Focus on Open Science, Turin chapter

7 May 2019

A meeting of an Italian chapter in Turin on 7 May 2019 reached a number of conclusions on the future of Open Science in the University of Turin and the Polytechnic University of Turin. The event was organized by Scientific Knowledge Services, the University of Turin and the Polytechnic University of Turin, in collaboration with UCL Press and LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries)

Current engagement

A list of lively topics by Italian speakers underlined the strength of activity in certain areas of Open Science which is present already in Turin.

Collaboration

The organisation of the chapter as a joint event encouraged the ideas of sharing and collaboration between the Universities, although it is not clear how each stand of activity is linked to University policy on Open Science, not how those engaged in Open Science know what is happening elsewhere in the University.

Diversity

Diversity, which is one of the hallmarks of Open Science, was represented on the speaker list by the inclusion of both male and female speakers, Early Career Researchers and speakers from both academic and private organisations.

Citizen Science

The strength of Citizen Science developments was portrayed in a number of presentations, which underlined how much has been achieved.

Enterprise

Links between universities, industry and society were illustrated in the presentations – which shows how all participants in Open Science have an important role to play. In particular, Enterprise was shown to be an important activity which could help create an Open Science future.

Pan-European approaches needed

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.

Leadership

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 and can co-ordinate activity and policy across all 8 areas of Open Science, as defined by the European Commission.

Cultural Change

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 and policies (outlined above in 7) are in place.

Advocacy and Training

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

Universities should undertake annual self-evaluation on their progress in all 8 areas of Open Science, as identified by the European Commission, and assess their progress in building all 8 pillars of Open Science activity.

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