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FAIRness of Research Information

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Dear Reader

A new edition of the biennial CRIS conferences on research information management (RIM) was held at the University of Umeå (Sweden) in June 2018 under the theme "FAIRness of Research Information". This was an attempt by the programme committee for the event to expand the scope of the well-known FAIR principles for research data management (findability, accessibility, interoperability and re-usability) into the wider domain of research information and Current Research Information Systems.

The way euroCRIS sees it, these systems have a very relevant role to play in the ongoing process for putting together any RIM e-infrastructure such as the European Open Science Cloud. This is not only for the wealth of valuable contextual research information they are able to provide, but also because they would bring along the concept of the three pillars of interoperability: standard definitions of concepts, standard persistent identifiers and a standard exchange format such as CERIF. It is critical however, that these system and the research information management

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discipline as a whole embrace these FAIR principles on their way to contribute to the overarching effort to devise an all-European research information space.

A key aspect in this process that has seen much discussion at the CRIS2018 conference is the gradual progress in the implementation of the CERIF-XML Guidelines for CRIS Managers. These Guidelines have jointly been prepared by euroCRIS and OpenAIRE and will eventually allow CRIS systems of all kinds to become interoperable with the OpenAIRE content aggregation, enabling them to become certified OpenAIRE data providers. This represents a significant step forward in the collection of comprehensive and interconnected research information that will allow any content aggregation to provide a much more accurate snapshot of the research activity at a European level and its results.

The CRIS2018 event has also witnessed a stepping up in the degree of case study reporting from institutions. On top of the well-established proprietary RIM platforms that keep expanding their implementation, new community-led open source software solutions are gaining speed and the number of contributions to the conference reporting on their analysis and/or implementation has significantly increased from previous editions of this event. An important role in this regard has been played by the pre-CRIS2018 DuraSpace-euroCRIS Interoperability Event, a first-time collaboration with one of euroCRIS's most active Strategic Partners that brought to Umeå a number of Open Science implementation case studies within a very well attended session with a strong emphasis on technical aspects. We hope that there will be opportunities for further exploring this collaboration in future CRIS conferences.

This issue of *Procedia Computer Science* offers a selection of the contributions to the CRIS2018 conference, providing an insight into the diversity of topics addressed at the event by the rich mix of RIM practitioners, Open Science implementers, solution vendors, policy-makers and research funders that traditionally take part in these meetings. The papers included in this volume represent a post-conference selection of the original CRIS2018 submissions, accounting for less than 40% of the initial submissions. Those Initial submissions were in the form of structured extended abstracts that were reviewed for relevance and technical quality by the Program Committee. Contributions selected for presentation at the conference were made available as drafts through the EuroCRIS digital repository to facilitate access and interaction among presenters and participants during the event. After the event, full contributions were subject to a peer review process in two steps. In the first step, authors of provisionally accepted papers were asked to revise their submissions according to peer reviewer comments. The second step involved an editorial revision of those changes and adherence to formatting rules.

We would like to warmly thank the staff at the University of Umeå for their hospitality and support in running yet another successful CRIS conference, plus its management for having accepted the challenge of hosting the event. The post-conference satisfaction survey carried out among the event attendees confirmed that besides the high-quality presentations and the unique opportunities for networking, they also appreciated the quiet yet festive World Cup atmosphere and the persistent Scandinavian summertime light.

We wish you an interesting read,
Ed Simons, Miguel-Angel Sicilia, Anna Clements, Pablo de Castro, Johan Bergström