

Focus on Open Science, Madrid

Open Science by Design: Practical Commitments for Implementation by (Young) Universities



A meeting of a Spanish chapter in Madrid on 8 July 2019 reached a number of conclusions on the future of Open Science in European universities.

Current engagement

1. The meeting was held in conjunction with the University Carlos III of Madrid (UC3M) and [YERUN](#), the Young European Research Universities Network.
2. The breakdown of attenders in Madrid showed that 50% of the attenders classed themselves as researchers, including Early Career Researchers (UC3M PhD students, and 21% as consultants, but also the workshop was attended by librarians and research offices staff. The Workshop was also livestreamed and, in total, 100-110 people joined the Workshop physically or virtually. All recordings can be viewed [here](#).
3. The PhD students post their comments about the workshop in this specific weblog created by UC3M organizing team. The posts can be seen here: <http://www.curatore.es/focusopenscience>

Collaboration

4. The organisation of the event was designed in conjunction with YERUN-UC3M and it was helpful to discuss, using parallels with [LERU](#), how university organisations can help facilitate the move to Open Science.
5. The interaction with an audience populated by researchers suggests that a significantly stronger collaboration between policy makers and researchers could enable the transition to Open Science. Researchers should hold a more central position in this transformation, and there is a particular need to engage with early career researchers.

Pan-European approaches needed

6. 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.
7. Furthermore, the principle of reciprocity should be considered, both at European and World levels, whereby all stakeholders engage in Open Science practices for the benefit of Society as a whole.

The Future

8. The meeting generally agreed that Open Science represented the future for scholarly activity in universities, underlining the importance of effecting a sustainable transition in academic culture which is required to deliver success.
9. 77% of those responding in a sli.do poll said that it would take more than 10 years to deliver Open Science practice in universities – revealing that fast, irruptive approaches to introducing Open Science may not be the most helpful.

Rewards and Evaluation

10. A principal finding from the day was that academic culture can only embrace Open Science if there is a consequent change in Reward and Evaluation practices. Using the Journal Impact Factor, for example, as a surrogate for academic quality is simply not helpful..

Leadership

11. 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 there is a clear pattern for leadership in Open Science in the organisation.

12. The transition to Open Science should be used as an opportunity to improve the career trajectories of early career researchers. In particular, early career researchers should be able to gain access to such training at the start of their research career.

Diversity of approaches

13. The Workshop looked at the importance of disciplinary differences and the impact these might have on the move to Open Science. It was agreed that a one-sized answer would not fit all.

Advocacy and Training

14. Open Science practice is best established at 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

15. 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.

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