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Research Data Sharing, Research Data Management and Data Management Planning in Poland – Lessons Learned and Future Directions

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Poland's Open Science Journey



2015

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education adopted the document *Directions for the development of open access to publications and research results in Poland.*

2018

Poland became part of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

2019

The National Science Centre (NCN) introduced a mandatory Data Management Plan (DMP) requirement for research projects.

2021

The Act on Open Data and the Reuse of Public Sector Information was adopted. It implemented the European legal framework for sharing resources and defined research data.

2022

The government approved the State Science Policy, which integrated open science and citizen science into the main priorities of the Polish higher education system.

July 2025

The Minister of Science approved the key document "Open Access Policy for Research Data Funded from Public Funds". It sets the roadmap and standards for sharing and managing data across the whole research sector.

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SHIFT IN THINKING

FROM:
"Data as a by-product of research"

TO:
"Data as a strategic research asset"



• Open Access to publications • institutional repositories • copyright and licensing	• research data • FAIR principles • EOSC alignment • long-term preservation
Early recommendations focused on:	Recent developments increasingly address:
Current situation	Poland has strong institutional initiatives but still lacks a comprehensive national RDM framework.

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Growing number of universities adopting:

- Open Science policies
- research data policies
- repository regulations
- FAIR implementation strategies

Typical policy elements



Building Institutional Support Structures

What institutions learned?
Policies alone are not enough.

Necessary support includes:



Example: Gdańsk University of Technology

- Open Science Competence Centre
- Bridge of Data repository
- Data Steward Programme
- mandatory doctoral training

Lessons Learned

What works?

- Start with practical services
- Build trust before imposing requirements
- Combine policy with training
- Involve researchers early
- Use existing international standards

What does not work?

- Policy without support
- One-size-fits-all solutions
- Treating RDM as only a technical issue



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DATA MANAGEMENT PLANS IN PRACTICE

Main drivers:

- **NCN** National Science Centre
- **Horizon Europe** European Commission programme
- **Institutional support programmes** Universities and research institutions

Typical researcher challenges

- metadata
- FAIR principles
- repositories
- data sharing restrictions
- estimating costs and responsibilities

SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS

Most effective support mechanisms:

DMP templates · consultations · examples of good DMPs · discipline-specific guidance · training workshops

KEY LESSON
Researchers usually need practical examples rather than theoretical guidance.

DMP LIFECYCLE

1. **PLAN** Define data and plan management activities
2. **COLLECT & CREATE** Collect or generate data
3. **ORGANISE & DOCUMENT** Organise data and add metadata
4. **STORE & PRESERVE** Store securely and preserve
5. **SHARE & REUSE** Share data under appropriate conditions
6. **REVIEW & UPDATE** Review and update the DMP

DISCUSSION

How do funder requirements, institutional policies and researcher support work together to improve RDM in practice?



KEY MESSAGE

Funder requirements often drive change faster than policy recommendations.

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE (NCN) – A KEY DRIVER OF CHANGE

NCN requires:

- Data Management Plans
- Open Access to publications
- consideration of research data sharing

IMPACT

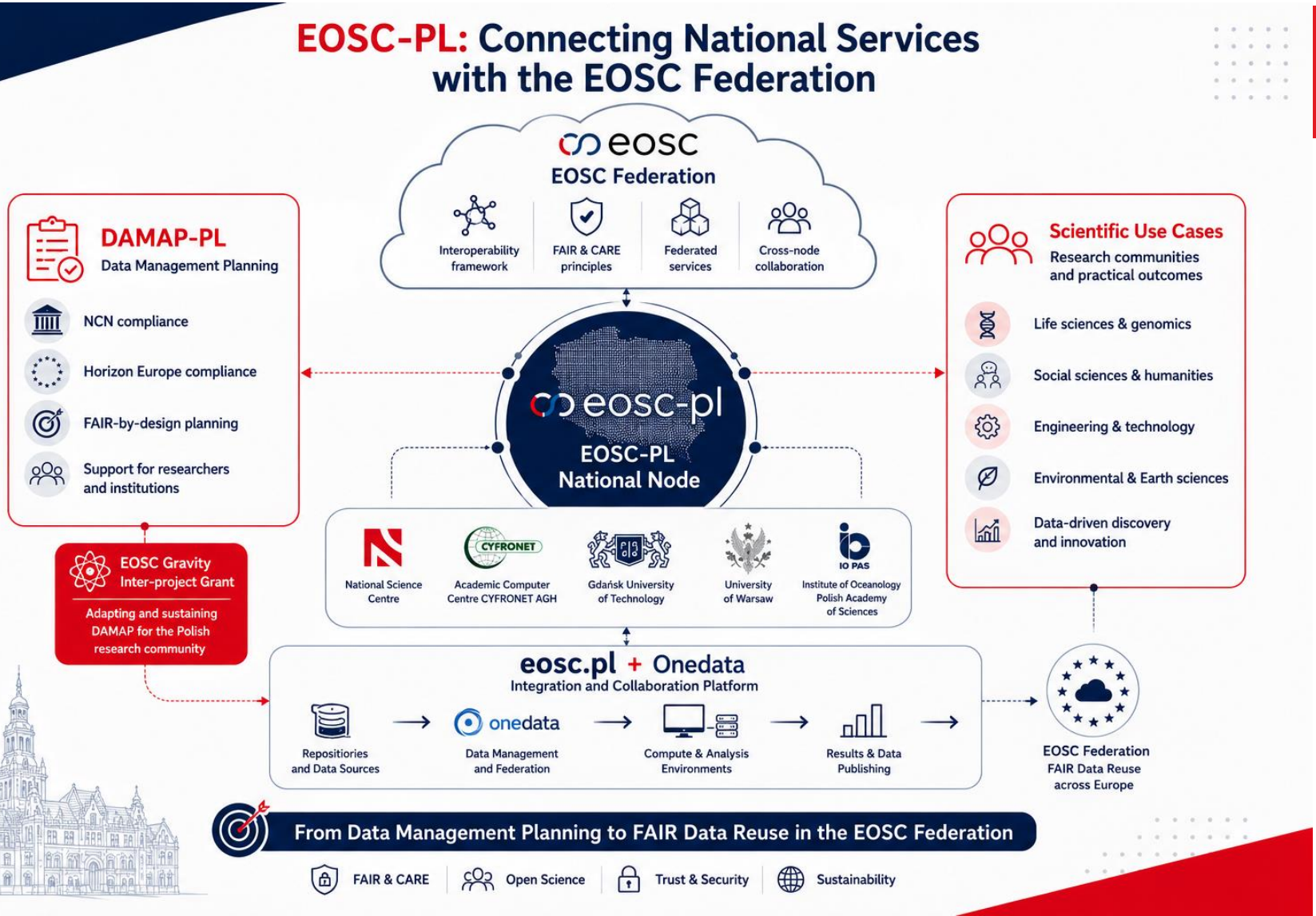
NCN policies significantly accelerated:

- institutional policy development
- repository adoption
- researcher awareness

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BULGARIA

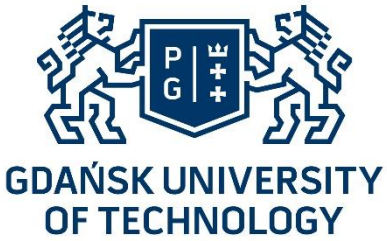
Based on the Polish experience



1. Establish clear national guidance.
2. Use funders as policy drivers.
3. Develop institutional policies and support services simultaneously.
4. Invest in Data Stewards and training.
5. Create trusted repository infrastructure.
6. Align national initiatives with EOSC from the beginning.
7. Build communities of practice across institutions.

KEY LESSON: Sustainable RDM is not only about infrastructure and policies. It is primarily about people, skills, and long-term institutional commitment.

POLICY & GUIDANCE → PEOPLE & SKILLS → INSTITUTIONS & SERVICES → TRUSTED INFRASTRUCTURE → EOSC ALIGNMENT → GLOBAL COLLABORATION


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