



FIDELIS

FIDELIS Landscape Survey

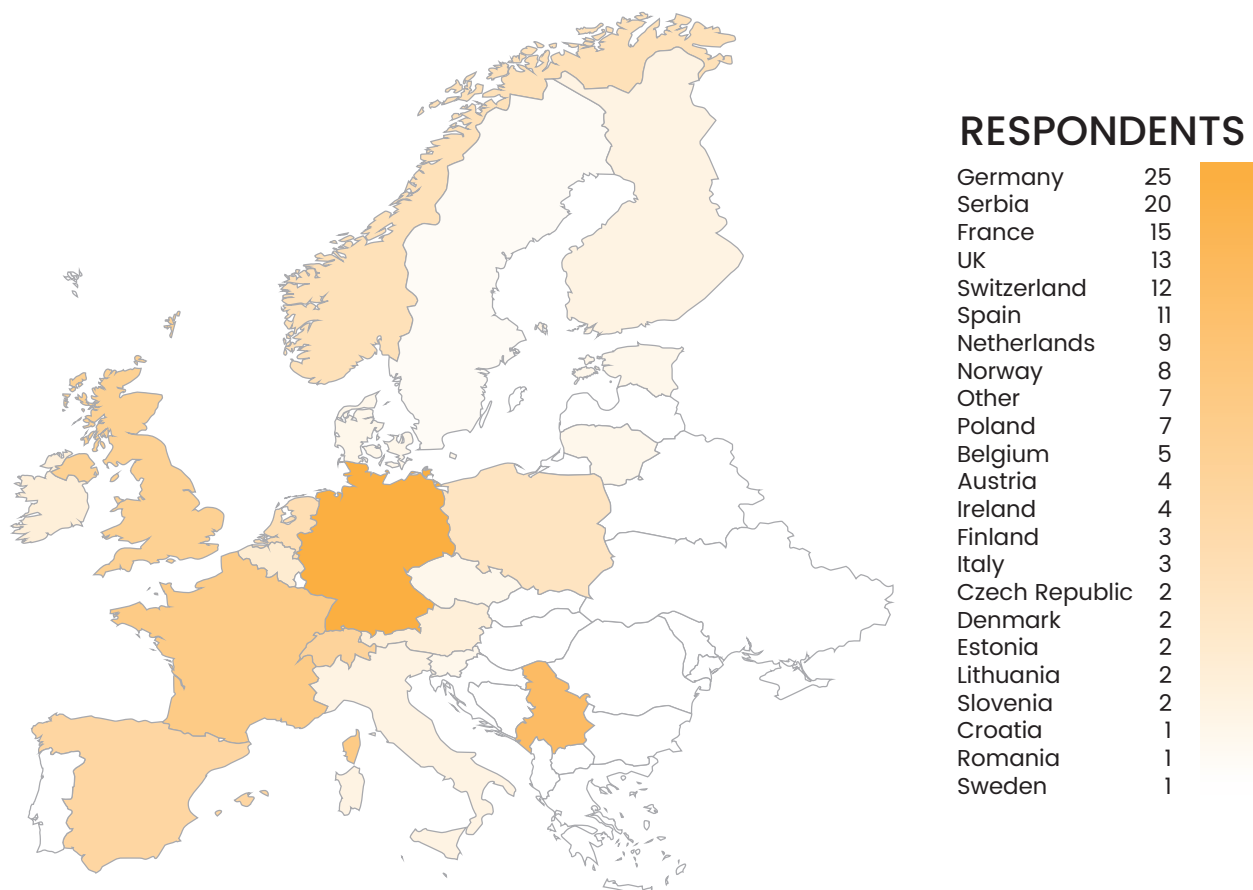
Highlights



Funded by
the European Union

Introduction

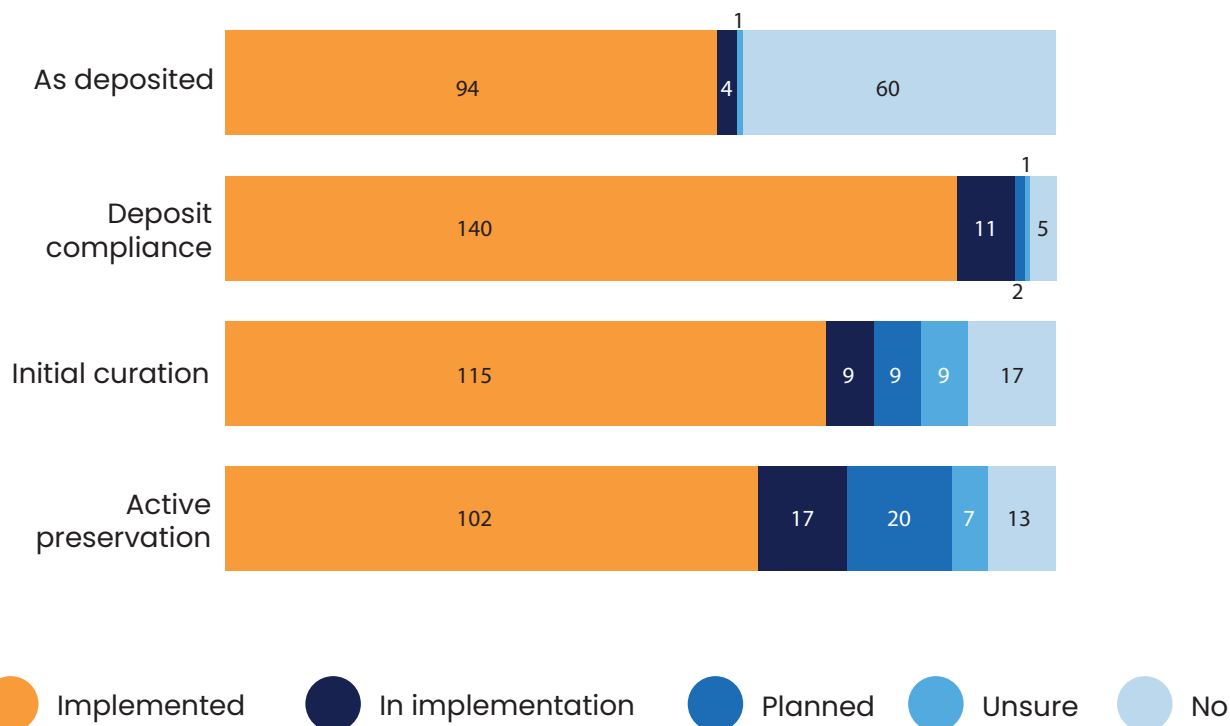
For FIDELIS to successfully achieve its goals, it was deemed essential to gather input from the community on their current practices, challenges, and needs. The outputs of this survey will be used to shape the activities of the project in the next years, and subsequently help shape the FIDELIS Network as it is designed and implemented.



Responses were obtained from 159 individuals representing 144 different repositories from 27 different countries.

Main findings

Repository Characteristics



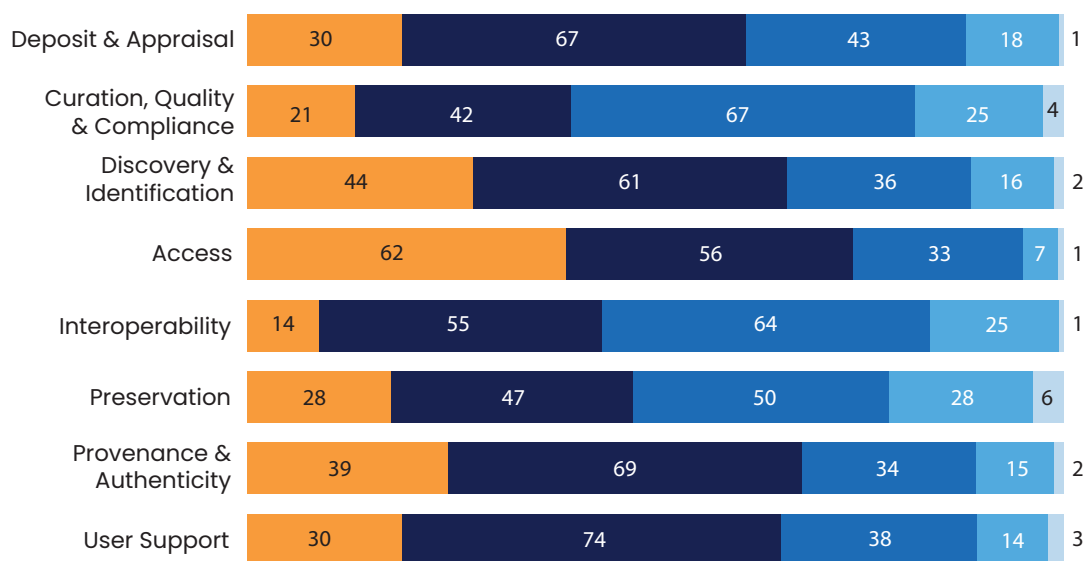
Most repositories offer the Deposit Compliance level of care to their objects. However, more repositories (especially discipline-specific ones) are currently working on implementing Active Preservation as a more extensive level of care.

Repository Activities & Functions

The survey followed terminology used by the Transparent Trustworthy Repository Attributes Matrix (TTRAM) which is another core deliverable of FIDELIS. The 'Activities and Functions' are therefore examined through the three categories employed by the matrix.

Digital Object Management challenges

The main challenges indicated regarding Digital Object Management were "Curation, Quality & Compliance", "Interoperability" and "Preservation". For both "Curation" and "Preservation" activities and functions, the lack of qualified personnel emerged as a key issue.



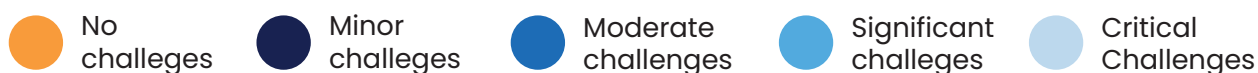
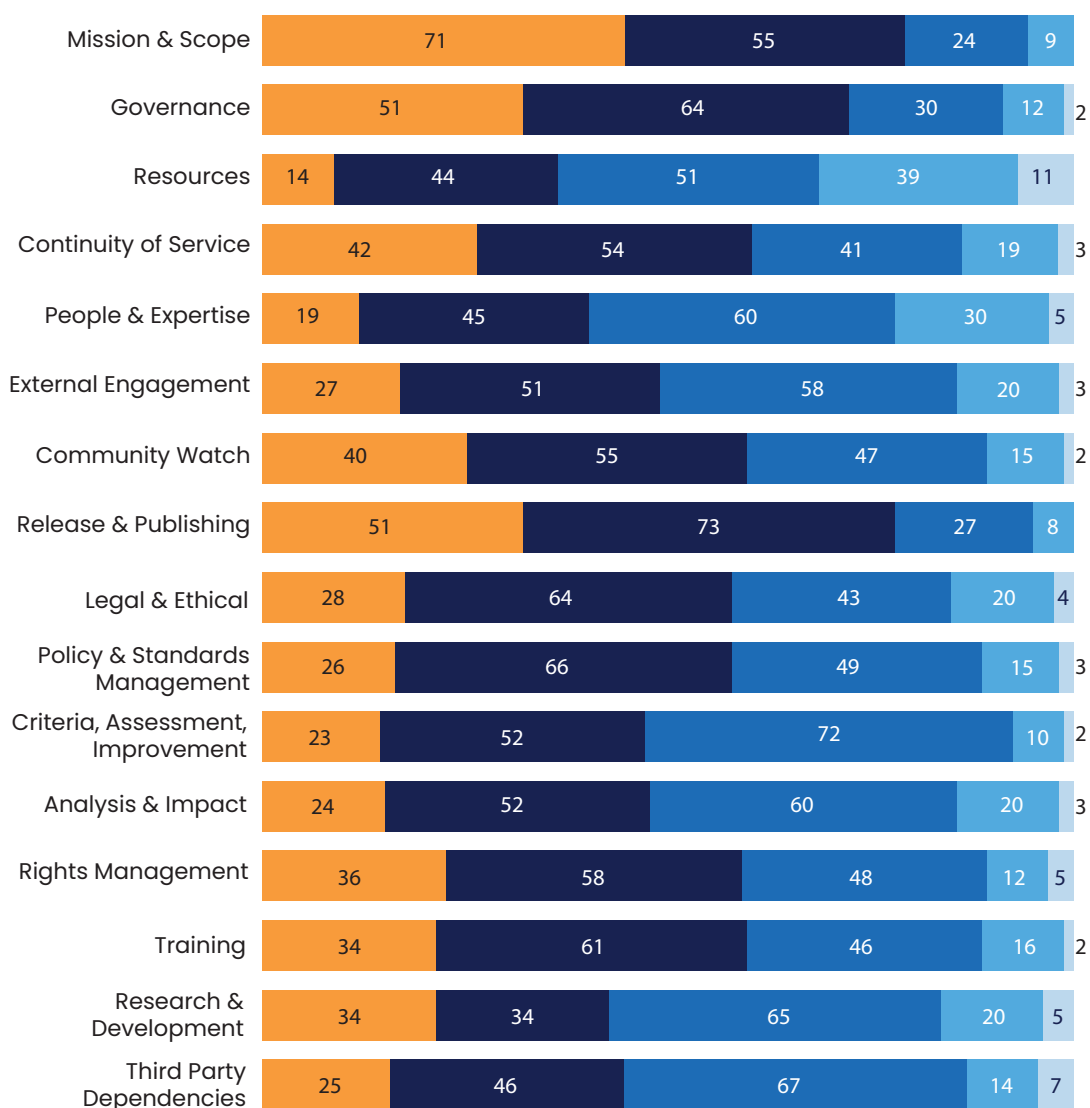
Regarding "Interoperability", technical and operational difficulties are often mentioned. On the other hand, responses highlight that most repositories show good adoption of common artifacts, such as persistent identifiers, commonly adopted metadata schemas (while retaining more confidential, disciplinary or "niche" artifacts where necessary), and licenses.

The result is an international repository landscape that is increasingly aligning around common standards and practices.

Organisational Infrastructure challenges

“Mission and scope”, “Governance”, and “Release and publishing” are relatively unproblematic areas. On the other hand, issues related to resources, such as funding, personnel, and expertise, stand out as primary concerns.

Lack of funding (particularly in a context where project-based funding is increasingly the norm), and shortage of human resources or people with the right expertise can be linked with another challenge: the difficulty of keeping repositories up to date with new technologies as well as emerging demands and challenges that arise almost every year. These issues are reflected throughout the survey and not just in the section about organisational issues. Finally, less critical activities and functions, such as “R&D” or “Third party dependencies” also clearly emerge as notable concerns.

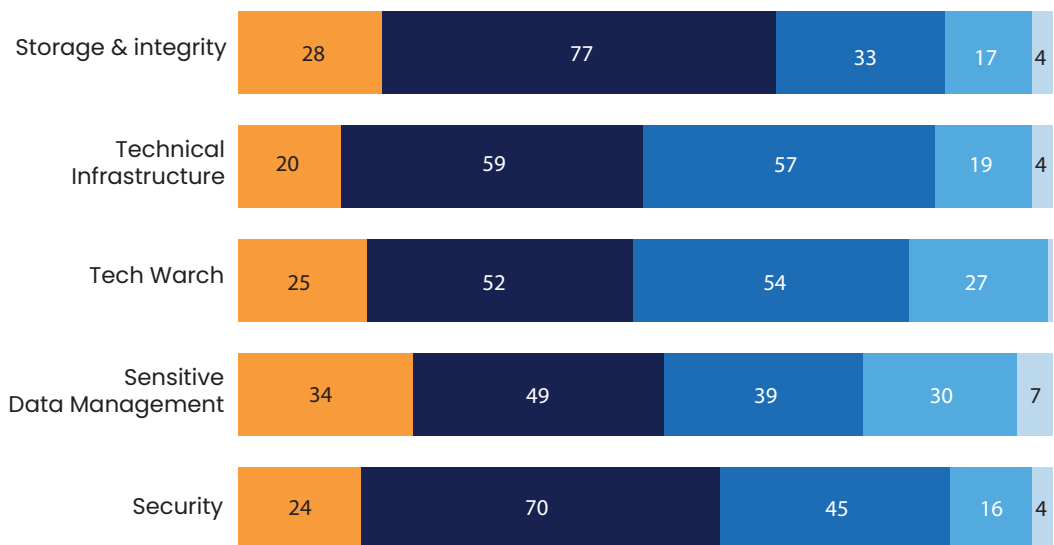


Technology and Security challenges

While no single subject clearly stands out among the entire group of respondents, the overall impression is that of a cautiously concerned community. The slight dominance of the “Sensitive data management” topic is worth noting, although respondents who selected “critical” or “significant challenges” options provided only limited comments.

“Tech watch” is another topic that appears to raise concerns. These concerns can be associated with issues expressed in the free-text comments about keeping the repositories up to date and aligned with changing technical requirements.

Finally, while only a few respondents appear to rely on third-party services for certain core functions of their repository, many of them expressed this reliance as a challenge rather than an opportunity.



Legal Challenges

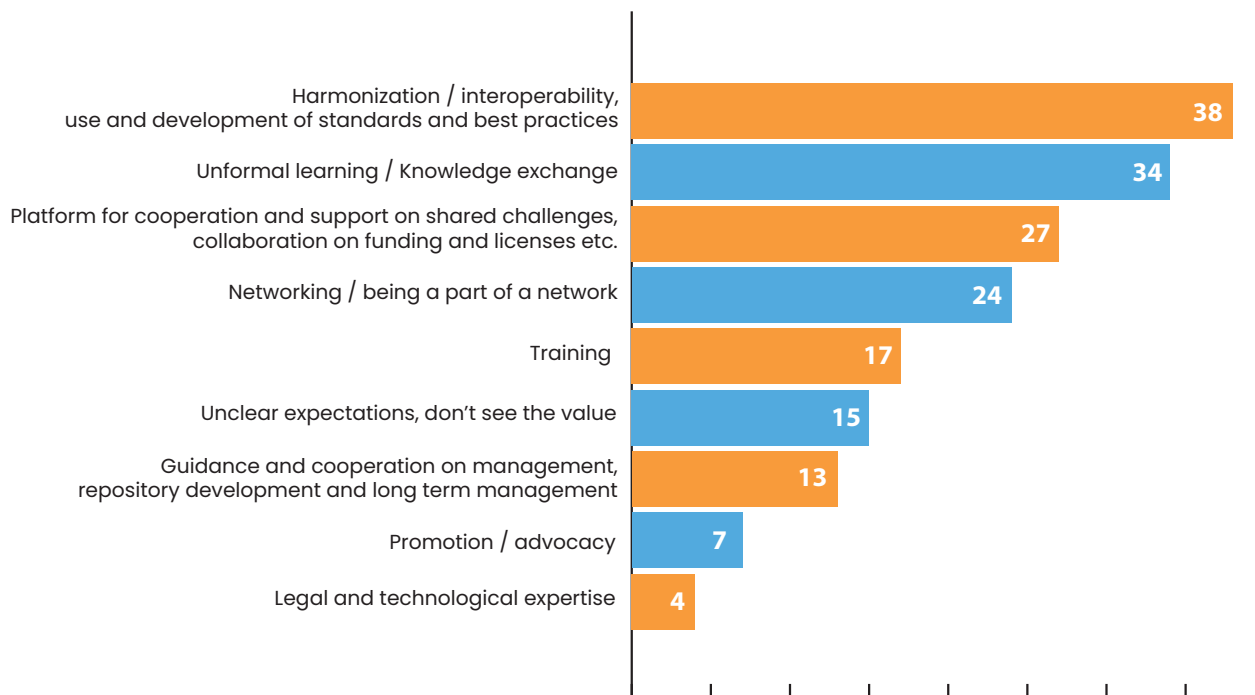
The survey reveals a **fragmented legal landscape**, with many repositories lacking formal frameworks for GDPR compliance or cross-border data sharing, responsibility for GDPR compliance is often placed on researchers. The FIDELIS Network can help by promoting **shared templates, peer-to-peer learning, and working groups**, but success depends on **active member participation**.

Training & Support Needs

Topics that are valued most to receive more training and support on are **repository certification, long-term preservation, developing and sustaining a repository, access conditions and sensitive data**, and **stakeholder engagement and communication**.

Other preferences expressed about training and support activities are for them to be **practical and specific**, have a **clear value for effort**, and for participants to have the opportunity to **connect with, learn from, and network with** fellow participants, organisers, (guest) speakers, and other experts during the activity.

FIDELIS Network Interest & Expectations



Respondents showed a general enthusiasm about the potential benefits of the FIDELIS Network. It was suggested that **granular and practical work on tangible outcomes that can then be adopted throughout the Network** and communicating in a combination of **(online) meetings** and a **forum** would be the most effective way to establish the Network.

Financial constraints were the most envisioned barrier to participating in the Network.

Join as a provisional member for free!



Conclusion

The results of this survey have provided valuable insights into the current activities, challenges, and needs of the community when it comes to a wide variety of topics, as well as their initial opinions on the FIDELIS project and our aims. The findings will be used to shape the activities of the project, identifying where support and training is needed and in which ways we can bring people together to jointly tackle challenges and advance their developments.

Read the full report:

Jouneau, T., Verburg, M., Horton, L., van Geest, G., Tujunen, S., Kallio, J., Paulsen, T., Duvaud, S., Recker, J., Holthe-Tveit, Å. J., Thorpe, D. E., Conzett, P., Kleemola, M., Kalaitzi, V., Huber, R., Jonquet, C., Aguilar, F., Forshaug, A. K., Alaterä, T. J., & Esteves, E. (2025). FIDELIS landscape survey analysis. [Zenodo](#).

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