In the wake of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the rapid publication and dissemination of scientific findings, particularly through preprints, has gained significant momentum. The term "preprint" encompasses freely available scientific manuscripts or artifacts that have not (yet) been formally peer-reviewed for publication in scientific journals. The growing attention and discussion around preprints and their evolving role in scholarly communication has contributed to the participation of a variety of stakeholders with different motivations in the preprint landscape. In a Delphi survey, we asked experts for their views on the further development of preprints and quality aspects as well as on possible changes in the role of relevant actors.

Methodology:
We identified certain groups as relevant stakeholders in the preprint landscape by analyzing the literature and evaluating discussion rounds around the topic of preprints. We classified the group into three spheres that are interrelated with each other along the publication process in science (see graphic).

Experts for each group were identified, and semi-structured interviews with each member of our expert panel were conducted. The data from all interviews was analyzed and used as a basis to formulate questions for a Delphi Survey. The experts from our panel were invited to participate in the Delphi Survey. Three survey rounds were conducted before the experts achieved consensus on certain topics.

Project PrePrint+:
In our research project PrePrint+ we took a closer look at confidence-building quality assurance measures for preprints and analyzed trends in preprint-publishing. After a semi-structured literature review and conducting expert interviews we wanted to deepen and extend our understanding of trends in the preprint landscape by using a Delphi Survey. We present the statements with the greatest consensus within our expert panel as part of the poster. At the end of the project, all the results of our research will be summarized in a guide aimed at users of preprints and stakeholders in the preprint environment.

Future Trends in the Preprint Landscape:
The experts in the Delphi Survey agreed that:

- Preprints will continue to become more professional and popular and, as an essential part of the quality assurance process, will contribute to greater transparency and progress in research leading to higher quality standards in research.
- Specific research and infrastructure communities will become key players in the preprint landscape and increase their influence significantly.
- Tools for registering preprints with a persistent identifier and tools for interoperability with the journal submission process will play the most significant role for transparent and accountable communication of preprints.
- Adherence to FAIR principles, interoperability with review platforms, and standardization of metadata that facilitates connectivity to VoR and citation eligibility will play a significant role for transparent and accountable communication of preprints.