OpenEU

The Open European University

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Executive Summary

The OpenEU Open Science and Innovation Policy establishes a unified framework to promote open, transparent, and inclusive research across all partner institutions. Grounded in key European and international guidelines such as Horizon Europe, the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, and Plan S, the policy underscores OpenEU's commitment to advancing science and innovation through openness, reproducibility, and societal engagement. The key target is that by 2028, all research publications and related data produced within the OpenEU framework be made openly accessible via appropriate repositories, with metadata licensed in accordance with FAIR principles. Researchers must ensure timely deposition of publications and data, supported by clearly defined usage rights and data management plans. The policy embraces both Gold and Green Open Access, while accommodating legal or ethical restrictions on sensitive data. Beyond publications and data, the policy actively supports citizen science, open peer review, and the integration of students and regional stakeholders in research processes. OpenEU provides training and infrastructure to equip researchers at all career stages with the necessary skills, and institutional libraries and support services are expected to play a key role. The policy is overseen by the Executive Board and is subject to regular review to ensure legal compliance and strategic alignment.

Contents

1. Purpose and scope

The Open EU Open Science and Innovation Policy (OEUOSIP) builds on the Model Policy on Open Science for Research Performing Organizations[1] of the OpenAIRE project as well as the UNESCO Recommendation for Open Science (UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science - UNESCO Digital Library) and the Open Science provisions of Horizon 2020 Europe, building on the principle: "*as open as possible, as closed as necessary*". The OEUOSIP integrates principles of Open Science and Innovation stated in the 2012 Recommendation of the European Commission on access to and preservation of scientific information and its 2018 update, the Horizon 2020 Guidelines on the rules of open access to scientific publications and research data, the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing Horizon Europe- the framework programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination (COM/2018/435 final) and the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe- the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (COM/2018/436 final) and takes into consideration important developments at EU-level related to Open Science/ Open Access such as the 2016 European Council Conclusions on the transition towards an Open Science system, the "Plan S" and "cOAlition S", the developments of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and in particular the EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the action lines of the European Open Science Policy Platform, the Communication "A new ERA for Research and Innovation" and the 2019 EU Directive on open data and the re-use of public sector information, the Report "Towards a 2030 Vision on the Future of Universities in Europe". In addition, the document also takes into consideration other related reports from university associations like EUA's "Perspectives on the new European Research Area from the university sector" and "Universities without walls: A vision for 2030", the Guild of European research intensive universities "Looking to the Future: the Guild's Vision for Europe's Universities" and other associations like the Science Europe practical guide to the "International Alignment of Research Data Management".

1.2. Purpose

The OpenEU commits to the advancement of science and the wide dissemination of knowledge to the benefit of society by adopting practices on open, reproducible and responsible research. The OpenEU recognizes "openness" as one of its guiding principles and commits to promoting it by – among others – encouraging and supporting open research processes and tools that encourage collaboration, enabling new working models and new social relationships, promoting open access to research methods, data and analyses, stimulating the dissemination of knowledge and the accessibility and re-usability of research outputs, encouraging open access to publications and data and building the necessary infrastructure, skills, rewards and incentives to support open science.

[1] The model policy has been prepared as part of a toolkit for policy makers on Open Science and Open Access in the context of the EU-funded OpenAIRE Advance project that supported Open Access/ Open Data mandates in Europe (https://www.openaire.eu/model-policy-on-open-science-for-research-performing-organisations)

OpenEU regards transparency and inclusiveness as inherent aspects of Open Science. Hence, it will foster measures to make science accessible regardless of, e. g., location, nationality, socio-economic circumstances, language or any other grounds.

1.3. Scope

The OEUOSIP applies to the whole consortium through all its members active in research and innovation. In cases where research is funded by a third party, any agreement with that party concerning access and reproducibility rights, deposit and storage takes precedence over this Policy.

2. Framework of action

2.1 Open Access to Publications

What	**Open access to publications**
Who	All Open EU partners
2028 objective	All research publications associated with OpenEU activities, tasks and deliverables will be available in open access through institutional or thematic repositories
How	Open EU researchers will deposit in an institutional or thematic repository, or any other suitable infrastructure a machine-readable electronic copy of the full text (published article or final peer-reviewed manuscript), as well as the related metadata before, upon publication. Researchers are held responsible for the timely deposit of their publications in the corresponding repository or digital platform. This step also applies in the case of open access publishing ("Gold Open Access"). In the case of "Green Open Access", the Open EU requires the full text of all publications referred to above to be made immediately and publicly available[2] under a standard open licence (CC-BY or equivalent, CC-BY-ND/NC for longer text formats is allowed). For monographs, deposit remains mandatory, but access could be closed. Requires the metadata of the publication to be made openly accessible in the case of 'closed' publications with the aim to increase their visibility. Metadata should be licensed under CC0 or equivalent , in line with FAIR principles (i.e. Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

[2] If immediate deposit is not possible, a 6-month embargo in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) or 12 for publications in the social sciences and humanities is allowed.

Regulatory or internal frameworks	

2.2 Open Access to research data

What	**Open access to research data**
Who	All Open EU partners
2028 objective	All data associated to research publications conducted within the OpenEU framework will be available in open access
How	OpenEU researchers are required to deposit the underlying data needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications conducted in relation to the OpenEU activities and tasks in a suitable institutional or thematic repository federated in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). Data should be provided with persistent identifiers and must be linked with publications where possible. Open EU requires that data and services are handled according to open and FAIR principles (i.e. Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable). Data should also be traceable and whenever possible available for subsequent use. The OpenEU follows the principle "as open as possible as closed as necessary". If data cannot be open due to legal, privacy or other concerns (for example sensitive data or personal data) this should be clearly explained. Metadata ensuring that data are findable should be provided in all instances. Open EU requires researchers affiliated with the participating universities to submit a DMP to the appropriate institutional service those data sets tied to the OpenEU they are involved in. OpenEU requires researchers to define usage rights of data sets and metadata through the assignment of appropriate licenses – CC BY or CC0 (or equivalent) license. OpenEU requires that data are stored for at least five years after the termination of the project. In the event that these records need to be deleted or destroyed after the expiration of the required archived duration or for legal and ethical reasons, such actions need to consider all legal and ethical perspectives.
Regulatory or internal frameworks	

2.3 Open Science and Citizen Science

What	**Open Science and Citizen Science**
Who	All Open EU partners

2028 objective	Regional stakeholders of the OpenEU partners and the Open EU associated partners are actively involved in research and innovation activities performed in the OpenEU framework
How	The Open EU actively encourages the uptake of Open Science practices (beyond open access to publications and data) such as the involvement in citizen science projects, open peer review, the use and creation of open educational resources, the release of data and content under open and standard open licenses, etc., and tracks their uptake. Open EU further promotes transparent research processes by encouraging researchers to make, for instance, workflows and data collection openly available. The Open EU supports citizen science projects and where possible connects students' curricula and degrees to citizen science projects as a means to rethink the knowledge production and circulation models inside and outside the university; includes students in the design phase of such projects as an active learning approach and an in person experience; invests in in-house training to raise awareness and build capacity for students' participation in projects for society; rewards students' performance as participants of citizen science projects with awards and extra academic excellence points.
Regulatory or internal frameworks	

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Open EU responsibilities

The Open EU provides the training and instruction opportunities for researchers and especially for the PhD students that are necessary to carry out their research and innovation activities in accordance with the OEUOSIP, in order to disseminate and create awareness of the best practices stipulated in OEUOSIP and to make sure they are fully aware of their responsibilities in the context of OpenEU research and innovation activities and tasks. The library departments of the OpenEU partners, in cooperation with other appropriate institutional bodies (such as legal services, research support staff, RDM experts) commits to developing training courses to facilitate the adoption of open science and equip researchers, librarians and other support staff with the necessary skills and expertise. Such training courses should include skills necessary for open access publishing, FAIR data management, research integrity, reproducibility and open science. Training should be tailored to different disciplines and delivered to researchers at all career stages and should be embedded into curricula.

Responsibilities of individual researchers

Researchers embedded in the OpenEU community have a series of responsibilities to openly share the knowledge generated in their research and innovation

activities as detailed in the three topics specified above, in accordance with their role and relationship with the university.

4. Approval

This policy has been approved in accordance with the provisions of the OpenEU Governance Framework Guidelines and rules (D1.1_A). The body responsible for the application and revision of this policy is the Executive Board, which approved this policy on 16 September 2025 and is responsible for its constant supervision. Moreover, the text of this policy will be revised when there are significant changes in relevant national or international guidelines or legislation. Protocols will also be generated for the monitoring and measurement of the objectives. The purpose of this revision is to ensure the validity, continuity and compliance of this policy.

5. Appendix

5.1 Glossary

- **Article processing charge (APC):** A fee charged to authors to make an open access work available in an open access journal or hybrid journal.
- **Innovation:** any activity related to conceive, develop, deliver, and scale new products, services, processes for students, researchers and other stakeholders.
- **Open science:** The practice of science in such a way that others can collaborate and contribute, where research data, lab notes and other **research** processes are freely available, under terms that enable reuse, redistribution and reproduction of the research and its underlying data and methods.
- **Gold Open Access:** the process of achieving open access through publication in an open access journal (open access publishing).
- **Green Open Access:** the process of providing open access through an open access repository (also known as “self-archiving”).
- **Machine-readable copy** of a publication is a publication in a format that can be used and understood by a computer.
- **Metadata** are the descriptors used for describing, tracing, use and management of the deposited item (indicatively: title of publication, author(s), institutional affiliation, name of journal where the publication has been accepted).
- **Open Educational Resources (OER**) according to the OECD are “teaching, learning and research materials that make use of tools like open licenses that permit their free reuse, continuous improvement and repurposing by others for educational purposes”.
- **Open Peer Review** may refer to a scholarly review mechanism where both the identities of the reviewer and the author are known to one another during the review and publication process, or to systems where reviewer reports are published alongside the articles, or systems where not only “experts” can comment, or a variety of combinations of the above or other novel methods

- **Publication** is defined as the peer-reviewed published (or under publication) work of researchers based in the institution.
- **Research Data** are the statistics, results of experiments, measurements, observations, interview recordings, images used to validate the results presented in scientific publications or other data used during a project and described in the Data Management Plan.
- **Research** is defined as any creative and systematically performed work with the goal of furthering knowledge.
- **Researcher** is defined as any member of the research staff of the Open EU partner universities, of all levels and irrespective of their employment status including employees and doctoral students
- **A Suitable Repository** is one that meets quality standards, for example, RECOLECTA quality criteria, OpenAIRE compatibility, CoreTrust Seal.

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