Preface for the Proceedings of the 3rd NeXt-generation Data Governance Workshop 2026 (NXDG 2026)

co-located with 22nd International Conference on Semantic Systems (SEMANTiCS 2026)

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Workshop webpage: https://w3id.org/nxdg/2026

Organisation of the Workshop

The third NeXt-generation Data Governance (NXDG) workshop was designed to continue the previous themes of uniting experts from technical, legal, ethics, and societal research, as well as industry experts, to explore key issues surrounding data governance, the emergence of data spaces, and the impact of the European strategy for data on these. In addition, it also included the AI and data protection laws emerging exponentially, in particular their relevance regarding GDPR and now the AI Act. It encouraged submissions on a range of topics, including semantics and interoperability, FAIR management, AI and data governance, standards, data protection and privacy, identity, decentralisation, and policy management and enforcement.

The workshop received 11 paper submissions, of which 2 were rejected based on reviews, 9 were accepted for presentation and publication. Later 1 paper was removed from the proceedings due to the non-fulfilment of the requirement for at least one author to attend and present the paper at the workshop. Each submitted paper was reviewed by two members of an international program committee (full list below), with a relevant background in the technical, legal and/or societal domains promoted by this workshop and aligned with the submission. The workshop reviewing was open/non-blind, both the authors and reviewers had their identity visible, and the OpenReview platform was utilised for this purpose. The reviews for the submitted papers are available with open access at https://openreview.net/group?id=SEMANTiCS.cc/2026/Workshop/NXDG.

Accepted Papers

The following papers were presented at the workshop:

- Chris Hokamp, Jack Boylan, Deniz Kuey, Jerome Bryssinck, John Murray, “From Enterprise Knowledge Graphs to Policy-Compliant Agents: Governing Data, Models, and Autonomous Curation”
- Elena Molino-Peña, Wout Slabbinck, José María García, Antonio Ruiz-Cortés, Beatriz Esteves, “Automated Validation of ODRL Policies for Usage Control and Data Spaces”
- Anelia Kurteva, Gabriela Kurteva, “Governing Multimodal Knowledge Graphs: Current Challenges and Possible Solutions”

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- Deperias Kerre, Christophe Debruyne, “Are the Provided Keywords on Open Data Portals Semantically Complete and Relevant? An Exploratory Study”
- Filipi Miranda Soares, Roberto García, Miguel Pincheira, Raffaele Giaffreda, Clement Jonquet, “Bringing Semantics into the Common European Agricultural Data Space: (Meta)data enrichment with controlled vocabularies in Pontus-X”
- Darren McCabe, David Lewis, “TAF: A Semantic Governance Framework for Assessing Article 15 Safeguards in AI-Based Digital Forensic Tool Procurement”
- Célestine Juliette Marie Lecat, Kimmy Shah, Monica Palmirani, “Frame Semantics for EU Reporting Requirements: An Annotated Benchmark, Guidelines, and a Path Towards RRMV Population”
- Owen P. Dwyer, Yama F. Mujadidi, James Welch, Jim Davies, “Interpreting the FAIR principles in the age of infrastructure and automation”

Organisation Committee

The workshop was organised by Beatriz Esteves, Harshvardhan J. Pandit, and Ruhi Anand Finn. The following reviewers were part of the Program Committee. We thank them for supporting this work with their time and expertise in reviewing the submissions.

- Alex Randles (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)
- Andres Chomczyk Penedo (Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain)
- Anelia Kurteva (University Of Birmingham, UK)
- Apoorva Upadhyaya (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany)
- Beyza Yaman (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)
- Chang Sun (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)
- Dave Lewis (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)
- Johannes-Rudolf David (University Of Lausanne, Switzerland)
- Julian Flake (University Of Koblenz, Germany)
- Julio Hernandez (Dublin City University, Ireland)
- Kimberly Garcia (University Of St Gallen, Switzerland)
- Konrad Kollnig (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)
- Muhammad Raza Naqvi (Ens Des Mines De St-Etienne, France)
- Nicoletta Fornara (Universita Della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland)
- Nora O’Murchu (University Of Limerick, Ireland)
- Rens Kievit (Leiden University, The Netherlands)
- Rui Zhao (Tianjin University, China)
- Wout Slabbinck (Ghent University – imec, Belgium)

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