



FRDN



The Flemish Research Data Network: RIM-related initiatives of the first five years

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Community manager for the FRDN Knowledge Hub for data stewards

14 May 2025 euroCRIS Membership Meeting 2025 Leuven

Content

1. About FRDN

- i. Purpose and origin
- ii. Governance structure
- iii. Brief look at the FRDN Knowledge Hub

2. Research Information Management-related projects

- i. Overview
- ii. PG Enriching Metadata (2022-2023)



FRDN

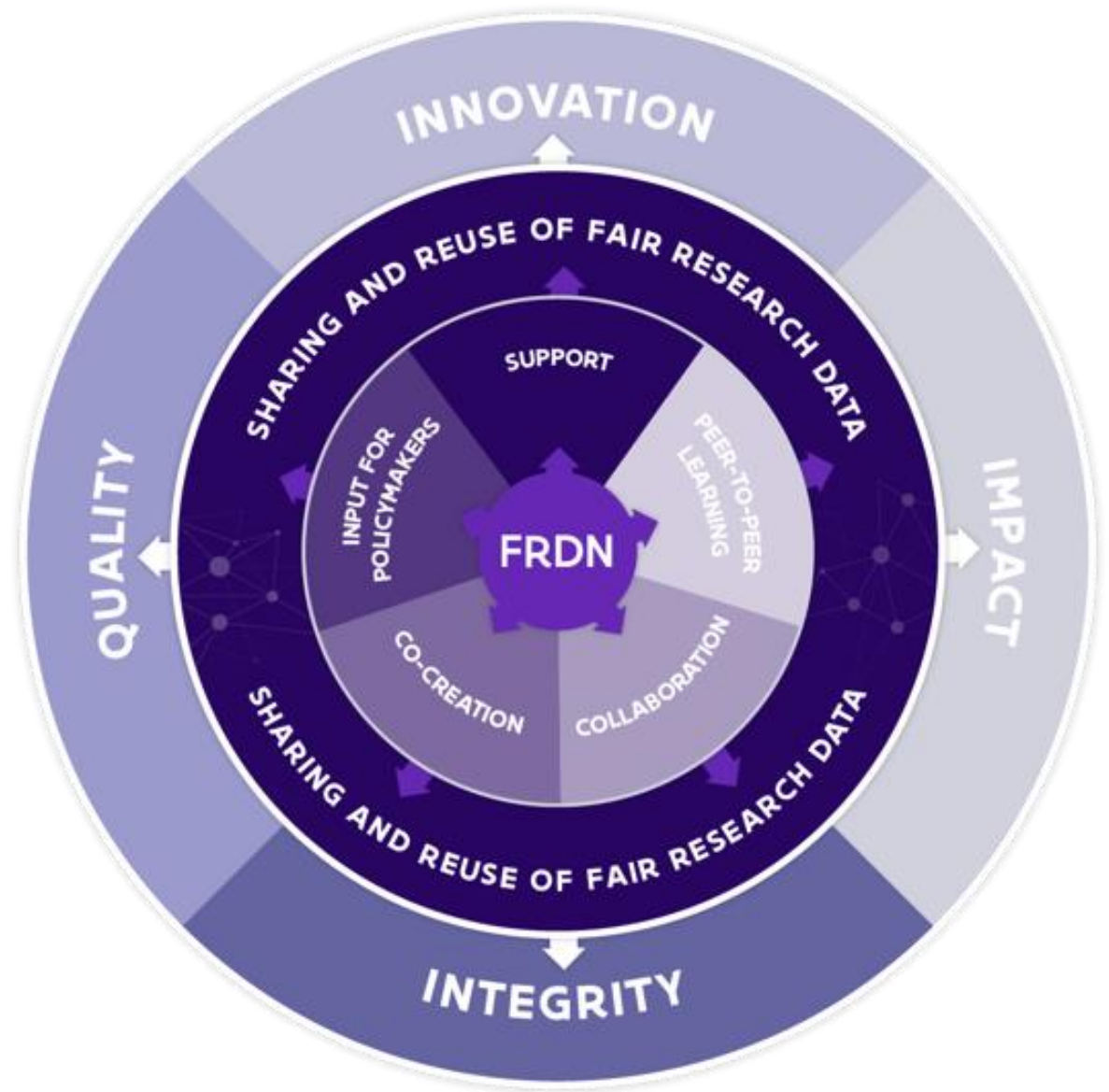
36 network partner RPOs

- 5 universities [UAntwerpen, VUB, UGent, UHasselt, KU Leuven]
- 13 universities of applied science [Artevelde Hogeschool, HOGENT, etc.]
- 3 institutions for post-initial education [AMS, Vlerick, ITM]
- 6 scientific research institutes [INBO, ILVO, KMSKA, APM, Onr. Erf., Water.Lab.]
- 4 strategic research centers [SOCs: imec, VITO, VIB, Flanders Make]
- 5 other research centers [Alamire, KMDA, Orpheus, UNU-CRIS, VLIZ]
- + Flemish funding agencies [FWO, VLAIO]
- + Department WEWIS

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Purpose (mission and vision)

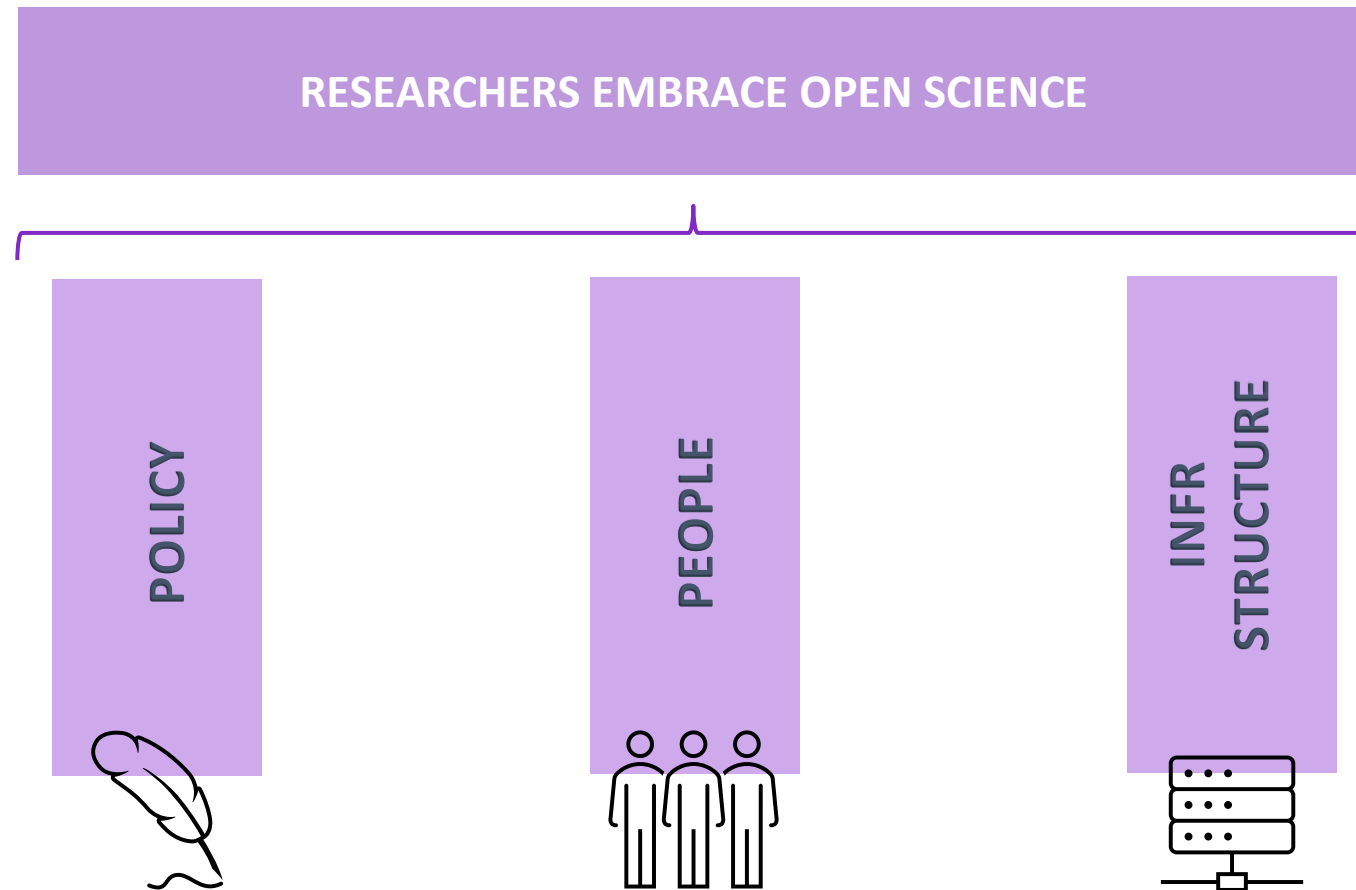
- Network of 36 Flemish RPOs who work together on Open Science
- FRDN supports RPOs to implement OS policy of the Flemish government and to connect with international initiatives
- Emphasis has been on FRDN



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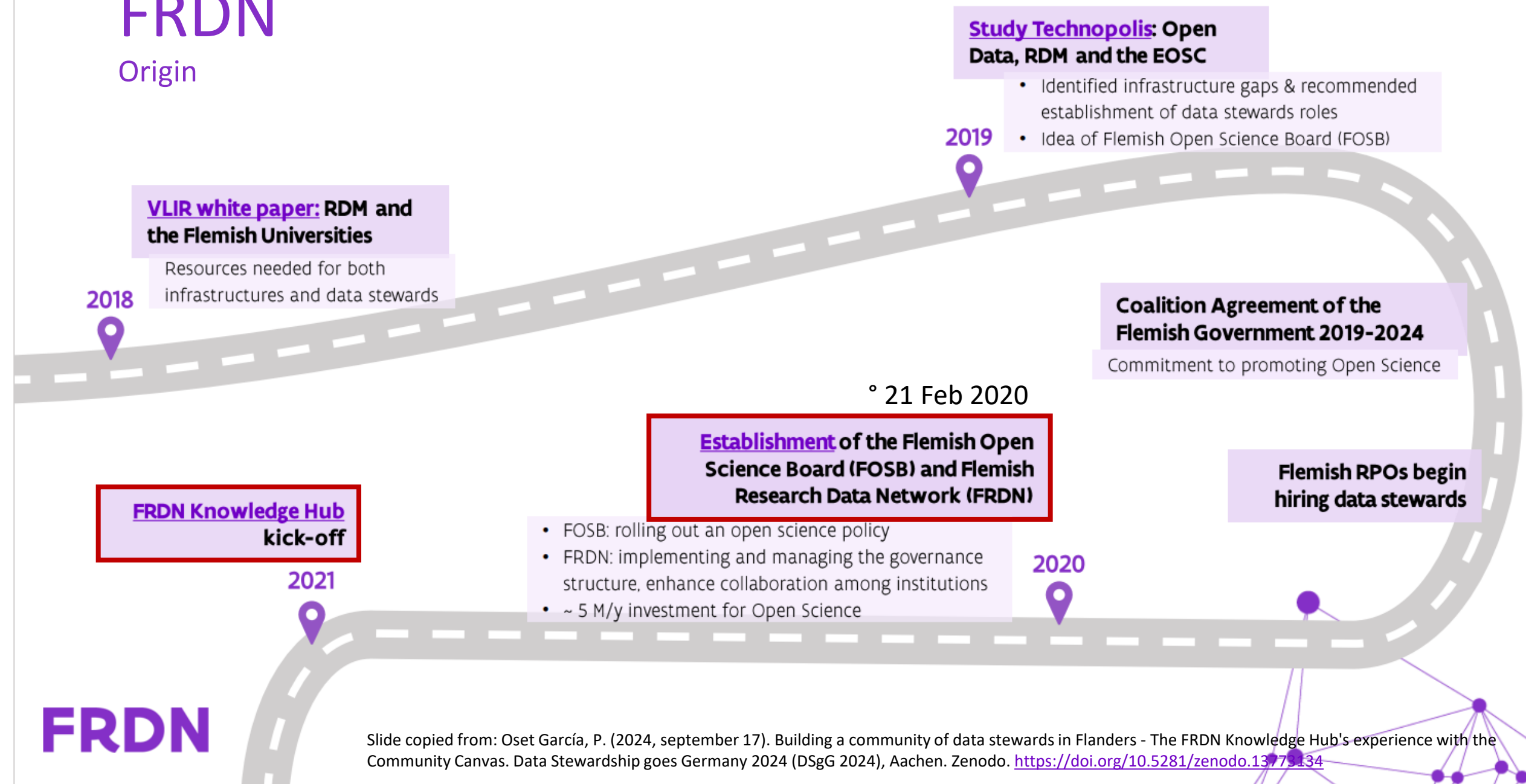
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Strategy based on three pillars



FRDN

Origin



Slide copied from: Oset García, P. (2024, september 17). Building a community of data stewards in Flanders - The FRDN Knowledge Hub's experience with the Community Canvas. Data Stewardship goes Germany 2024 (DSgG 2024), Aachen. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13779134>

FOSB — FRDN — Knowledge Hub

All “FRDN”

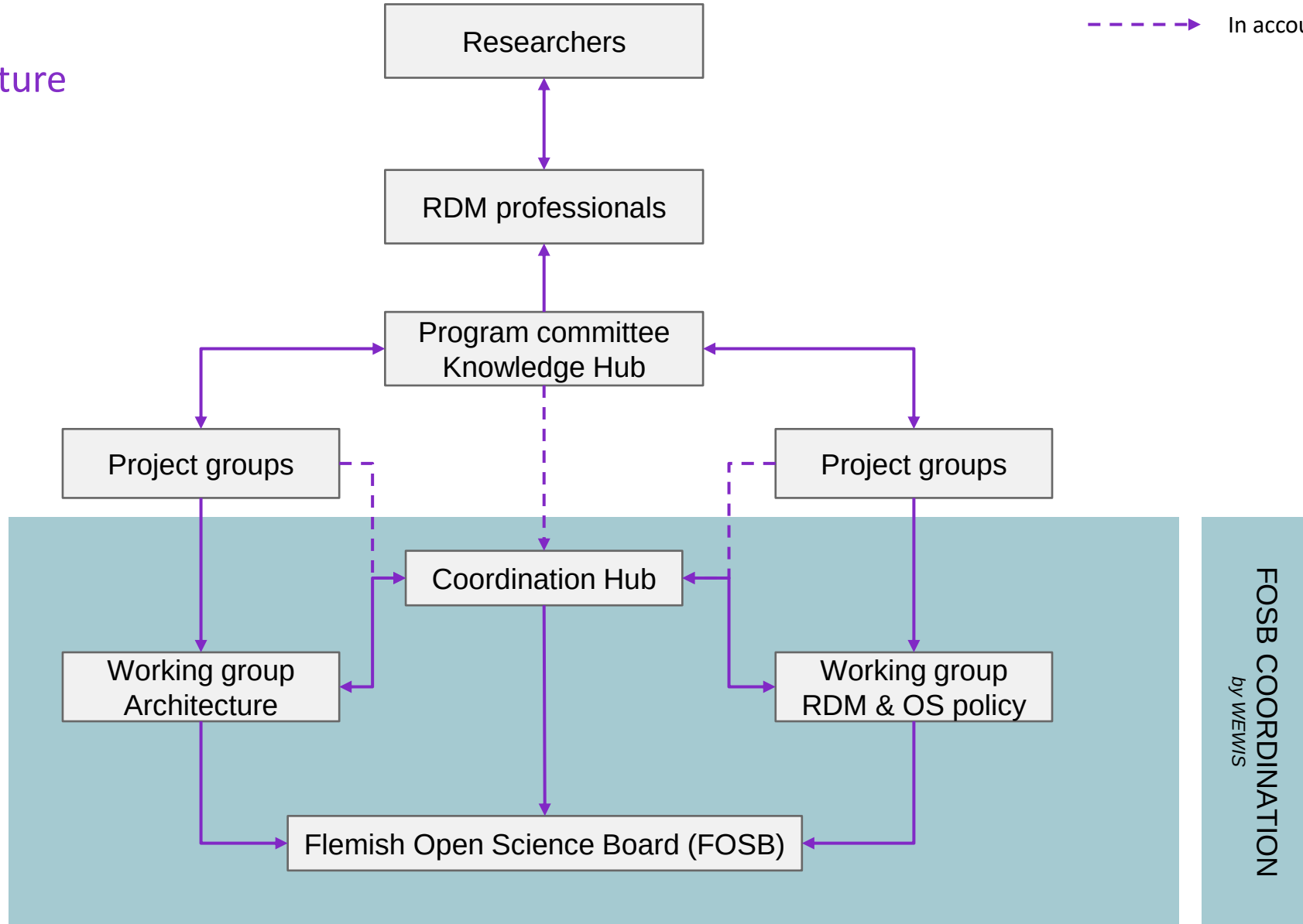
But different levels of focus (policy-practice continuum)

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Governance structure

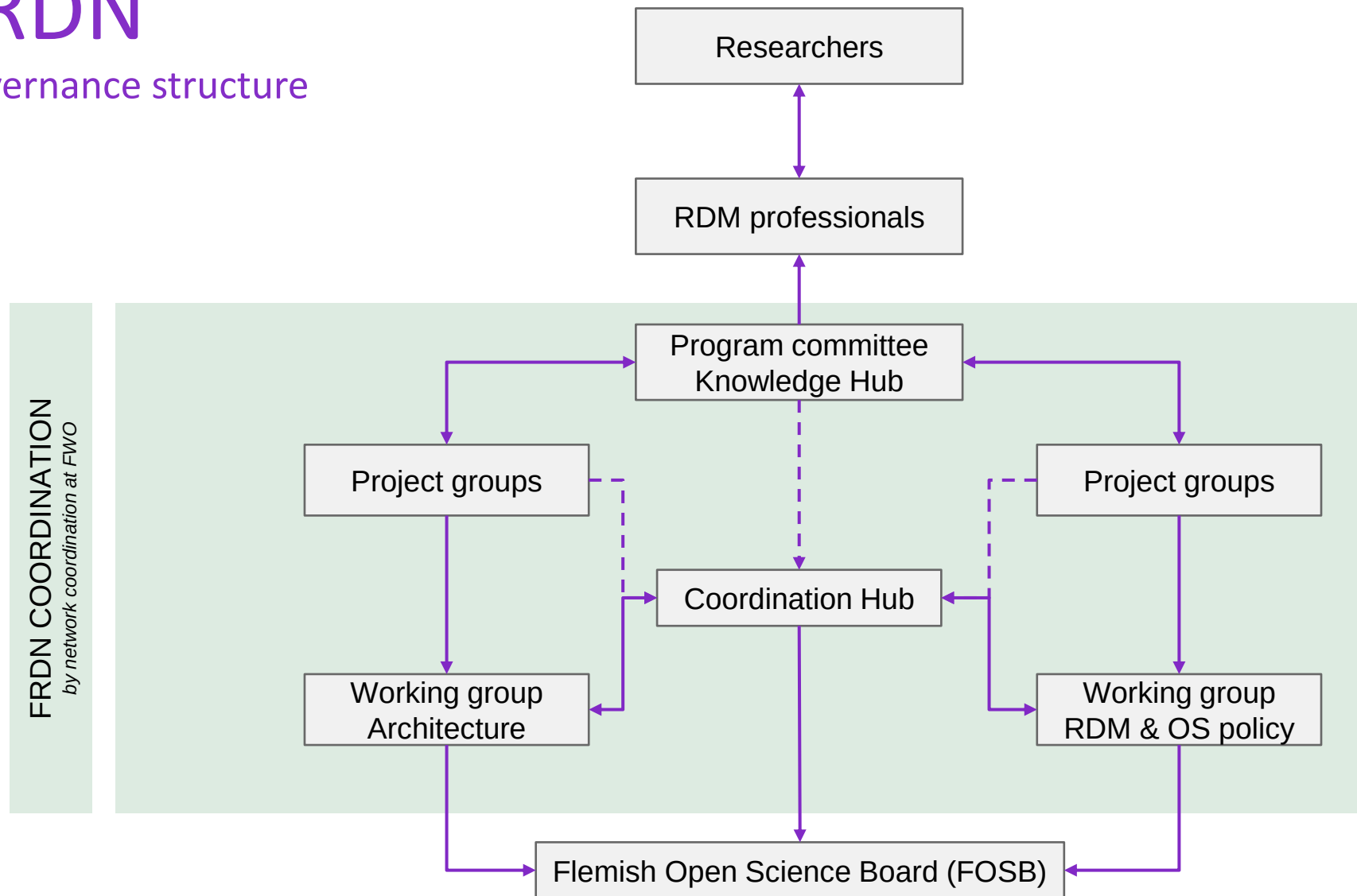
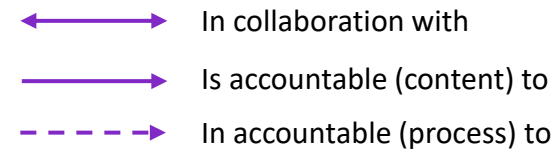


- ↔ In collaboration with
- Is accountable (content) to
- - - In accountable (process) to



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Governance structure

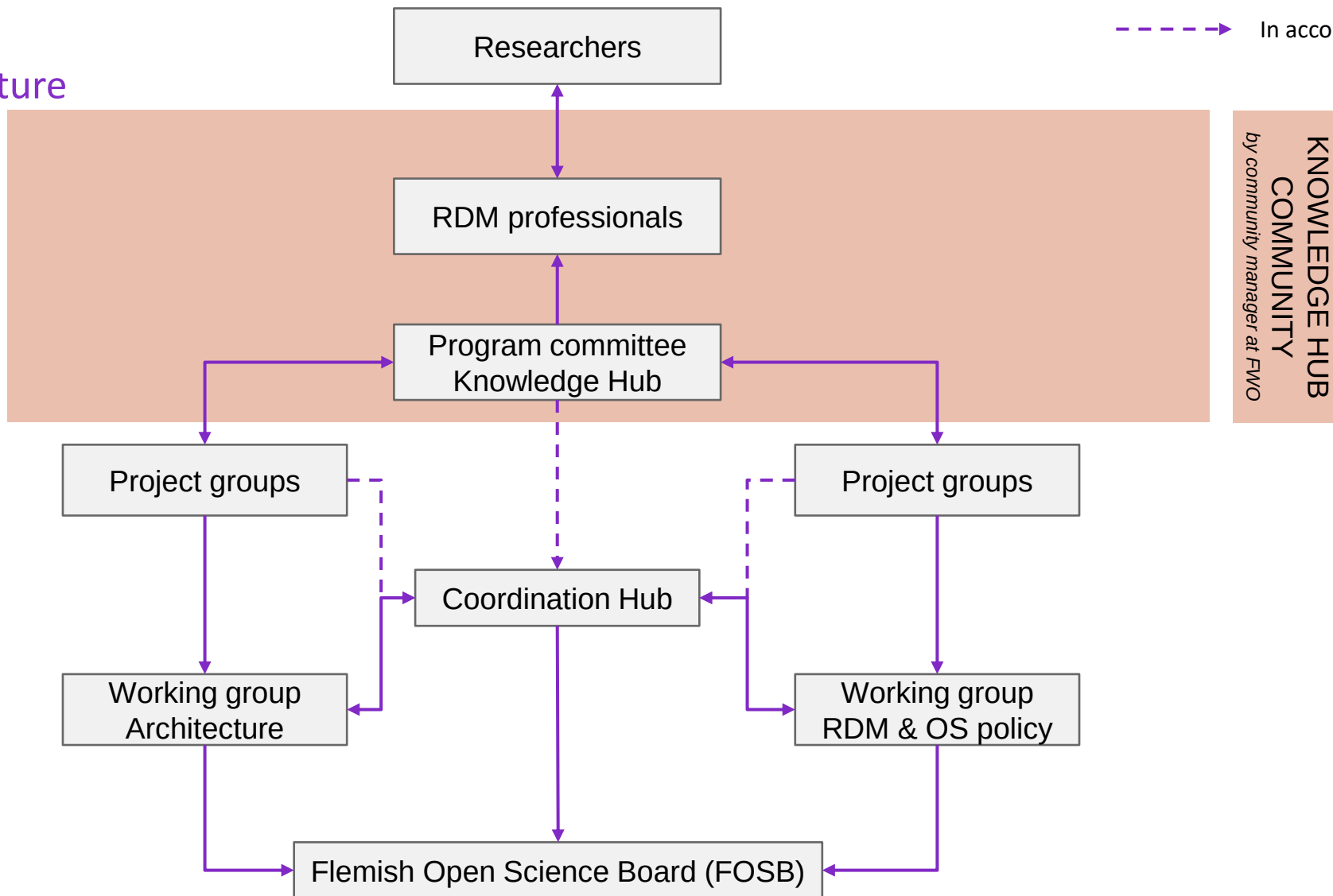


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Governance structure



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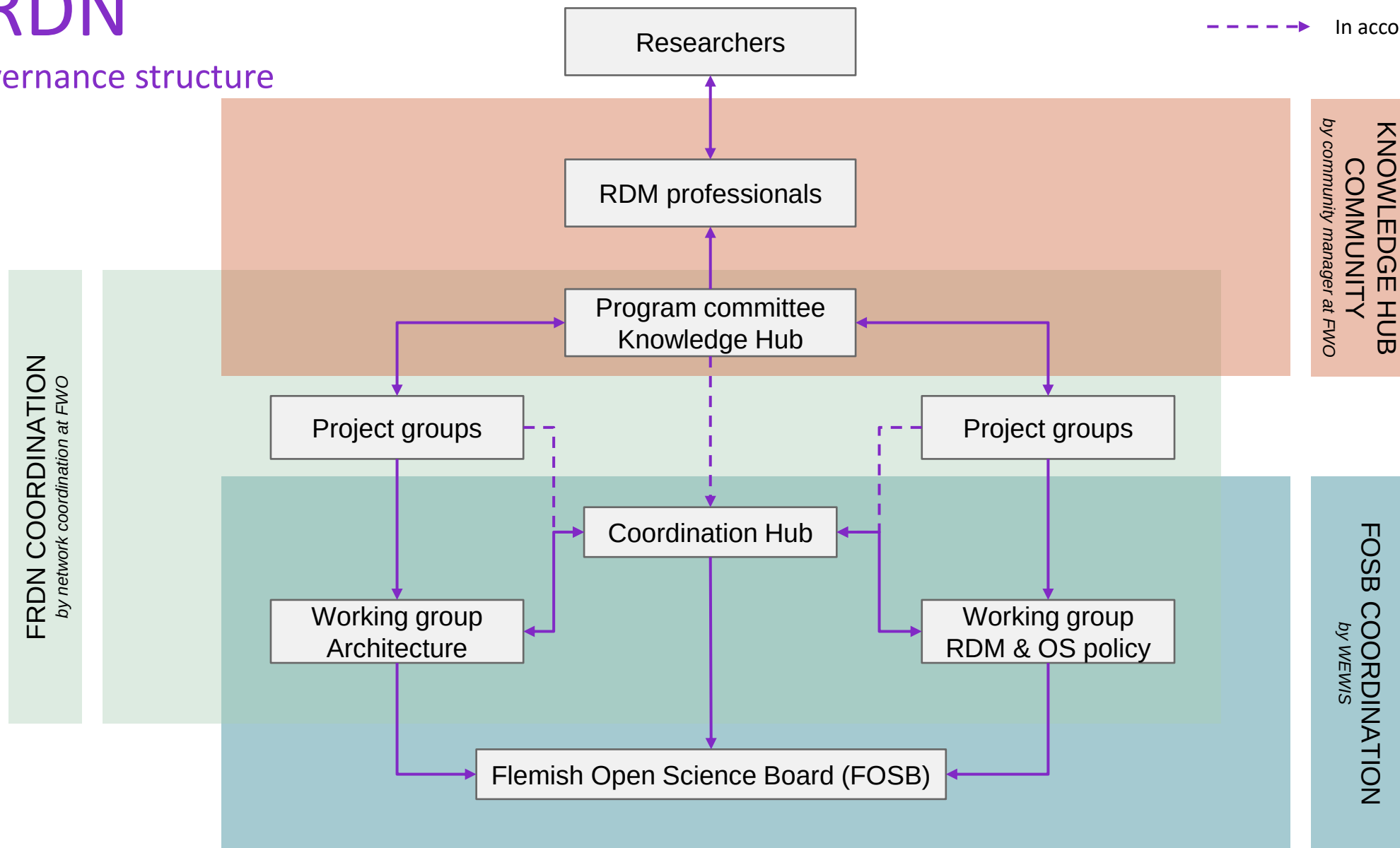


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Governance structure



- ↔ In collaboration with
- Is accountable (content) to
- - - In accountable (process) to



Knowledge Hub

- A community for and by data stewards and RDM professionals who support researchers in Flanders
- Employed at (or associated with) one of the 36 FRDN partners
- 165 people are added to the Basecamp account (118)



Basecamp

All-access

Knowledge Hub

This is the main team/channel for the FRDN Knowledge Hub. It is all-access; everyone who has been added to our Basecamp account has access to the message board, uploaded files, etc.

Set up people

ADW

AAE

AV

AD

AS

BD

BDV

BH

CD

CL

DW

DB

DC

DD

DS

ED

ES

EP

+ 7 just follow

Message Board

MDV

Save the date: Next Community Day @FWO (Brussels) on Thu 12/06

ED

phD defence => closed/embargoed data

Hi all, Since i'm not familiar with phD's and what

MDV

Welcome to the Knowledge Hub! Start Here

Welcome to the Basecamp platform of the FRDN

JG

Call for Data Steward volunteer speaker

Advice needed — As part of the FRDN network

DB

KU Leuven RDR is CoreTrustSeal Certified

Docs & Files

Live community day @VUB: Legal, Ethical and Security Aspects of RDM

Live community day @KUL: Gamification of RDM training

Live community day @imec: looking back & ahead

Live community day @VLIZ: Linked open data

Webinar: How to Basecamp

Live community day @VUB: AI and researchers'

Campfire

TVD

Thomas Van de Velde 4:22pm

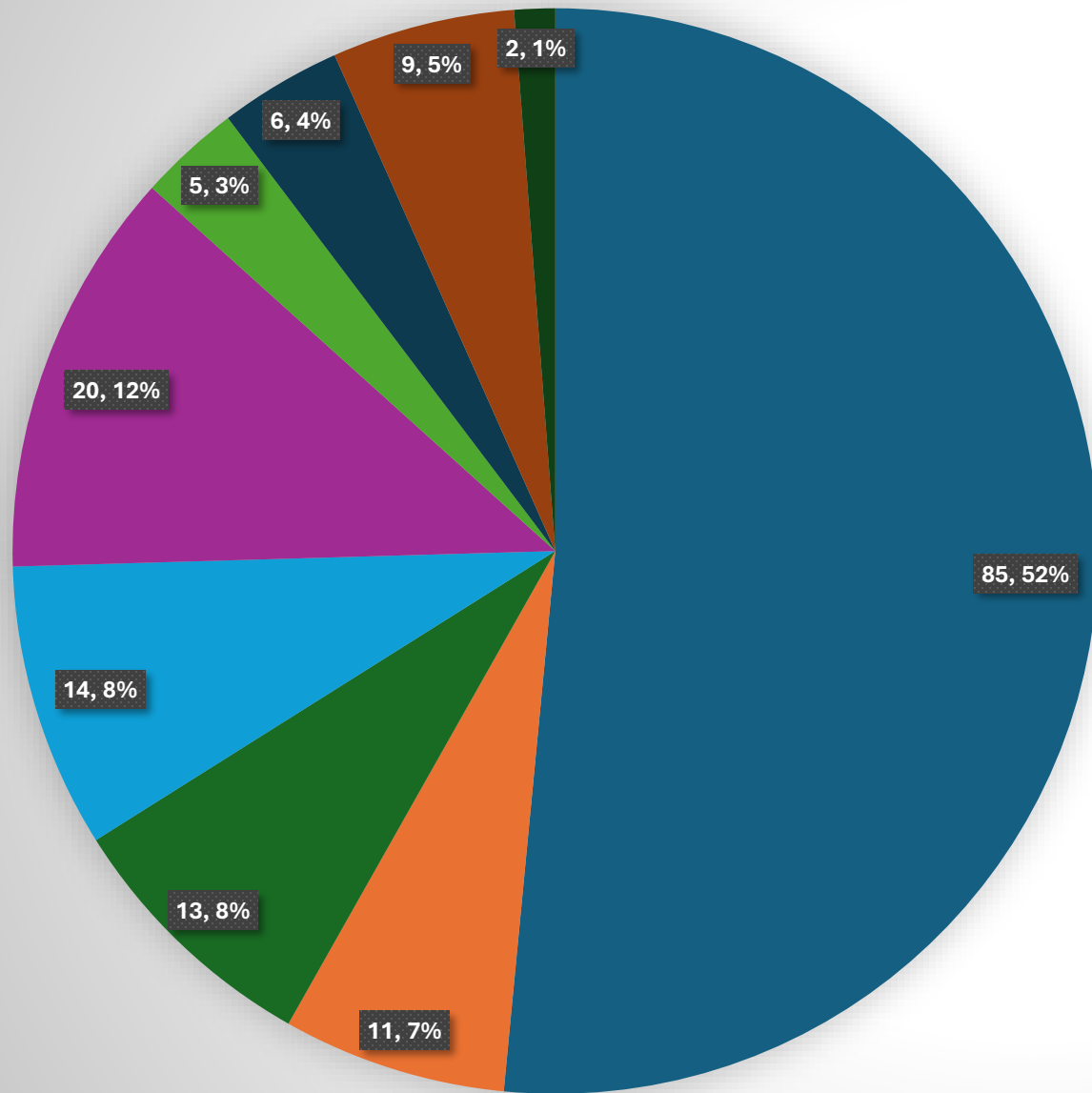
Stefanie De Bodt 4:42pm

Let's spur the fire! Hi, I am Stefanie De Bodt, mem...

Elien Dewitte 4:14pm

FRDN

165 KH members by type of institution



- Universities
- Universities of Applied Sciences (Hogescholen)
- Postinitial education (AMS, Vlerick, ITG)
- Flemish Scientific Institutions (VWIs)
- Strategic Research Centers (SOCs)
- Other Research Centers
- External (non-FRDN partner)
- Government actors (WEWIS, VLAOI, incl. FWO)
- University Hospital

Why we exist

01

New people in a rather new career

02

Influx of people with different backgrounds and expertise

03

Different team sizes

04

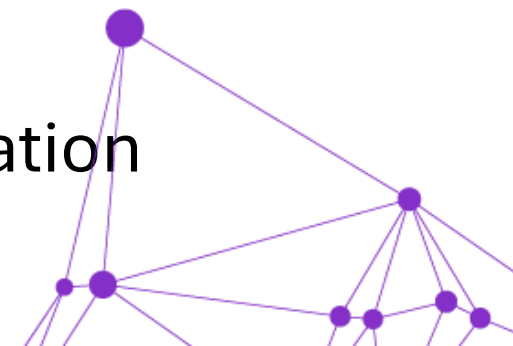
Difficult to cater for discipline-specific RDM support

05

Rapidly evolving legal, policy, and infrastructure landscape

We need continued knowledge exchange & collaboration

FRDN



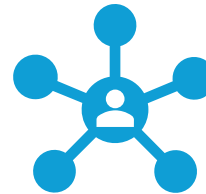
What we do



We provide a
forum



We organise
educational
moments



We organise live network
opportunities—called
Community Days



We collaborate on
bottom-up
projects—called
Knowledge Forces

We provide a forum

- 261 original posts (excl. replies) since start (~1.2 every work week)

💡 ADVICE NEEDED

Hi all,

recently a researcher asked me for some help with their European AI project, where they need to provide an "incidental/unexpected findings policy".
(like you stumble on a genetic disorder when you were looking for something else, or you produce unexpected/negative results, such as gender/socioeconomic/racial discriminatory biases

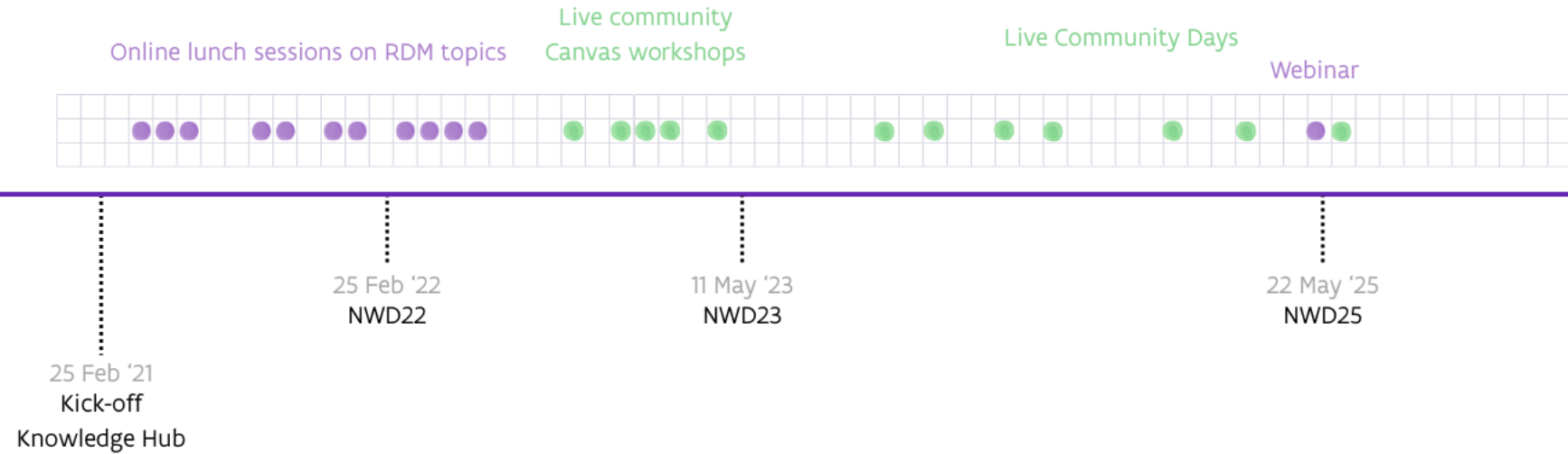
Does anyone have any knowledge or experience about that, or some/an examples from your own institute?

Hi! This is actually my academic background, so I'll be happy to talk anyone's ears off about it! Please let me know if you would like more information, but here are a few pointers:

- Are the incidental/secondary findings about something curable? Most people would rather not know that they would go on to develop Huntington's, for instance.
- Have the findings been observed in a minor? What are the implications of the parents discovering these findings? For instance, BRCA gene

4.3

Years of
Knowledge Hub
activities



We organise educational moments

- 11 online lunch sessions
- Thematic workshops during Live Community Days
- Guest speaker webinars

We network



FRDN

We create (Knowledge Forces)

Final
DMP
checklist

DMP
Glossary

Reading
Club

Course
Material

FRDN
game

Lead

Paula Oset Garcia
(UGent)

Tessa Gavina et al.
originally; Michiel De
Vydt (for the update)

Naeem Muhammad
(KU Leuven)

Hanne Vlietinck
(UHasselt)

Michiel De Vydt

Goal

Checklist to self-
evaluate one's DMP

Define RDM concepts
together

Collect and discuss
(practical) literature

Facilitate more FAIR
sharing of own course
material

Conceptually design an
educational game on
GDPR/personal data

Status

Finished, but maybe to
be updated 

Finished but update by
Sept '25 based on v2 of
the Flemish DMP temp.

Ongoing 

Finished, but add
courses! 

Started 7/01/2025 

More info

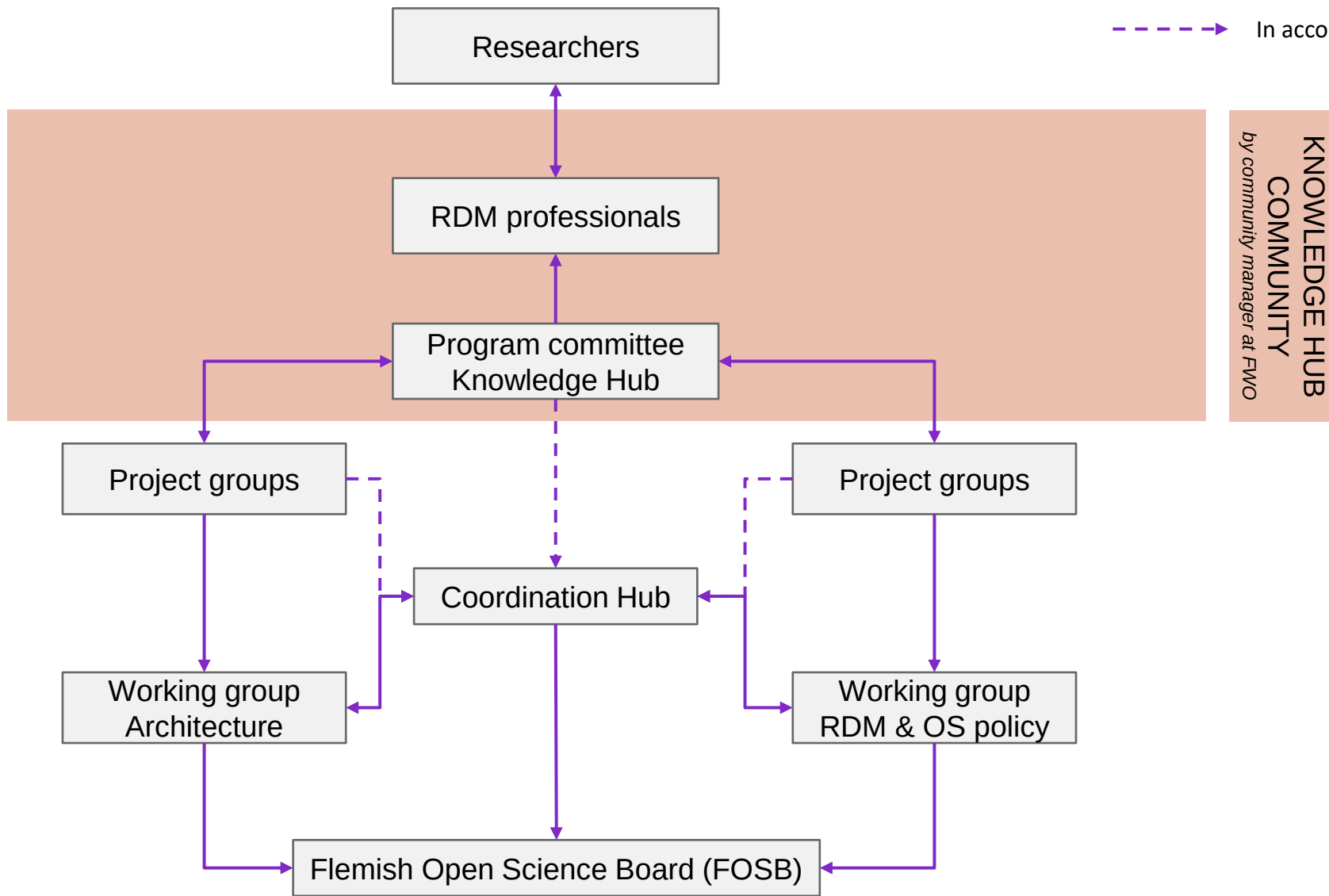
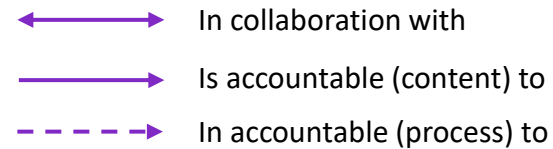
[Publication](#) Zenodo

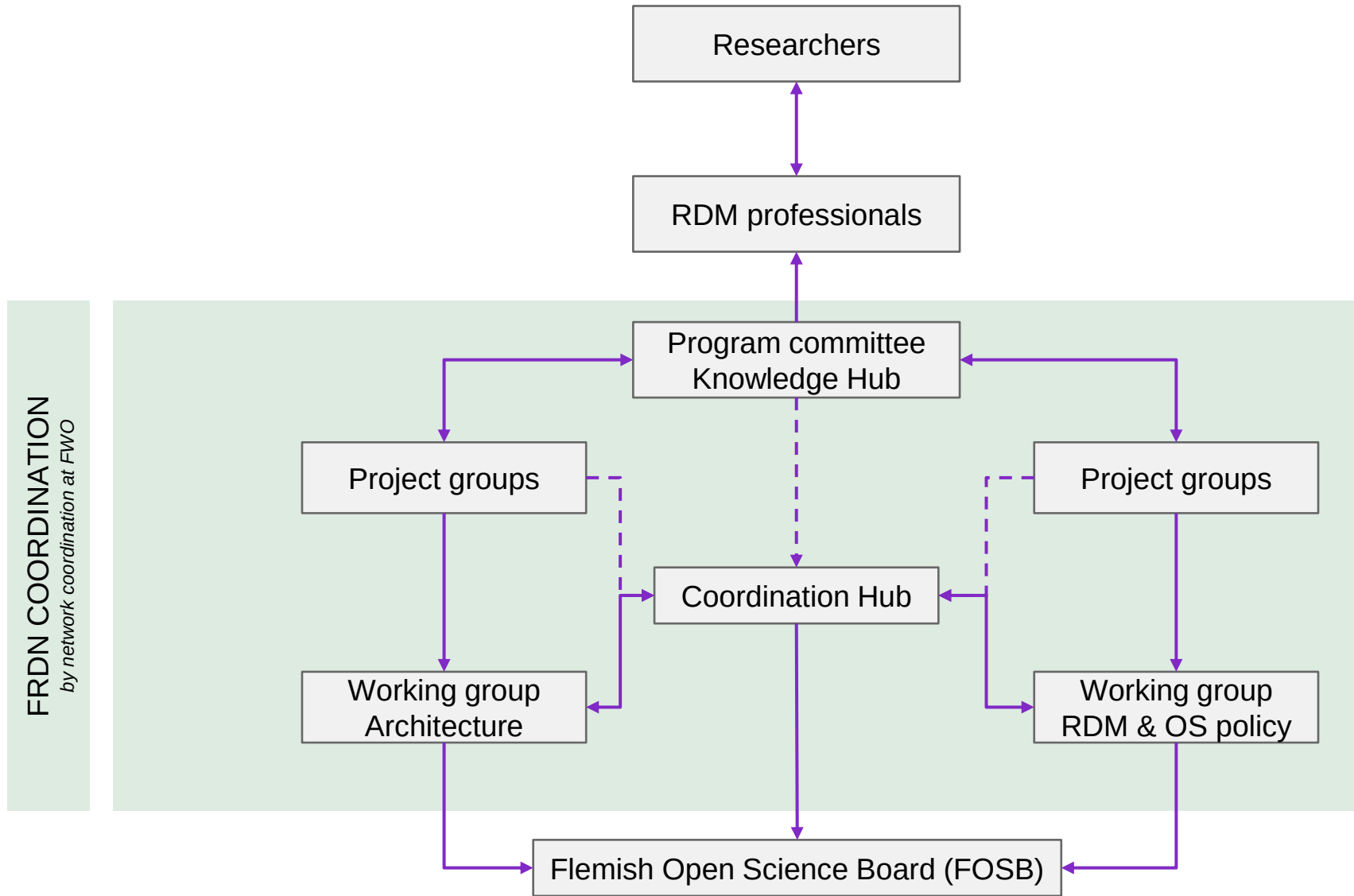
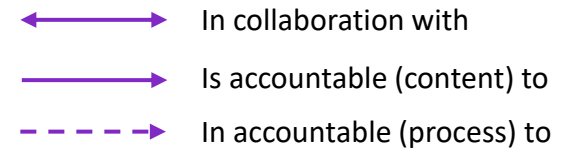
[PDF](#) op fwo.be

[URL](#) to Zotero-group

[Spreadsheet](#)

Deadline: 01/01/2026





Content

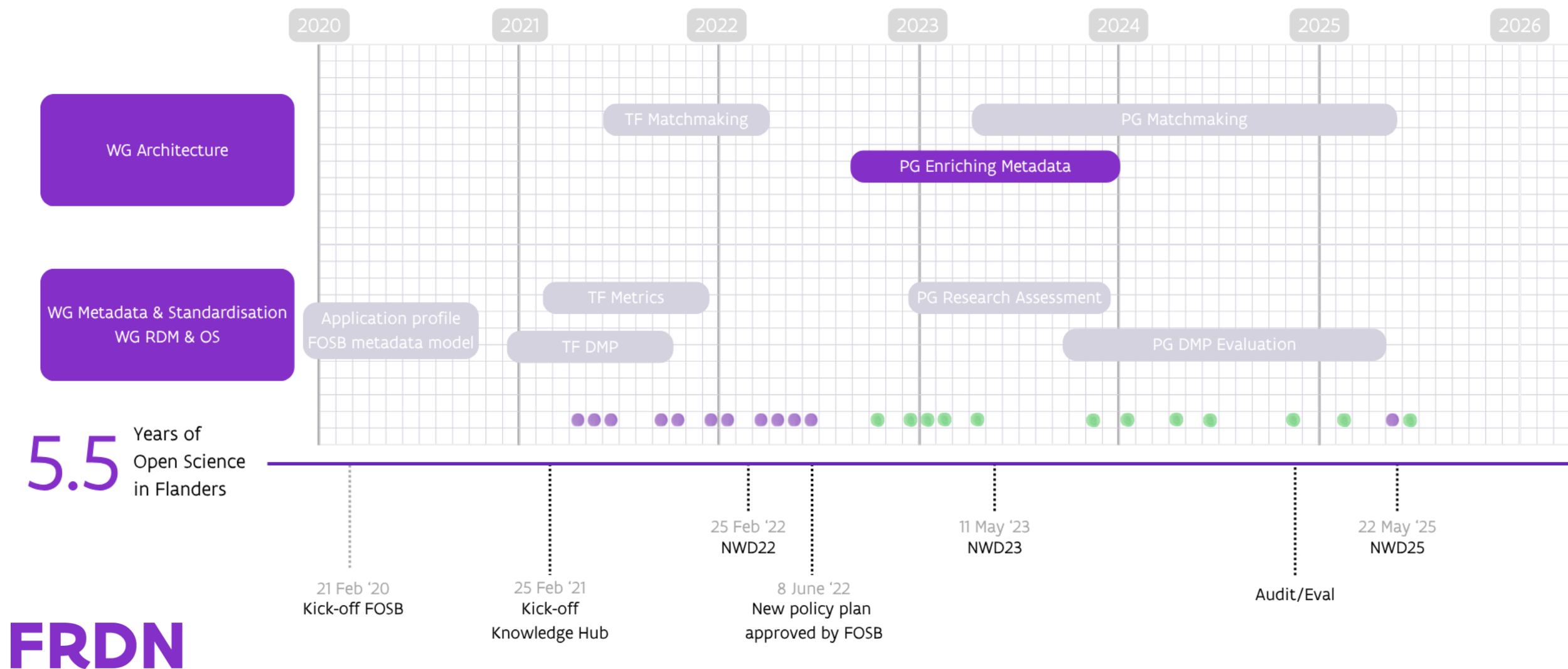
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FRDN Taskforces & Project groups



Basic overview of PG's goals

- TF DMP & PG DMP Eval
 - Minimally uniform DMP template + internal procedure to make changes
- TF Metrics
 - KPI for Openness & FAIRness of data (*On hold*)
- PG Research Assessment
 - Culture shift (reward more than peer-reviewed publications)
- TF Matchmaking & PG Matchmaking
 - Finding tools, experts
- PG Enriching Metadata

PG Enriching Metadata

How do we improve the flow of dataset metadata?

- Why? RPOs are required to submit descriptive info to FRIS
 - Using FOSB *Application profile for datasets* (uniform metadata model)
Flanders Research Information Space (www.researchportal.be)
- Key deliverable 1
 - Visualise the current flow of research dataset metadata using BPM
 - Produce a list of recommendations to improve this flow
 - 10 → 4 recommendations
- Key deliverable 2
 - Develop a method/POC to find and ingest dataset metadata affiliated with RPOs
 - 2 methods

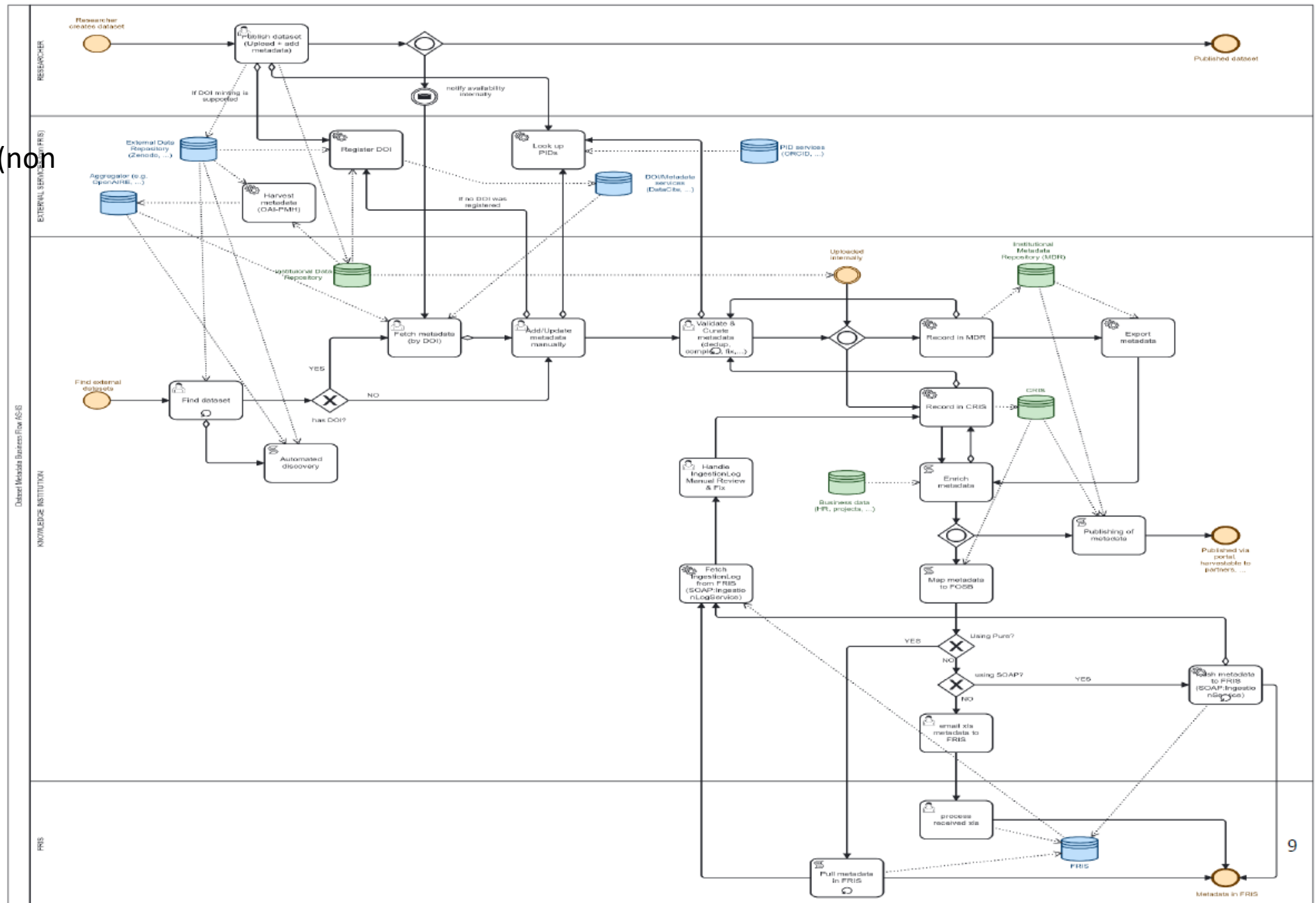
Figure 2. Dataset Metadata Business Process Flow

Researcher

External service (non FRIS)

Knowledge Institution

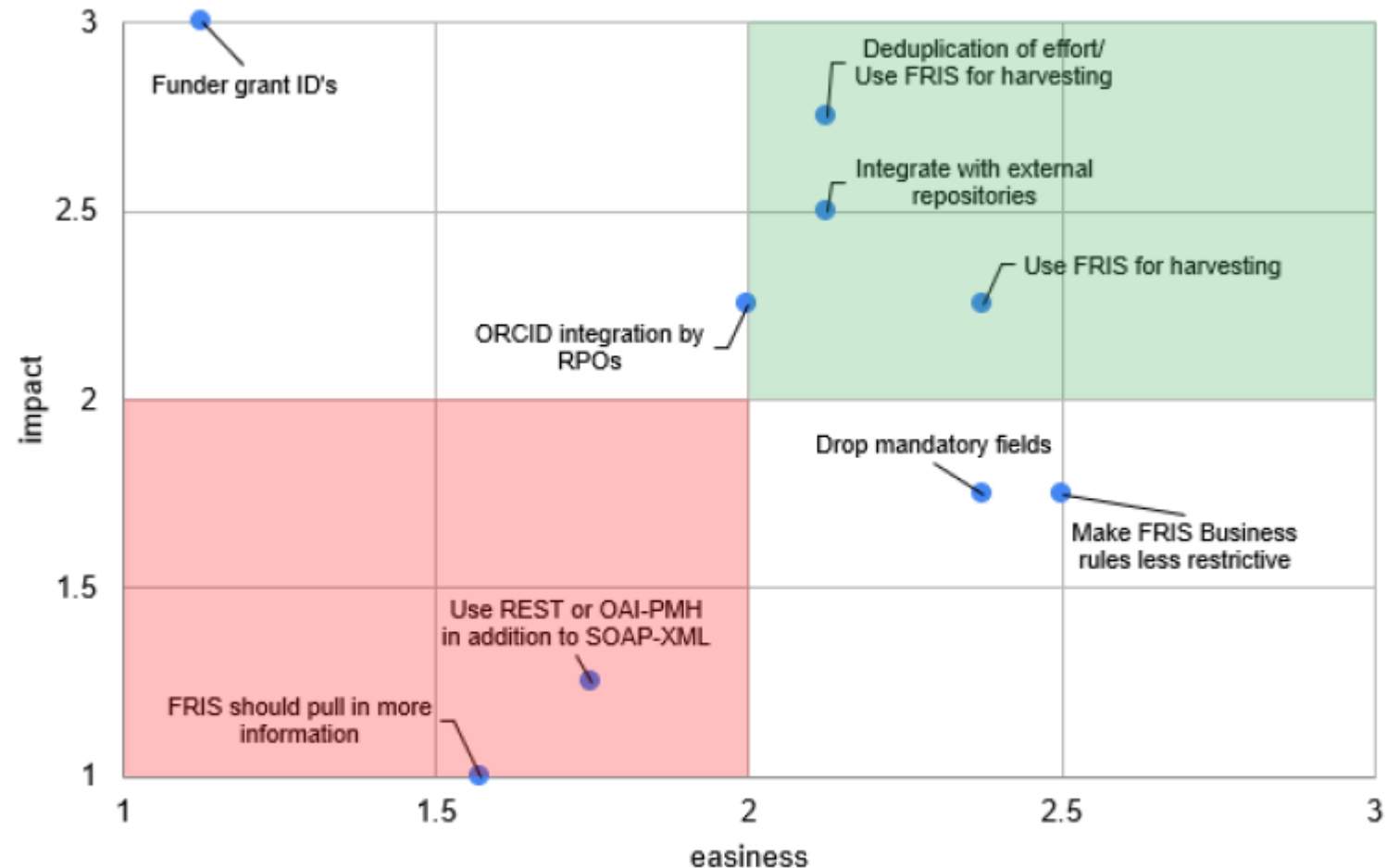
FRIS



PG Enriching Metadata

Recommendations (Four prioritized)

1. Use FRIS for harvesting
2. Integrate with external repositories
3. ORCID integration by RPOs
4. Drop mandatory fields



PG Enriching Metadata

Deliverable 2: Develop method to ingest metadata from external repositories

- (Starting the work on Recommendation 2)
- Two methods tested
 - Modular approach: iteratively querying various sources (DataCite, OpenAire, Figshare...)
 - Registration approach: researchers enter DOI into a CRIS which can harvest the metadata
- Code shared

FRDN Taskforces & Project groups

