

Focus on Open Science, the Croatian pilot



On 16 May 2019, a pilot for testing a future Croatian chapter of Focus on Open Science reached a number of conclusions on the future of such a collaboration and the perspective of Open Science in Croatia.

Current engagement

1. There are positive signs in Croatia on taking up the support for Open Science, including examples of Open Science Declarations (one presented by the vice rector of research from University of Rijeka) and the current effort of maintaining a Green Open Access National Repository (<https://hrcak.srce.hr/>).
2. A Focus on Open Science chapter aims to be a highly engaging event between the audiences and speakers/panelists and uses modern technology to enable that interaction. This way, the local community of Open Science practitioners will benefit from this event. This aim will be promoted throughout the day and we expect a minimum number of 25 interactions.

Collaboration

3. The organization of the event is designed to encourage ideas of sharing and collaboration between the Universities and other research organizations, and various job positions.

Pan-European approaches needed

4. For Open Science to be a success, the concept needs to be embraced in all European countries; otherwise, Europe will lose the leadership role that it currently enjoys. Croatia should feel welcome and invited to become an active practitioner.
5. Croatia could benefit from its future position of holding the EU presidency

Leadership

6. Leadership is crucial for a university to succeed in embedding Open Science principles and practices. For this to be a success, there needs to be a senior manager in each university who is responsible for Open Science developments.

Policy development

7. Equally important, there needs to be policy development at the university level – with policies spelling out what the university policies on Open Access and Open Science are. Without these,

individual efforts will lack an overall strategy and the university's activities will lose visibility. The same is true of Open Science policy development at a local level. Open Science represents a fundamental change in the way universities work and those who have leadership and policies in this area are the ones who will succeed in securing the benefits that Open Science brings.

Diversity

8. There are many stakeholders in the Open Science landscape – researchers, research funders, professional service staff, libraries, commercial providers – it was good to see a mix of such roles represented in the speakers listed on the Programme. The audience itself reflected a great diversity through age, genders and professions.

Cultural Change

9. For Open Science to succeed, there needs to be a fundamental change in how research and education are performed, recorded, shared, published, evaluated and rewarded. This change can only take place where the leadership (outlined above in 4) are in place.
10. At the international level, this cultural change is unveiling the need for a new principle which is Reciprocity.
11. To perform research under the principles of Open Science, the institutions should start implementing its criteria by having in mind a managerial approach for each individual element (Rewards, Open Access, RDM infrastructure, etc) and for the whole.

Advocacy and Training

12. Open Science practice is best established at the university level where there are advocacy and training programmes to support it. Across Europe, such activities are usually led by the University Library – which is well placed to offer leadership in this area to all players in the Scholarly Communications arena.

Self-Evaluation

13. Universities should undertake annual self-evaluation on their progress in all eight areas of Open Science, as identified by the European Commission, and assess their progress in building all eight pillars of Open Science activity. We recommend to each institution identifying its priority areas in Open Science and to assess the progress through established KPIs.
It is important to build knowledge about how research evaluation is performed both at funder level and in other research institutions and what role could Open Science principles play to improve such evaluations. Such knowledge is best to build through planned events that generate follow-up processes and lead to future success.

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