

Call: Join the thematic group Architecture

WANT TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OPEN SCIENCE IN FLANDERS? JOIN THE ARCHITECTURE THEMATIC GROUP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER WITH OTHER NETWORK PARTNERS.

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.

The **thematic groups** bring together subject-matter experts from the network partners around a specific theme within the policy plan. From the institutions, at least every division is represented in the thematic groups. The members of the thematic group work together on shared questions and exchange insights directly related to that theme. They develop a shared vision on the theme and elaborate it further. They operate within the framework set out in the policy plan, while leaving the necessary room for innovation. In addition, together with the Coordination Hub, they advise and support the project groups linked to that theme.

Each thematic group consists of a chair and a team of subject-matter experts from the various network partners. From the institutions, **at least every division is represented**.

We aim for the most balanced composition possible across institutions and divisions:

| Institution or division | Number of participants |
|---|------------------------|
| FWO | 1 |
| WEWIS Department | 1 |
| Universities | 2 (per university) |
| University colleges | 2 |
| Strategic research centres | 1 (per SOC) |
| Flemish scientific institutions | 2 |
| Institutions for post-initial education | 1 |
| Other institutions/ESFRIs | 1 |

The **Architecture thematic group** monitors the evolution of the Flemish data infrastructure landscape, as well as the maturity of the institutions involved in this area. For each of these institutions, the working group maps the needs across the entire data lifecycle. It proposes possible solutions and explores opportunities for collaboration.

What will you do?

As a member of the thematic group Architecture, you will actively take part in the various activities of this body. Among other things, you will help with:

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

- mapping the needs related to data infrastructure across the entire data lifecycle;
- identifying opportunities for collaboration;
- drawing up a joint investment plan;
- monitoring the evolution and maturity of the Flemish data infrastructure landscape;
- launching and following up project groups.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for driven and committed professionals from the Flemish knowledge institutions who:

- are affiliated with one of the partner institutions;
- are familiar with Open Science and the FAIR principles;
- have expertise in data infrastructure;
- have an eye for international developments and integration;
- are keen to take on an active role within a dynamic network;
- are willing to put their expertise to use to achieve progress together.

Do you recognise yourself in this profile, do you want to make an impact and do you have the mandate from your own institution and/or constituency to do so? Don't hesitate — join the Architecture thematic group.

What do we offer?

- the opportunity to make an impact;
- collaboration with engaged colleagues and participants from different domains of expertise and institutions;
- the opportunity to further develop your knowledge and skills;
- new insights and experience that you can take back to your own workplace;
- space to bring forward your own ideas and help shape the work;
- a valuable network within and beyond the organisation.

Practical information

The time commitment may vary over the course of the policy plan, with intensive and less intensive periods alternating. During busy periods, members are expected to commit to a time investment of half a day per week. The thematic groups report to the Coordination Hub and submit their results to the FOSB.

Interested?

Apply as a full member or substitute for your institution or constituency **by 22/05/2026** via the CPOC of your institution at frdn@fwo.be. Please mention your role and area(s) of expertise. If you are interested in the (co-)chairmanship, please indicate this as well.

Would you like more information about our policy? Have a look at our [website](https://www.frdn.be) (<https://www.frdn.be>) or send an email to frdn@fwo.be.

We look forward to working together!

