Press release

ZBW champions fair handling of research data in Europe

Federal Ministry of Education and Research funds German GO FAIR office at the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics

Kiel/Hamburg, 8 December 2017: The European Open Science Cloud shall be realised in 2020. In order to speed up the implementation of this virtual link-up of all research data centres, the Netherlands, France and Germany have decided to establish a support office with two branches. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has assigned the task of establishing the German office to the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics. This early mover initiative is called GO FAIR. Klaus Tochtermann, director of the ZBW, has been named speaker for the German community.

In April 2016, the EU Commission finalised its plans for the establishment of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), virtually linking research data centres all over Europe. All European scientists shall be enabled to store, share and reuse research data across disciplines and boundaries. The political aim of this initiative is to put the EU at the head of worldwide efforts to build scientific data infrastructures and to enable European researchers to use the full potential of data-driven science.

The early movers in this context are the Netherlands and Germany, recently joined by France. In May 2017, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Science in the Netherlands which aims to promote the European Open Science Cloud and the GO FAIR Initiative. FAIR in the context of research data means “findable”, “accessible”, “interoperable” and “reusable”. The agreement states that the two countries shall jointly establish a support office, the International Support and Coordination Office ISCO, and provide the necessary funding. This office will be responsible for managing the GO FAIR Initiative for research data throughout Europe. The office will have branches in Leiden (the Netherlands) and Hamburg.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has assigned the task of establishing the German office to the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics. Professor Klaus Tochtermann, director of the ZBW, has been named as speaker for GO FAIR Germany by the research community. The German GO FAIR office will be located at the Hamburg branch of the ZBW, where four people will drive the initiative during the next three years. The ZBW will be coordinating the European GO FAIR Initiative from here and also manage the German community.

About GO FAIR:
Germany and the Netherlands have been the first EU countries to take the initiative for the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and the promotion of “FAIR
use of research data”. FAIR stands for “findable”, “accessible”, “interoperable” and “reusable”. The GO FAIR initiative aims to enable access to research data for the scientific community, but also for citizens and enterprises, and thus to foster science and innovation in Germany. Secretary of State at the BMBF, Georg Schütte, says: “The European Open Science Cloud is a unique opportunity for Europe to set up a trusted and open environment for European researchers for handling research data. The EOSC can greatly accelerate the advancement of knowledge, enable economic growth and benefit society.”

URL: https://www.go-fair.org/

Press photos for download:
Logo Go FAIR: https://www.dtls.nl/fair-data/go-fair/

About the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics:
The ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics is the world's largest information centre for economic literature. The institution holds more than 4 million media items and enables access to millions of online documents in economics. In 2016 alone, 4 million digital full-texts were downloaded. In addition, the ZBW provides a fast-growing collection of Open Access documents. The repository EconStor currently gives free access to more than 150,000 articles and working papers. EconBiz, the portal for international economic information, allows students and researchers to search among ten million datasets. The ZBW edits two journals in economic policy, Wirtschaftsdienst and Intereconomics. The ZBW is a research-based academic library. Three professors and an international group of PhD candidates do transdisciplinary research on Science 2.0. Research at the ZBW is connected to international networks. The main co-operation partners are engaged in EU projects and in the Leibniz Research Alliance Science 2.0. The ZBW is a member of the Leibniz Association and a foundation under public law. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the ZBW was honoured for its innovative library work with the international LIBER Award for Library Innovation. In 2014, the ZBW received the German “Library of the Year” award.

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