EPOS Data policy and the FAIR principles

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EPOS aims to provide interdisciplinary services to researchers interested in geoscience, including access to data, metadata, data products, software, IT tools, and also to computational resources for visualization and processing, as well as to research facilities (e.g. laboratories, observatories). Resources to which EPOS will provide fully open access are provided by many solid Earth science disciplines such as seismology, volcanology, geodesy and geology, to enable research and innovation all over Europe.

In order for services and DATA to flow “seamlessly”, the legal entity of EPOS ERIC must balance the needs of the Suppliers of data and services (e.g. researchers, national institutes, other bodies or infrastructures), against the requirements of the Users. To ensure this seamless flow of data, EPOS will implement a legal data policy framework to determine the rules and policies surrounding data and services access, use, and dissemination.

The EPOS data policy implies open, usually toll free access to data, a clear data management plan, and respect for the widely accepted/general/national/international conventions and standards.

The EPOS Data Management Plan (DMP) is based on the “FAIR” principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

The FAIR principles therefore imply:

- Making data **findable**, including provisions for metadata
- Making data openly **accessible**
- Making data **interoperable**
- Increase data **re-use** through clarifying licenses

The EPOS-DMP based on the FAIR principles is already implemented on the ICS-Central hub, and a range of TCSs (Thematic Core Services) have either fully or partly adopted the DMP.