard University, was selected for a pilot project.

- **4Science**, the only Italian organization that collaborates with the international community of Dataverse and offers services in the cloud, was chosen for technical support to the project.

- The **pilot** was run throughout **2018** with different disciplinary research groups to test Dataverse.

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- **Dataverse** was chosen for several reasons that were assessed during the pilot and confirmed the choice:
    - Dataverse is **free and open source**, providing a reliable and sustainable tool to support the institutional policy
    - Dataverse is **FAIR-compliant**, guaranteeing appropriate participation and high visibility in the research ecosystem
    - Dataverse supports **researchers' needs**, namely the availability of a reliable, accessible, and durable tool to share data in a restricted group before making them public, to store data safely and make data discoverable for future reuse, to publish data in the appropriate version when funders require it, to cite and reference data in journal papers, and so on.

- In January **2019**, **Dataverse** went into production: it has proved to be a better choice than storing datasets in the Institutional Repository, as Dataverse has specific features supporting RDM.

- Valuable **support** from 4Science resulted in a smooth, successful, and economically sustainable project.

- **Criticalities** of the project: advocacy for Open Science, reach out to all stakeholders and research communities at the institution.

- **Benefits**: compliancy with EOSC, OpenAIRE, and requirements of funders at the European and international levels, alignment with other relevant institutions, higher visibility of local research, long-term preservation and other FAIR-related advantages.

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- **LERU Roadmap on Research Data**: https://www.leru.org/files/LERU-Roadmap-for-Research-Data-Full-paper.pdf

- **Dataverse@UniMI**: dataverse.unimi.it

- **4Science Dataverse services**: www.4science.it/dataverse

- **Dataverse**: dataverse.org

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Thank you for your attention!

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