

Call: join our project group FAIR Data Challenges

The **Flemish policy plan Open Science**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 apply the Open Science principles smoothly, without additional administrative burden.

The policy plan translates this mission and vision into seven strategic objectives, further elaborated into operational goals and concrete policy actions. To achieve these objectives, Flemish knowledge institutions join forces through the **Flemish Research Data Network (FRDN)**, a network organisation that stimulates knowledge sharing, collaboration, and professionalisation.

This call is part of Strategic Objective SD 4:

Researchers apply the Open Science and FAIR principles in a thoughtful way, as a foundation for high-quality and reproducible research.

and Action 4.2.2:

Needs and challenges related to data collaboration are identified. An action plan is drawn up, and, where possible, needs and challenges are addressed.

Within this strategic objective and action, these project group will focus on systematically mapping needs and challenges related to data collaboration within and beyond the network (for example Citizen Science), so that bottlenecks, gaps, and opportunities become clear. Based on this, an action plan will be developed and, where possible, implemented, thereby promoting collaboration, data sharing and reuse, and the application of FAIR principles within the Flemish research landscape.

What will you do?

As a member of the project group FAIR Data Challenges, you will play an active role in shaping and delivering the group’s mission:

- gather input on needs and challenges related to data collaboration from different parts of the network;
- gather input on needs and challenges related to data collaboration from partners outside the network;
- categorize different types of challenges related to data collaboration to better understand their underlying causes;
- draft an action plan to address the identified challenges;
- assess whether and which challenges the project group can already address in the short term.

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

Who are we looking for?

Project groups are composed based on complementary expertise and ideally consist of 6 to 8 members. As a group, they bring together different areas of expertise. This expertise is either directly present within the project group or accessible through expertise that members of the group can easily call upon.

We are looking for professionals who:

- are affiliated with one of the partner institutions;
- have insight into the broader Flemish and international research landscape;
- have knowledge of FAIR principles;
- are familiar with infrastructure, tools, and processes that enable data-driven collaboration;
- have experience in supporting researchers;
- can communicate effectively with different types of stakeholders.

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 'FAIR Data Challenges' will run from July '26 until September '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 group reports to the Open Science Policy thematic group and the Coordination Hub, with interim updates provided to the thematic group.

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!



