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CoreTrustSeal Newsletter 01-2026

Requirements 2026-2028 Submissions via the online tool possible from January 1, 2026

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 which have mostly been taken into account.

The CoreTrustSeal Documentation Suite (requirements, extended guidance and change log) has been updated accordingly and is now available on our [website](#).

The new requirements have entered into force in January 2026 and new submissions are accepted in the tool since January 1, 2026.

Introducing Alina Danciu

CoreTrustSeal Board member 2024-2027



Alina Danciu is a Data Curation Specialist and team leader at the Center for Socio-Political Data in Paris, France. The CDSP is a joint unit of the Sciences Po University and of National Research Center, both renowned research French institutions. It is one of the historic open science French actors, sharing election data, as well as social science and political surveys for the last 20 years.

Alina's work at the CDSP focusses mainly on the management of the team in charge of data sharing, as well as the CoreTrustSeal certification of the CDSP's repository. Furthermore Alina is an active member of the DDI Alliance, an international membership organization that creates and maintains technical standards for describing research data. In addition, she is serving the CoreTrustSeal board since 2024.

Explorer and Pathfinder Tracks for CoreTrustSeal: Assessing the essential

characteristics of a Trustworthy Digital Repository

The Repository Training and Support Pillar within the EU-funded FIDELIS project (eden-fidelis.eu/) is responsible for designing and delivering a comprehensive training programme that addresses the repository community's needs regarding trustworthiness.

In autumn 2025, a pilot training programme was launched, offering participants the opportunity to explore the CoreTrustSeal requirements and evaluate their relevance and benefits for their own organisations, supported by expert guidance. Guidance was provided by current or former CoreTrustSeal Board members Jonas Recker, Maaïke Verburg, and Tuomas J. Alaterä.

The Explorer track targeted organisations considering a future CoreTrustSeal application or planning a preliminary self-evaluation. The goal was to help participants determine whether they were in scope for CoreTrustSeal and to strengthen their confidence in proceeding with further self-assessment.

The Pathfinder track was designed for organisations already engaged in CoreTrustSeal self-assessment. Participants were expected to prepare drafts addressing at least a subset of the requirements and work with experts to refine those drafts.

Participant feedback highlighted the value of expert guidance and personalised consultations. All respondents reported concrete progress following the training and agreed that CoreTrustSeal support should remain on the agenda of the FIDELIS Network. Continued provision of such support would enable in-depth discussions and an iterative approach to self-assessment.

Read more: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17949562>

Reminder: CoreTrustSeal @ IDCC26

The CoreTrustSeal Board will attend the International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC26) and highlight the CoreTrustSeal requirements update process, summarize key revisions, and invite continued community engagement as CoreTrustSeal evolves to meet the future of trustworthy data stewardship during a lightning presentation.

The International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC) is an established annual event with a unique place in the digital curation community, reaching out to individuals, organisations and institutions across all disciplines and domains involved in curating data and providing an opportunity to get together with like-minded data practitioners to discuss policy and practice. The 20th edition of the IDCC will take place in Zagreb, Croatia between 16-18 February 2026.

For more information see: <https://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/idcc>

All newsletters available on our website

All previous newsletters can now be found on our website:

<https://www.coretrustseal.org/contact/newsletters/>

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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