

NFDI4BIOIMAGE Newsletter – September 17th, 2025

nfdi4bioimage@uni-duesseldorf.de – Wednesday, September 17th, 1.52 pm

Dear NAME NAME

Our third newsletter in 2025 highlights recent political and strategic developments shaping the long-term perspective of the NFDI.

What's new?

- **WR Report on the NFDI**

On July 14, the German Science and Humanities Council (Wissenschaftsrat, WR) published its report on the **structural evaluation of the NFDI**. This evaluation does not address the work of individual consortia but focuses on the **governance and overall structure of the NFDI**, including achievements and remaining challenges. The WR recognizes the substantial success of the NFDI in connecting communities across scientific disciplines as a basis for fostering the development of common standards, recommendations, and services. Importantly, the WR recommends that the NFDI should receive sustained funding from the Federal Government and the Länder. At the same time, the report proposes significant structural changes to the governance and internal organization of the NFDI. This report thus represents an important milestone in the ongoing discussions about the future framework of the NFDI, to be formalized in the renewed Bund-Länder Agreement as of 2029, to which many further stakeholders contribute, including the NFDI consortia, the NFDI directorate, and the Joint Science Conference committees themselves. <https://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/download/2025/2627-25>

- **Impulse Papers on Governance and Sustainability**

On **July 28**, the NFDI Task Force on Governance and Sustainability published two impulse papers (in German only):

1) Leistungsfähige Entscheidungsstrukturen für ein NFDI-Dienstportfolio - Impulse zu Kriterien, Entscheidungsverfahren und Portfoliomanagement ([Zenodo](#))

2) Finanzflüsse für Dienste und Aufgaben - Impulse zur Kategorisierung von Finanzbedarfen nach Leistungsarten ([Zenodo](#))

These papers provide important input for shaping the future financial and organizational framework of the NFDI from the perspective of the consortia.

- **RfII Position Paper „Leistung in Verantwortung“**

On **July 22**, the German Council for Scientific Information Infrastructures (Rat für Informationsinfrastrukturen, RfII) released a follow-up to its 2016 position paper *“Leistung aus Vielfalt”*, which originally laid the foundation for the NFDI.

The new paper, entitled *“Leistung in Verantwortung”*, emphasizes the profound technological changes of recent years and highlights the importance of **digital sovereignty and resilience** for research in Germany and Europe:

<https://rfii.de/download/leistung-in-verantwortung-juli-2025/>

- **Consortia Assembly Leadership**

Since **April 2024**, the Consortia Assembly has been led by a tripartite speakers' team consisting of **Chris Eberl, Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters, and Barbara Ebert**.

From January until the end of September, **Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters**, speaker of NFDI4BIOIMAGE, served as the acting Speaker of the Consortia Assembly. As of October, this responsibility will be handed over to **Barbara Ebert**.

As colleagues in NFDI4BIOIMAGE, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters for her dedicated leadership during this pivotal period, marked by significant steps towards fostering a strong and sustainable future for the NFDI.

What's upcoming?

- If you are attending the **OpenBIS User Group Meeting** in Zurich from September 22nd to 24th, use the chance to connect with Carsten Fortmann-Grote from NFDI4BIOIMAGE, presenting about openBIS, NGS data handling, and knowledge graph construction. More information: <https://openbis.ch/index.php/openbis-ugm-2025/>
- The next **RDM4mic meeting** from October is organized by NFDI4BIOIMAGE and will take place on October 21st -23rd in Münster. We're looking forward to engaging in discussions around research data management in microscopy. On-site participation is already booked out, but meeting contributions may be recorded and made available after the meeting. <https://german-bioimaging.github.io/RDM4mic.github.io/>
- From October 23rd-25th, the **Distribits 2025 Conference and Hackathon** will take place in Düsseldorf in the Haus der Universität. Find more information on the content and registration here: <https://www.distribits.live/events/2025-distribits/>
- The **2025 GloBIAS symposium**, co-organized by GerBI-GMB, will take place in Kobe, Japan, from October 26th-31st. Find more information here: <https://www.globias.org/activities/bioimage-analysis-conference-2025-in-kobe>
- The **2025 EOSC Symposium in Brussels** takes place from November 3rd - 5th. While a major fraction of conference slots were available by invitation only, public registration has opened this week: <https://eosc.eu/events/eosc-symposium-2025/>. Björn Grüning from the Freiburg Galaxy team (TA lead in NFDI4BIOIMAGE) will be on-site and contributing to a demonstrator of federated data management.
- Visit the **OME NGFF Workshop 2025**, consisting of a symposium from November 10th-11th, followed by a Hackathon from November 12th-14th at the University of Zurich. Meet Christian Tischer (speaker) and Josh Moore (speaker and co-organizer) from the NFDI4BIOIMAGE team. <https://www.biovisioncenter.uzh.ch/en/events/Upcoming-Events/2025-OME-NGFF-workshop.html>
- The **NextGen Omics & Data Conference 2025** takes place from November 13th-15th in London, UK. Jan-Philipp Mallm, Task Area leader in NFDI4BIOIMAGE, will contribute as a speaker. Find more information here: <https://oxfordglobal.com/precision-medicine/events/nextgen-omics-2025>
- Organized by FDM.nrw, on November 18th, the **Tag der Forschungsdaten NRW** takes place. Among the panelists for the opening panel discussion about the NFDI consortia participation from NRW is Thomas Zobal, TA-lead in NFDI4BIOIMAGE. Find more information here: <https://www.fdm.nrw/tag-der-forschungsdaten-in-nrw-2025>
- The registration is open for the **6. SaxFDM Tagung** in Dresden, taking place from November 20th-21st. Our Data Steward Conni Wetzker will participate on-site. <https://events.hifis.net/event/2503/registrations/2479/>
- From November 25th-26th, the NFDI consortium NFDI4DataScience will gather for the **NFDI4DS Conference** in Berlin. Robert Haase from ScaDS.AI, TA-lead in

NFDI4BIOIMAGE, will represent NFDI4BIOIMAGE at this event. More information and registration: <https://events.hifis.net/event/2328/registrations/2843/>

- From December 1st to 5th, the **4th de.NBI BioHackathon Germany** will take place in Walsrode. NFDI4BIOIMAGE is present with two projects; one on IO-FAST, the RDM initiative for spatial omics data, and one on extending functionalities of OMERO plugins. Unfortunately, both projects are fully booked. However, reserve your spot on the waiting list or join one of the other exciting projects: <https://www.denbi.de/de-nbi-events/1840-4th-biohackathon-germany>
- **The 2026 OME Community Meeting** will be hosted by NFDI4BIOIMAGE through German BioImaging in Düsseldorf. Mark your calendars for April 28th-30th, 2026! Details to follow.

What's to read or review?

- **Missed the Conference on Research Data Infrastructures (CoRDI) in Aachen?** Several NFDI4BIOIMAGE members contributed to this year's CoRDI with talks and posters on FAIR data, workflow integration, and metadata standards. Catch up with the official Zenodo records to revisit their work and learn how our community is shaping the future of research data infrastructures.
 - <https://zenodo.org/records/16736342>
 - <https://zenodo.org/records/16736220>
 - <https://zenodo.org/records/16735885>
 - <https://zenodo.org/records/16735994>
 - <https://zenodo.org/records/16735893>
 - <https://zenodo.org/records/16911980>Review highlights from the CoRDI on the nfdi.de website: <https://www.nfdi.de/rdm-in-action-highlights-der-cordi-2025/>
- **Bridging Image and Experimental Metadata – A Modular RDM Workflow**
Mohsen Ahmadi and colleagues have published a detailed poster describing an integrated workflow that connects imaging metadata, experimental records, and data processing steps to fully support FAIR principles. The modular design links Micro-Meta App, Adamant, and eLabFTW for metadata capture, OMERO for data handling and storage, and Jupyter Notebooks or FIJI for image analysis. This approach ensures that imaging experiments remain transparent, interoperable, and reproducible across different research settings. Zenodo record: <https://zenodo.org/records/16561545>
- **Journey to BioImaging Data – Webinar recording**
Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters, Tom Boissonnet, and Christian Schmidt gave a talk in the EMBL-EBI webinar series, walking through the challenges and solutions for FAIR bioimaging data management. Watch the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nj2BkRJ8Q0>
- In the **EMBO Workshop Light Sheet Microscopy**, Robert Haase presented about reproducible BioImage Analysis in Python, Jupyter Notebook, and Napari. Review the material:
Course website: <https://scads.github.io/embo-lsm-bia-2025/intro.html>
Zenodo record: <https://zenodo.org/records/17085991>

- **EMBO Course on Advanced Methods in BioImage Analysis**
Christian Tischer, Josh Moore, Anna Kreshuk, Robert Haase, and other consortium members published their training materials covering advanced bioimage analysis methods, including AI-assisted workflows and scalable data processing.
Course website: <https://scads.github.io/llm-bia-2025/intro.html>
Zenodo record: <https://zenodo.org/records/17053832>
- **MIFA Guidelines Now Published**
The **Minimal Information for Fluorescence Acquisition (MIFA)** guidelines — co-authored by Josh Moore (GerBI-GMB and TA lead in NFDI4BIOIMAGE) — set a new community standard for essential metadata in fluorescence microscopy, enabling reproducibility and interoperability for the use in AI-driven research.
Nature Methods article: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41592-025-02835-8>
Open-access preprint: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.10443>

Don't forget: We are here for your research data! Don't hesitate to reach out to our Help Desk with any issues around bioimaging RDM: <https://nfdi4bioimage.de/help-desk/>

Follow us on Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/nfdi4bioimage.bsky.social>

Follow us on Mastodon: <https://nfdi.social/@nfdi4bioimage>

Follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nfdi4bioimage/>

Best wishes,

Christian Schmidt
(NFDI4BIOIMAGE Project Office)

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<https://nfdi4bioimage.de/community-integration/newsletter/>

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