

Call: Join our project group Research Assessment 2.0

The **Flemish Open Science Policy Plan**¹ aims to embed Open Science-by-design as a natural part of the research process, following the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary". By 2030, researchers in Flanders should be able to handle Open Science principles smoothly, without additional administrative burdens. The policy plan translates this mission and vision into seven strategic objectives, further elaborated in operational objectives and concrete policy actions. To achieve these objectives, the Flemish knowledge institutions join forces via the **Flemish Research Data Network (FRDN)**, a network organisation stimulating knowledge sharing, collaboration and professionalisation.

This call is part of Strategic Objective **SD 5**:

Researchers are recognised and valued for their Open Science efforts and the application of the FAIR principles.

and Action **5.1.1**:

We monitor how the actions related to recognition and rewards from the previous policy period are being implemented across the various institutions and research funders in Flanders.

Within this strategic objective and action, this project group will focus on mapping how the recommendations and vision formulated in the previous policy period are being taken up by research institutions and funders in Flanders (phase 1).

The sustainable embedding of Open Science requires that researchers' efforts are appropriately recognised and rewarded. As Open Science goes beyond publishing alone, there is a need to acknowledge diverse forms of research output. The evolution of international assessment systems, in which a focus on quantity is shifting towards a focus on the quality of diverse types of outputs rather than publications alone (for example initiatives such as CoARA, the rise of narrative CVs, the attention for FAIR and Open Data, and metrics that take disciplinary specificities into account and focus on capturing impact), can foster convergence with Open Access choices and Open Science practices, which similarly emphasize an increased focus on quality.

In line with international initiatives such as CoARA, recent developments at FWO and within Flemish institutions promote a broader and more qualitative approach to research assessment, in which quality, reliability, and Open Science practices are full-fledged criteria, thereby contributing to sustainable and excellent research practices.

This action builds further on the results of the project group Research Assessment from the previous policy period. We aim to map as comprehensively as possible how the recommendations and vision formulated in that period are already being implemented within research institutions and funders in Flanders (phase 1, carried out by the project group Research Assessment 2.0). In addition, we will monitor the longer-term impact and added value of the changes introduced in the previous policy period (phase 2, to be carried out by the thematic group Open Science Policy, institutions, FWO, and VLAIO).

¹ <https://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/nieuws/vlaams-beleidsplan-open-science-2026-2030-goedgekeurd>

What will you do?

As a member of the project group Research Assessment 2.0, you will play an active role in shaping and delivering the project group's mission:

- During the 2019–2024 policy period, several changes were introduced to different FWO templates, in particular the researcher CV and application form, as well as to the scoring grids. The project group will map how research institutions and funders have responded to these changes.
- The adjustments made in the 2019–2024 policy period explicitly aimed to better account for data as a component of research output that can be appropriately recognized and valued. The project group will map which actions have been taken by institutions and funders regarding the recognition and valorisation of the contribution of data and/or the application of FAIR principles to excellent research.
- The project group can map out these elements in different ways, for example through a survey or via focus groups. The results should include input from all stakeholder groups and all universities as well as funders.
- The project group will produce a brief synthesis bringing together the findings of both analyses, i.e. mapping actions taken by research institutions and funders in response to the changes in FWO templates, and mapping actions related to the recognition and valorisation of data and the application of the FAIR principles.
- The project group will formulate methodological recommendations that can be applied in the second phase of this action, where the focus will be on monitoring the long-term impact and added value of the changes implemented in the previous policy period.

Who are we looking for?

Project groups are composed based on complementary expertise and ideally consist of 6 to 8 members. Together, they bring different areas of expertise. This expertise will be present directly within the project group or accessible via expertise that group members can easily call upon.

We are looking for professionals who:

- are affiliated with one of the partner institutions;
- are familiar with the day-to-day reality of researchers;
- are familiar with diverse forms of research output, including FAIR data;
- have insight into international developments in Open Science and research assessment;
- have knowledge of funder requirements and research policy;
- are familiar with support mechanisms offered to researchers by institutions and funders;
- have insight into research evaluation procedures.

Do you recognise yourself in this profile? Don't hesitate to join the project group.

What do we offer?

- the opportunity to make an impact;
- collaboration with engaged colleagues/participants from different areas of expertise and institutions;
- the opportunity to further develop your knowledge and skills;
- new insights and experience that you can bring back to your own workplace;

- room to contribute your own ideas and help shape the project;
- a valuable network within and beyond the organisation.

Practical information

The project group 'Research Assessment 2.0' will operate from July '26 until June '27. Participation requires on average about 2 hours per week (indicative), with alternating more intensive and quieter periods. Within the existing framework of agreements, the project group can further define its activities and organise its own way of working.

This project group reports to the Thematic Group Open Science Policy and the Coordination Hub. There will be interim feedback to the Thematic Group Open Science Policy.

Interested?

Please apply **before 22/05/2026** via frdn@fwo.be. Please include the CPOC of your own institution in cc, so they are informed as well.

Provide a short introduction of yourself and briefly explain why this project group is a good fit for you. Also indicate whether you are interested in taking on the **role of chair or co-chair** of this project group.

If you would like more information about our policy, feel free to visit our [website](https://www.frdn.be) (<https://www.frdn.be>) or send an email to frdn@fwo.be.

We look forward to working together!

