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CoreTrustSeal Newsletter 10-2025

Next steps in the revision of requirements for 2026-2028

The CoreTrustSeal Board has analysed the feedback received from its community on the proposed changes to the requirements for the next three-years period starting in 2026. It was great to see that there is a general, positive consensus in favour of the revamping - with small adjustments suggested by the respondents to the survey. These have been taken into account, and the CoreTrustSeal Documentation Suite (requirements, extended guidance, change log) have been updated accordingly. It will be published in November, and the new requirements will enter into force in January 2026.

Note that the Application Management Tool (AMT) will be closed for **NEW** applications only in November and December 2025.

FIDELIS training pilot offers tailored CoreTrustSeal support

FIDELIS is launching an active training and support programme to strengthen and upskill repositories on their Trustworthy Activities and Functions. This programme will consist of multiple types of training and support, all detailed in [FIDELIS Training &](#)

Support Area. To test the processes and logistics before the first open call launches in 2026, a pilot round of the Support for the Adoption of Solutions has been organised exclusively for provisional members of the FIDELIS Network. These participants receive expert support on relevant topics, and in return provide feedback to the FIDELIS support team to help shape the programme for future open calls.

One of the pilot support offers focused on CoreTrustSeal. Participants could choose between the Explorer or Pathfinder track, depending on their current level of experience. Explorers are supported in assessing whether their organisation falls within the scope of CoreTrustSeal and in learning about how to set up the self-assessment process internally. Pathfinders receive personalised support as their current self-assessment work is reviewed by the involved experts. Board members Tuomas J. Alaterä (FSD), Maaike Verburg (DANS), and former Board member Jonas Recker (GESIS) provide this support throughout October and November.

“As CoreTrustSeal operates on a voluntary basis, it benefits greatly from the wide availability of information about its Requirements and application process tailored to the diverse needs of different organisations, yet delivered consistently and professionally. FIDELIS, as a network-building initiative, brings together many of these organisations and the professionals who can meet those needs”, notes Alaterä, pointing to the benefits of community-driven support models.

The support participants will collectively produce an Implementation Story to share their experiences and offer advice to other repositories looking to improve similar skills. These stories will be published on Zenodo and the FIDELIS website to promote broad knowledge sharing and upskilling. Future open calls for support will be announced across all FIDELIS channels and will cover a wide variety of skills and tools that are essential for trustworthy digital repositories. More information about all pilot offers organised can be found on FIDELIS website.

CoreTrustSeal meets its community at International Data Week

The IDW Conference took place in Brisbane, Australia on October 13-16, 2025 and was attended by more than 800 delegates representing at least 75 different countries. The meeting was jointly organized by CODATA, RDA, and WDS and provided an opportunity to explore new frontiers in data science, policy, infrastructure and innovation. The CoreTrustSeal Board was represented by three of its members, who

actively participated in many sessions to discuss with repository representatives' solutions to overcome the hurdles encountered in the certification process in Asia-Pacific, and globally. Cohort-based funding, special arrangements for LMIC, translation of requirements in local languages through Communities of Practice, discount for repositories with active reviewers have been evoked. The Board will pay great attention to this, and will communicate on the subject in a short future.

Feedback and comments welcome!

Please don't hesitate to contact info@coretrustseal.org if you have feedback or suggestions for us on the tool, process, website or anything else!



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