A funder’s perspective on how linking and integrating research data can advance Open Science and research assessment

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• **Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen**
  = Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders (since 1928)

• **Mission**
  • Funding of *fundamental & strategic* research
  • Funding programmes
    • Individual researchers (pre-, post-doc, mobility)
    • Research teams (projects, SBO, TBM,...)
    • Research infrastructure
    • Scientific prizes

• **Principles**
  • **Bottom-up** in all disciplines
  • **Scientific excellence** and interuniversity (incl. research institutes) competition
  • Transparent and **equal opportunities**

• **Funding Budget**
  • 2022: 470 MEUR
Open Science & research evaluation

1. Open Access to publications
2. Data Management plan
3. Registration of research results
4. The use of PIDs
5. The second axis of research evaluation
   • Valuation of diverse research outputs
1. Open Access to research publications

• Why?
  • Publicly funded research should be available to everyone, worldwide, online and without any cost
  • Increase impact and valorisation of research

• What?
  • Publications resulting (at least partly) from FWO funding

• Since when?
  • 2003 (Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities)
1. Open Access to research publications

**How?**
- To publish in a journal of choice, the author deposits the accepted version in a public OA repository ("green" OA)
- Full ("gold") or partly ("hybrid") OA journals → eligible costs, can be incorporated in budget of project application

**When?**
- **Green** OA selected? Maximum embargo period of 12 months. Right implemented in Belgian federal law (Art. XI.196, §2/1 of the Economic Law Code)
- **Gold** or hybrid OA selected? Immediate OA
1. Open Access to research publications

- Diamond Open Access publication platforms
  - Non-profit, No cost for authors and readers
  - Immediate OA
  - Led and owned by academics
  - Action plan: Initiative by Science Europe, cOAlition S, OPERAS and ANR, endorsed by 149 organizations.

2022: Action Plan for Diamond Open Access - Science Europe
2. Data Management Plan (DMP)

- **What & why?**
  - DMP as support for the researcher during the research process
  - Storage and long-term preservation: Data has to be preserved at least 5 years after the end of the project.
  - No Open Data obligation, but ‘as open as possible, as closed as necessary’

- **For which programs?**
  - All programs in which financial resources are deployed to conduct scientific research

- **Since when?**
  - 2019
  - 2022: New uniform DMP was developed by the FRDN

- **How?**
  - Use of a [standard template](#)
3. Registration of research results

- **What?**
  - Provision of information about research results to the Flanders Research Information Space (FRIS)
  - Linking research results with their funding source

- **Which results?**
  - Those that stem from a project that is at least partially supported with FWO funds
  - Publications, datasets and research infrastructure

- **Strategic partnership FWO & FRIS**
  - FWO acts as supplier of metadata of persons, organisations and projects
  - Use of FRIS data for reporting and measuring impact

- **Agreements RPOs & FRIS**
  - RPOs and their researchers act as supplier of research results and their links with research projects
3. Registration of research results

- FRIS: Flanders Research Information Space
3. Registration of research results

- **Why?**
  - Foster research collaboration
  - Increase visibility of research in Flanders
  - Coordination of Flemish science policies
  - Monitoring the effect of science policies (including Open Science)

- **Since when?**
  - Regulations since 2019 (publications), 2022 (datasets, infrastructure)

- **How?**
  - Researchers need to deposit all metadata in the information system (CRIS) and repository of their respective host institution(s) → transfer to FRIS.
  - Researchers need to link their output with related research projects
  - Correct and complete information = responsibility of the researcher
3. Registration of research results

• **Extensive communication**
  - Challenge: Links between output and their projects
  - FWO website, newsletter, personal mailing, info sessions, instructions & support from host institutions, ...

• **Integration of FRIS in scientific reporting tool**
  - 2024: peer reviewed publications will be imported from FRIS
  - On longer term: other output
  - Enter once, re-use often

• **FRIS as a monitoring tool**
  - e.g. to measure share of peer reviewed publications linked to FWO projects that is Open Access
4. Use of Persistent identifiers (PIDs)

• **What?**
  • PIDs act as connectors between researchers, institutions, research output and research projects (funders)

• **Integration of ORCID in FWO E-loket**
  • 2018: Researchers can register and login with an ORCID ID
  • 2020: ORCID ID is prerequisite to apply for funding

• **PIDs for publications and datasets in FRIS:**
  • required field

• **PID for research projects?**
  • Current system (XxxxxxxN)
  • Debate at the regional and European level
    • [Flemish Research Data Network](https://flemishresearchdatanetwork.be): development of a PID strategy for Flanders
    • Science Europe [working group on Open Science](https://www.science-europe.org)
5. The second axis of research evaluation

Broader view on research evaluation
5. The second axis of research evaluation

‘SECOND AXIS’

• **Broadening our view on diverse research(ers) profiles**
  • Integrated in application form and evaluation procedure
    • **Narrative**, more than only ‘classic’ output and extensive definition of ‘impact’
    • CV with a broad set of activities
    • 5 main publications and/or **achievements**
    • sharing high-quality datasets, software, citizen science, ...

• **Evolution to new research culture → new evaluation culture**
  • CoARA and FRDN: investigate how Open Science criteria can be included in research assessment
Questions?

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