

This document is intended for anyone that needs to conduct annual reviews with researchers, or anyone that would like to demonstrate the impact of Open Science practices during these reviews to their supervisor. It is important that Open Science practices are discussed during assessment moments to ensure alignment with the goals of the department, where Open Science is one of the specific aspects that the **SEP (Self Evaluation Protocol)** addresses. Below you will find a short guide to facilitate these discussions on specific topics. Each category has 1-2 open questions to lead with and suggestions for more detailed follow up questions. The list of questions is not meant to be prescriptive or exhaustive, and should only be used as guidance. Please also see the included glossary for terms in bold.

Category	Supporting questions
Publishing	<p><i>How is your work shared or conducted in an open manner?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How much (what percentage?) of your articles are Open Access, or available as preprint or postprint on preprint servers? ● Are you making use of preregistration/registered reports? Do you share/publish negative results? ● Are you involved in (Non-profit) Open Publishing, such as publishing in or editing for Diamond Open Access Journals? ● Do you participate in Open Peer Review when publishing or as a reviewer? ● Do you link your publications to your ORCID?
Data	<p><i>Have you shared data openly or following the FAIR principles? Has the open data been re-used or led to further collaboration?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For what part of your research do you publish your processed data? Do you also publish your raw data? ● How many times has the dataset been viewed, downloaded or cited? ● Have you discussed your Data Management Plan with relevant staff? ● Have you published a Data paper/article? ● How have you minimized the risk of unnecessary identity exposure when sharing data? Have you followed the CARE principles? If it is not possible to share your data openly, how have you shared your data as openly as possible? (For example, via restricted access.)

Code / Software	<p><i>Have you shared code/scripts? Have these shared code/scripts been re-used or led to further collaboration?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many times has the software been viewed, downloaded or cited? How many contributors does your repository have? • To what extent do you follow the FAIR for Research Software principles? Do you share your software using a (data) repository and register it in a software directory? • Is the software you developed open source? Under which license is it shared? • How do you ensure that your code is reproducible? • Do you build on or contribute to existing projects? • Do you use open platforms such as GitLab, GitTea, or Codeberg? • Is your software developed and shared in a sustainable way – developing and maintaining software that continues to meet its purpose over time? (For example, do you use a Software Management Plan to ensure this.)
Methods / Hardware / Instruments	<p><i>Have you shared methods openly? Has sharing methods led to reuse of the work or led to further collaborations?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has sharing your methods led to increased citations of the method or your work? Are other projects implementing your methods? • By how many groups are your instruments used, how many external collaborations? • Do you share your methodology openly? (Open Hardware, Open Methods) • Do you use open platforms, tools and services in your research? (For example, using Python instead of MATLAB)
Collaboration	<p><i>How do you organise collaborations and recognise different types of contributions within your collaborations?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you provide detailed contribution information, such as CRedit? • Do you engage in Team Science/cross-disciplinary research? Do you contribute to projects that you do not lead? If so, how?
Educational Resources	<p><i>Have you openly shared your educational resources? How has this impacted the reuse and visibility of your work?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many citations have your resources received, are the resources included in other courses? • How do you make your Educational Resources (OER) accessible (by providing translations or alt-text)? • Do you use open platforms to share the resources? Do you reuse open materials or make use of open-source software? • Do you provide detailed contribution information? (For example, script writers/producers.) • Do you involve students in your course development, for example adjustments to the syllabus or co-developments of course assignments?
Impact	<p><i>Is there any evidence of the use of your research (results) by, for example, societal groups, individuals, and other researchers?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who can potentially benefit from your research? Do you prepare a stakeholder analysis and engagement plan in your research projects? • Do you include these relevant parties in your research process? (For example through Citizen Science.)

Engagement	<p><i>How do you engage with the general public and relevant parties (industry)?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you use any public engagement methods (such as podcasts, news articles, public talks, workshops with citizens) during your research and/or after the results are published? • How do you ensure that your research is available in the relevant language(s)? (For example, Dutch/English.) • Is the research guided by requirements from relevant parties (such as industrial partners)? • Have you contributed to making your research more accessible to minority or under-resourced communities? (Such as the deaf or blind community, neurodivergent community)
Leadership & professional development	<p><i>How do you participate in Open Science communities or Open Science projects/events/training/conferences?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you develop a vision, strategy, and/or policy for integrating and raising awareness of Open Science practices within your faculty/department/research group? • Do you have a role with an Open Science focus? (For example, trainer, working group/ project member, participating in the local Open Science Community or being an Open Science ambassador/champion.) • Have you secured any funding for Open Science activities?
Mentorship	<p><i>How do you mentor/support others in Open Science practices?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has this positively impacted their ways of working or impact of their work? • Do you actively participate in a local Open Science Community?

References

These guiding questions are based on [Öztürk et al. 2024](#). As a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment ([DORA](#)), Dutch higher education institutes are committed to making research assessment more comprehensive (rather than based solely on journal-based metrics) and to encouraging and incentivising participation in Open Science. Open Science is also a part of the [Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#), which promotes openness and transparency in research processes. There are also developments in the Netherlands ([Regieorgaan Open Science](#), [Recognition and Rewards](#)) and globally ([COARA](#)) that increasingly see Open Science as the norm in research. In addition, funders (such as [NWO](#) and [Horizon Europe](#)) are increasingly mandating Open Science practices.

Glossary:

Citizen Science (community-led research, participatory research): the involvement of members of the public in scientific research through jointly:

- setting research priorities, and/or
- developing research methodology, and/or

- collecting and analysing data, and/or
- publishing research results and/or
- using the results for advancing societal change.

The **CARE Principles** for Indigenous Data Governance are a set of guidelines designed to ensure data practices support Indigenous self-determination, complementing the **FAIR principles**.

CRedit allows you to specify the contributions that individuals have made to research objects, which is facilitated by [Tenzing](#).

A **Data Management Plan** is a living document that describes how your research outputs will be generated, stored, used and shared within your project ([The Turing Way](#)).

FAIR ([The Turing Way](#)) is an acronym for:

- **Findable**: Research objects need to be accompanied by **metadata** (information about the data such as keywords) and a persistent identifier (such as a DOI).
- **Accessible**: Data may be openly available, or it may require authentication and authorisation procedures.
- **Interoperable**: Research objects can be integrated with other research objects and interoperate with applications or workflows. Using **metadata standards**, which are more formal ways of structuring the data, makes it easier to integrate research objects. Using **open data formats makes it** easier to integrate and preserve data.
- **Reusable**: Research objects should be well described so that they can be used, combined, and extended in different settings. They also need to be accompanied by a **licence** (allowing re-use and redistribution), so that potential re-users know what they are allowed to do with the research objects.

Note, FAIR does not necessarily mean open - some FAIR datasets cannot be freely used or distributed by anyone.

FAIR for Research Software refers to research software developed according to the [FAIR principles](#) (see also [FAIR4RS Principles](#)).

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are teaching and learning materials that can be freely used and reused for learning or teaching, without cost.

Open Access means that articles are freely available on the public Internet and that any user may read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full text (meaning that the article is licensed under an open license such as Creative Commons CC-BY). **Diamond Open Access** is **Open Access** where neither the reader nor the authors pay fees to publish or read and based on a **non-profit Open Publishing** model.

Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone ([Open Data Handbook](#)). **Raw data** is the data originally generated by a device or a person, which has not yet been processed or altered. **Processed data** is the data that has been modified and translated to address research questions.

Open Hardware: Designs and instructions for research equipment that can be studied, modified, (re)created, and redistributed by anyone.

Open Methods are available details of the research methods, such as procedures, protocols, plans, notes and interpretations.

Open Peer Review means that the review content is published openly, and in addition the identities of the peer reviewers may be open ([The Turing Way](#)).

Open Platform - a platform built on [open standards](#) (format or protocol that are openly accessible and usable by anyone). Open platforms and standards help avoid vendor lock-in because a user's data can be moved to other systems built on the same open standards.

Open Science Ambassadors/Champions are individuals who are taking a leading role in the practice of Open Science at their institute.

Most of the Dutch institutes have an **Open Science Community (OSC)**, a bottom-up learning initiative where members can share expertise, learn from each other and advocate for change.

Open-source software can be viewed, used, modified, and redistributed for any purpose.

An **ORCID** is a free, unique identifier for researchers, making them and their research outputs easily identifiable.

A **preprint** is a version of a scholarly or scientific paper that has not been formally peer-reviewed and published in a journal. It is usually uploaded by the authors to a public server (such as [arXiv](#) and [BioRxiv](#)) where it is openly available. A **postprint** is a version of the article that has been peer-reviewed and contains the final version of the text, but is not formatted by the journal.

Preregistration is the practice of specifying your research plan in advance of your study and submitting it to a registry ([Open Science Framework](#)).

A **registered report** is an article format in which the research proposal is peer-reviewed before the research is carried out. Once approved by the reviewers and the editors, the results are published as long as the study plan is followed and any deviations are clearly indicated. This article format facilitates the publication of **negative results** and reduces time wasted on irrelevant study proposals.

A **Data paper/article** is a short, peer-reviewed publication dedicated to a specific dataset, rather than the outcome of a study. Sections vary depending on the journal but often include, introduction, data collection, data validation, and potential for re-use.

Reproducible research can be independently recreated from the same data and the same code that the original team used ([The Turing Way](#)).

Restricted access to data may be necessary if the data is considered sensitive or there are commercial partners involved in the research. By sharing the data under restricted access you can still follow the FAIR principles (A stands for accessible, not open!).

Public engagement or **science communication** is the practice of engaging, informing, educating, and raising awareness of science-related topics among the general public.

SEP (Self Evaluation Protocol) is used every six years to evaluate the quality, relevance and viability of research at public institutions in the Netherlands.

Open Science is one of the indicators that institutes can use to self-evaluate.

[Software Management Plan](#) helps to implement best practices during software development and ensures that software is accessible and reusable in the short and long term.

[Software directory](#) is a content management system to promote the visibility, impact and reuse of research software.

A **[Stakeholder analysis](#)** may be needed when working with stakeholders beyond your own research team. An analysis may help to improve the quality of engagement with these different partners.

Team science is an approach to research in which a team of researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds carry out research together so that their individual strengths and expertise are demonstrably mutually reinforcing. (Based on the [NWO description](#) of the Team Science Award.)

Contributor Overview

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