



Focus on Open Science at the Technical University, Gdansk

A meeting of a Polish chapter in Gdansk on 8 October 2019 reached a number of conclusions on the future of Open Science in European universities.

Current engagement

1. The meeting was heard a number of examples of the growing engagement of Polish universities in supporting institutional Open Science services.
2. The breakdown of attenders in Gdansk showed that 67% of the attenders classed themselves as librarians and 11 as researchers. The Workshop was also filmed and will be made available on the Workshop <https://www.focusopenscience.org/book/19gdansk-1>.

Collaboration

3. The speakers at the event came from a number of European organisations, such as [LIBER](#), [SPARC Europe](#), [GoFAIR](#) and [Open Knowledge Maps](#). It was very inspiring to see how such organisations can support local Open Science activity.
4. The interaction with an audience suggests that a significantly stronger collaboration between policy makers, researchers and academic support staff could enable the transition to Open Science. Policy makers need continued advocacy to understand the force of Open Science, the benefits it brings and what policies and resources are needed for a successful transformation.
5. An area that remains to be improved in Poland is the relationship between libraries, researchers and research administrators; this relationship could be improved right from the moment of policy design and should include the co-creation of needed infrastructures, the joint support of the current open research infrastructures and a local programme that support continuous learning of open science methods.

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. In this sense, every local research community should feel responsible to be proactive in engaging on its own in open science practices and to develop connections with other networks of open science practitioners.

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. It was noted that libraries have a particularly important part to play in supporting this transformation.
9. The meeting acknowledged that Polish libraries had only now begun to grapple with the challenges of research data management. This is clearly an area which will claim the attention of Polish academics and support services as they make the journey towards Open Science. We salute the effort of TU Gdansk to recruit and develop a team of research data stewards!

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. Overusing the Journal Impact Factor, for example, as a surrogate for academic quality is simply not helpful; it was design to estimate the circulation of journals and to not for evaluating research activities.

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 and at a national level.

Diversity of approaches

12. The Workshop looked in particular at the role of Plan S in effecting change. A variety of views were expressed and a number of routes to 100% Open Access highlighted as possible ways forward,

Advocacy and Training

13. 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. When the University Library accept this responsibility, it should seriously consider to redesign its services accordingly.

Self-Evaluation

14. 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.