

Call: Join our project group OS4Researchers

DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN HELPING DEVELOP A CLEAR, COMPELLING AND WELL-SUPPORTED NARRATIVE THAT ENCOURAGES RESEARCHERS TO ADOPT OPEN SCIENCE AND FAIR DATA MANAGEMENT? THEN WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!

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 4.1.1:

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

With this project group, we are working on a clear and coherent narrative that familiarises and engages researchers with Open Science and FAIR data management. A key starting point is to position research data as a fully-fledged research output. The narrative clarifies both the difference and the connection between Open Data and FAIR Data, and emphasises that openness always involves considerations related to legislation, ethics, intellectual property and safety (for individuals, assets, knowledge, and society).

By framing the importance of metadata, licences, data management plans, standards and appropriate repositories in terms of personal and shared benefits, we aim to motivate researchers to apply Open Science and FAIR data management in a proactive and well-considered way.

What will you do?

As a member of the project group OS4Researchers, you will play an active role in shaping and delivering the project group’s mission:

- design awareness campaign materials on the personal and shared benefits of FAIR data management and Open Science, following the principle “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”;
- produce a synthesis of commonly stated claims about the benefits of Open Science and FAIR data management, based on the meta-science literature;
- if workload allows: map barriers and resistance among researchers, for example by collecting recurring questions and concerns via data stewards.

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;
- are familiar with the day-to-day reality of researchers;
- are familiar with FAIR and other concepts related to Open Science;
- have a focus on effective communication, through practical experience and/or training.

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

What do we offer?

- collaboration with engaged colleagues/participants from different areas of expertise and institutions;
- the opportunity to help shape the narrative that FRDN will communicate at the start of the new policy period.
- authorship of deliverables published on Zenodo or elsewhere, provided a substantive contribution has been made.

Practical information

The project group OS4Researchers will operate from May '26 until March '27. Participation requires on average about 1 hour 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 Programme Committee of the Knowledge Hub and the Coordination Hub.

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!

