Open Science platform

Technical delivery

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D4.6 Open Science platform

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I.   Introduction

This deliverable provides the baseline for the creation of a platform to organise and retrieve Open Science policies and tools developed by the partner universities within the EC2U Alliance. It is a first step towards promoting Open Science practices within the partner universities, along with the creation of an Open Access Repository.

II.   Strategies for raising awareness about OS and OA benefits and best practices

Promoting awareness about the benefits and best practices of Open Science and Open Access is crucial for fostering a culture of openness within European universities. Effective communication and engagement strategies can help educate stakeholders, including researchers, students, administrators, and policymakers, about the value of OS initiatives. The following strategies are recommended for raising awareness and have been developed at different levels among the members of the Alliance:

1.   Customised Training and Workshops:

Tailored training programmes and workshops on OS principles, policies, and practices have been developed. These sessions were designed for different audiences, including researchers, graduate students, librarians, and administrative staff.

2.   Informational Campaigns and Materials:

Informative and visually appealing materials, such as brochures, posters, infographics, and web content, to explain the benefits of OS and OA are available among the seven universities. Highlight success stories, case studies, and statistics to demonstrate the positive impact of OS and OA on research visibility and accessibility have been collected by the University of Turku and classified in order to be displayed in the Open Science Platform and Database.

3.   Webinars and Seminars:

Webinars and seminars featuring experts in OS have been made available in all universities. These events offer opportunities for interactive discussions, Q&A sessions, and networking, allowing participants to deepen their understanding of OS practices.

4.   Institutional Advocacy Programmes:

OS advocacy groups are present in some universities, comprising faculty, librarians, and administrators. These groups can actively promote OS principles, provide resources, and serve as liaisons between stakeholders and OS initiatives.

5.   Collaboration with Research Communities:

Academic departments, research centres, and disciplinary communities are raising awareness about OS within specific fields.

6.   Guest Lectures and Conference Presentations:

Invited experts in OS delivered guest lectures or presentations at conferences and academic events, including the EC2U Fora. These sessions can serve as platforms to share knowledge, address questions, and inspire researchers to embrace OS practices.

7.   Online Resources and Toolkits:

A comprehensive online resources and toolkit repository will provide practical guidance on OS and OA.

By implementing these strategies, the EC2U partner universities have effectively raised awareness about the benefits of OS and empowered stakeholders to actively participate in the movement towards a more open and inclusive research ecosystem.

III.   Open Access landscape in EC2U universities

The European Union is committed to supporting OA, and has made it a requirement for all Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe funded research projects. As a result, there has been a significant increase in OA publishing in recent years.

However, there is still variation in the level of OA adoption across European universities. Some universities have made OA a priority, while others are still in the early stages of implementation.

The database built by the EC2U Alliance in the framework of the RI4C2 project is an overview of the current OS and OA landscape in the seven universities of the Alliance. It is based on a survey conducted by the University of Turku within the activities of WP7 "Open EC2U" (D7.1).

The OS practices and tools among the EC2U Alliance have been classified according to the following taxonomy:

- policy
- guide
- tool
- repository
- community
- service
- project
- training

The platform is part of the EC2U Tool Page, included in the Toolkit for Researcher Career Development. An initial set of data has been already collected and the digital infrastructure has been tested. It was fed with content developed throughout the project's WP7 activities, together with the last deliverable on Open Access, the Open Access repository for the researchers of the EC2U Alliance, that will be opened on Zenodo (D4.7).

The database will be the core of the Open Science Platform, a digital repository, accessible via the EC2U website under the "toolkit for researchers' career development", collecting all the initiatives organised by the Alliance in the field of Open Science. The envisioned digital platform for Open Science is conceived as a state-of-the-art ecosystem designed to increase the accessibility, reproducibility, and dissemination of collaborative and transparent scientific research practices within the Alliance. This comprehensive platform will serve as a central hub

for scientists, researchers, and the public to engage with and contribute to the scientific process in EC2U.

The platform is inspired by already existing online repositories collecting videos, news, articles and tools on best practices for Open Science like RRI tools. The core of the platform will be the best cases collected and described by the University of Turku in WP7, together with an entry point for the masterclasses organised by the same WP (D7.4). The platform will stay as a legacy of the project for the EC2U Alliance during the consolidation phase. The Open Science Platform will be integrated in the future EC2U Research workspace and will include also the Open Access repository to be developed by WP4 by the end of the project.

The platform is developed with sustainability in mind, ensuring long-term accessibility and maintenance of research outputs.

IV. Concluding remarks

All the member universities of the EC2U Alliance have some form of OS policy in place. However, there is variation in the level of ambition of these policies. Some universities require all research outputs to be made OA, while others only require OA for certain types of outputs, such as peer-reviewed journal articles.

The main barriers to OS and OA adoption are a lack of funding and a lack of awareness. The Open Science Platform, by collecting and exposing in an organised manner the best practices of each university, will leverage on the successful experiences of the partners to find suitable solutions for those who struggle in promoting the Open Science practices among their own stakeholders and will allow the sharing of tools and infrastructures. The technical delivery of the OS Platform digital infrastructure is ready with the content developed within RI4C2, but all the partners will continue to collect contents and tools beyond the end of the project, via the EC2U Alliance.

RI4C2

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