

Betreff: NFDI4BIOIMAGE Newsletter – New Year Newsletter 2026

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Dear NAME

Pre-Christmas times are busy times. Hoping that you all enjoyed a relaxing and wonderful Christmas holiday, we decided to postpone this newsletter and turn it into a New Year Newsletter. With this, we wish you all the best for the year 2026, with hopefully healthy, successful, and exciting months ahead. Here's how 2025 ended and what is coming up in 2026.

What's new?

- **Shaping the future of the NFDI – current developments**

Following the publication of the *Wissenschaftsrat's* structural evaluation of the NFDI, discussions on the future funding and organisational framework of the NFDI have entered an important new phase. As outlined in [our last newsletter](#), the report recognises the NFDI as a major success for the German research landscape and explicitly recommends its continued, long-term funding by the Federal Government and the Länder.

Building on this foundation, the focus has now shifted from evaluation to joint design. Actors across the NFDI – including the consortia, the NFDI Directorate, and the NFDI Verein – are actively contributing their expertise to the ongoing process and are closely engaged with the *Fachausschuss Digitalisierung* of the *Gemeinsame Wissenschaftskonferenz* (GWK). Together, these stakeholders are working constructively on concrete options for the future governance, structure, and sustainability of the NFDI.

These coordinated efforts aim to ensure that the proven strengths of the NFDI – in particular its strong community anchoring, its federated service landscape, and its role as a key enabler of data-driven and AI-supported research – are preserved and further developed. At the same time, they provide essential input for the preparation of the next *Bund-Länder-Vereinbarung*, which will set the framework for the NFDI beyond 2028. The coming months will therefore be characterised by dialogue, alignment, and co-creation. The NFDI community is actively helping to shape the future of the NFDI, contributing to a sustainable, resilient, and internationally connected research data infrastructure for Germany.

What's upcoming?

- The annual **RDA Deutschland Tagung 2026** will take place in Potsdam on **February 24–25**. Meet Mohsen Ahmadi, Data Steward in NFDI4BIOIMAGE, at the meeting. Further details and the full programme are available here: <https://rda-de.de/events/rda-deutschland-tagung-2026>
- The **6th deRSE Conference for Research Software Engineering in Germany** will take place from **March 3–5** in Stuttgart. Meet NFDI4BIOIMAGE team member Yi Sun (EMBL Heidelberg) to discuss bioimaging data and bioimage analysis in the cloud. More information: <https://events.hifis.net/event/2945/>
- The **GerBI Community Meeting** will take place in Fulda from **March 16–18**: <https://gerbi-gmb.de/event/gerbi-annual-community-meeting-2026/>
Registration for the full package (including accommodation) is open until **February 11**: <https://gerbi-gmb.de/machform/view.php?id=90957>
- Also in March (**March 23–25**), the **FDM Werkstatt** will be organised by fdm.nrw together with CEPLAS, NFDI4BIOIMAGE, and the local FDM team, and will take place in Düsseldorf. The call for participation is open until **January 16, 2026**: <https://www.fdm.hhu.de/en/news/call-for-participation-fdm-werkstatt-2026>

- At the same time (**March 23–25**), the **SWAT4HCLS Conference** will take place in Amsterdam. Meet Carsten Fortmann-Grote (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology) and join his tutorial “*Building virtual knowledge graphs for life sciences with Ontop-VKG*”. More information: <https://www.swat4ls.org/>
- As in previous years, our colleagues from **Euro-BioImaging ERIC** are organising the **Image Data Community Days 2026**, taking place from **April 13–17**. Visit the event website for updates on the schedule and topics: <https://www.eurobioimaging.eu/events/image-data-community-days-2026/>
- The **2026 OME Community Meeting** will be co-hosted by NFDI4BIOIMAGE through German BioImaging in Düsseldorf. Save the date: **April 28–30, 2026**. Details to follow: <https://gerbi-gmb.de/event/ome-2026-community-meeting/>
- The **11th International Conference on Plasma Medicine (ICPM11)** will take place from **May 31 to June 5** in Gifu, Japan. NFDI4BIOIMAGE Data Steward Mohsen Ahmadi (Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology) has submitted an abstract representing the consortium’s work. Meet Mohsen at the conference if you are attending. More information: <https://icpm11.com/>

What’s to read or review?

- **“When Data Doesn’t Fit” – Keynote Lecture**
Josh Moore gave a talk on how OME-XML, OMERO, and OME-Zarr help make bioimaging data FAIR, shareable, and ready for analysis. The presentation was part of the *International Symposium on Integrative Bioinformatics*, hosted by the *Gatersleben Research Conference Series* (September 10–12, 2025).
Conference website: <https://meetings.ipk-gatersleben.de/grc-ib2025/>
Zenodo record: <https://zenodo.org/records/17087096>
- **NFDI4DS Conference**
As part of the NFDI4DS Conference, Robert Haase presented “*How LLMs impact BioImage Data Science*”.
Zenodo record: <https://zenodo.org/records/17669681>
- **Workshop: Research Data Management for Microscopy**
This hands-on workshop was conducted by Vanessa Fuchs, Jens Wendt, and Thomas Zobel. Highlights included core RDM principles, practical OMERO usage, metadata standards, and public image repositories. Slides: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17974214>
- **Workshop: Image Data Management in Biological Sciences and Agricultural Research**
Together with Lucia Vedder and Paul Peschel (FAIRagro), Christian Schmidt and Michele Bortolomeazzi held a joint workshop at the University of Kassel, organised by Research Services at the Kassel University Library. Slides: <https://zenodo.org/records/17787401>
- **RDM4Mic Workshop 2025**
Another RDM4Mic meeting took place in Münster in October 2025. Several NFDI4BIOIMAGE task area leaders and data stewards contributed to the programme. Highlights included talks on OMERO development, annotation, metadata, interoperability, and data stewardship, as well as interactive workshops and a hands-on hackathon. Recordings will be available on the RDM4Mic YouTube channel by the end of next week.
<https://www.youtube.com/@RDM4mic>
- **2025 International OME-NGFF Symposium**
Josh Moore and Christian Tischer presented at the OME-Zarr Symposium and Hackathon, hosted by the University of Zurich in November 2025.
J. Moore: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17564218>
C. Tischer: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18184328>
- **4th de.NBI BioHackathon Germany**
At the BioHackathon Germany in Walsrode, NFDI4BIOIMAGE members showcased two projects: one centred on OMERO and another titled “*IO-FAST meets SpaceHack4.0*”.
Event website: <https://www.denbi.de/de-nbi-events/1840-4th-biohackathon-germany>

Blog article by Lea Kabjesz: <https://focalplane.biologists.com/2025/12/17/omero-outputs-insights-from-the-4th-biohackathon-2025/>

- **NFDI BioMed Workshop**

In December, the biomedical NFDI consortia – GHGA, NFDI4BIOIMAGE, NFDI4Health, NFDI4Immuno, and NFDI4Microbiota – met in Cologne for the **NFDI BioMed Workshop 2025**. A short report is available on the NFDI4Microbiota website:

<https://www.nfdi4microbiota.de/newsroom/news/2025-12-03-biomed-workshop/>

Don't forget: **We are here for your research data!**

Please contact our Help Desk with any questions regarding bioimaging

RDM: <https://nfdi4bioimage.de/help-desk/>

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Best wishes,

Inga Mohr & Christian Schmidt

(NFDI4BIOIMAGE Coordination Office)

To review previous editions of our quarterly newsletter, please visit:

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

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The NFDI4BIOIMAGE consortium comprises legally independent partners and does not act autonomously towards third parties. Both Project Coordinators represent the contributions from their respective affiliated institutions and work together on the consortium.