



Opening new horizons

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

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FWO

- ***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 Acces to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities](#))

1. Open Access to research publications

- **How?**

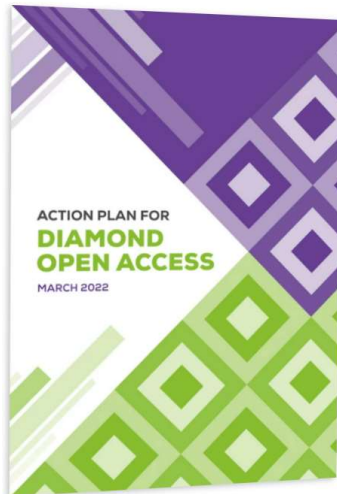
- To publish in a journal of choice, the author deposits the accepted version in a public OA repository (“*green*” OA)
- Full (“*gold*”) or partly (“*hybrid*”) OA journals → eligible costs, can be incorporated in budget of project application

- **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](#)

The screenshot shows the FRIS Research portal website. The header includes the text "FRIS Research portal" and the logo of the Flemish Government, "Flanders State of the Art". Navigation links for "Contact us", "FAQ", and "Nederlands" are visible. A yellow navigation bar contains links for "HOME", "ABOUT FRIS", "PARTNERS", "FIGURES", "CLASSIFICATIONS", "NEWS", and social media icons for Twitter and LinkedIn. A search bar with the placeholder "Find research..." and a "Search" button is present. Below the search bar, there are eight data cards showing various research metrics:

Category	Count
All results	697514
Researchers	44363
Organisations	2305
Projects	58730
Publications	588297
Patents	2597
Infrastructure	197
Datasets	1025

A "Find expertise" button is also located on the right side of the dashboard.

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](#): development of a PID strategy for Flanders
 - Science Europe [working group on Open Science](#)

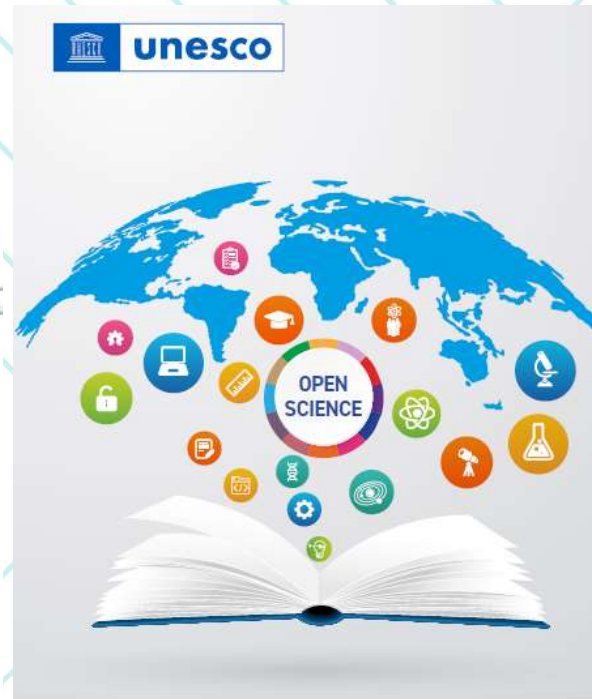


5. The second axis of research evaluation

Broader view on research evaluation



The Leiden Manifesto
for research metrics



UNESCO Recommendation
on Open Science



Towards a reform of the
research assessment system

Scoping Report



**Coalition for Advancing
Research Assessment**

Our vision is that the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. This requires basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.

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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