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Toward a FAIR Data Policy for Chile: Building a National Ecosystem for Open and Responsible Data

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In an era where data is central to scientific discovery, innovation, and public policy, Chile is taking significant steps toward developing a comprehensive national strategy for FAIR data management. This presentation introduces the Estrategia FAIR, a multi-institutional initiative aimed at embedding the principles of Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability (FAIR) into the country's research ecosystem. Developed collaboratively by universities, government agencies, and private sector partners under the leadership of the Data Observatory, the strategy provides a roadmap for data governance that aligns with global standards and regional priorities.

The initiative is rooted in the recognition of Chile's unique position as an open-air laboratory with a diverse landscape of scientific data. However, challenges such as data fragmentation, limited infrastructure, and a lack of common standards hinder the full potential of data reuse and collaboration. The strategy addresses these gaps by proposing the establishment of a national FAIR office, the creation of interoperable repositories, and the implementation of policies that promote responsible data sharing.

Key components of the strategy include: (1) governance and coordination through a National FAIR Network; (2) investment in infrastructure and the adoption of persistent identifiers and metadata standards; (3) capacity building through targeted training for data stewards, researchers, and decision-makers; and (4) regulatory and financial frameworks that support sustainable data practices. Moreover, the strategy emphasizes the importance of cultural change, academic recognition of open science practices, and the integration of FAIR principles into institutional evaluation systems.

Drawing from successful pilot projects and institutional case studies—such as those developed under the InES Ciencia Abierta program—the strategy outlines an actionable plan to enhance data quality, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and elevate Chile's leadership in regional data governance. This presentation will share insights from the strategy development process, highlight its alignment with international initiatives such as GO FAIR, and propose pathways for broader Latin American collaboration.

Ultimately, the Estrategia FAIR positions Chile as a pioneer in building a national ecosystem for open, ethical, and high-quality data management, offering a replicable model for other countries in the Global South seeking to advance data-driven science and innovation.

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