



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (RTD)

### **New policy initiative: The establishment of an Open Science Policy Platform**

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) intends to set-up an **Open Science Policy Platform** to develop open science policy through a structured discussion with the main stakeholders.

Strengthening the dialogue with stakeholders will constitute an opportunity for developing, guiding, and monitoring Open Science. The Policy Platform will provide advice to the Commission on open science policy in Europe as well as on the coordination of those policies with stakeholders. The implementation of open science policy will be effectuated by the active advocacy of agreed policies by these stakeholders.

The Open Science Policy Platform will be governed by a Steering Group composed of top-leading individuals of (European) branch organisations with the required decision-power. DG RTD will seek to appoint individuals from the following stakeholder groups:

- universities;
- academies of science;
- research funding bodies;
- research performing organisations;
- Citizen Science;
- scientific publication associations;
- Open Science platforms and intermediaries;
- (research) libraries.

The Open Science Policy Platform will advise the Commission on the development and implementation of open science policy on the basis of the draft European Open Science Agenda.

The broad [consultation process](#) and the policy debate with Member States at the [Competitiveness Council](#) made clear that there is a broad consensus on five main lines for actions as laid down in the draft European Open Science Agenda:

- Fostering and creating incentives for Open Science, by fostering Open Science in education programmes and best practices and extending the input of knowledge producers in a more open science environment (citizen science). It is also about guaranteeing the quality, impact and research integrity of (Open) Science;
- Removing barriers for Open Science, which implies among other a review of researchers' careers with a view on creating incentives and awarding researchers for engagement with Open Science;
- Mainstreaming and further promoting open access policies to research data and publications;

- Developing research infrastructures for Open Science, to improve data hosting, access and governance;
- Embedding Open Science in society as a socio-economic driver, whereby Open Science becomes instrumental in making science more responsive to societal and economic expectations, notably by addressing the grand societal challenges.

These five broad action lines will constitute the scope for the work of the Policy Platform.

To make things more concrete, there are eight topics of policy concern that need to be addressed in line with these five broad action lines. They will be the initial agenda on which the Platform will start working on:

1. rewards
2. altmetrics
3. Open Science Cloud
4. changing business models for publishing
5. research integrity
6. Citizen Science
7. open education and skills
8. FAIR open data

The launch of working groups on each of these topics will be *in phases*. In 2016, DG RTD will launch working groups on respectively 'rewards', 'altmetrics' and the 'Open Science Cloud'. The Policy Platform is also expected to identify and take up other issues.

The Open Science Policy Platform will advise the Commission on the policy actions required to fulfil Commissioner Moedas expectation that the quality and impact of European science will be radically increased by advancing Open Science.<sup>1</sup> The Platform will actively engage, including via digital means, with the wider European science and research community in general, and their member organisations in particular, to support policy implementation and encourage the active uptake of agreed best practices and guidelines for Open Science.

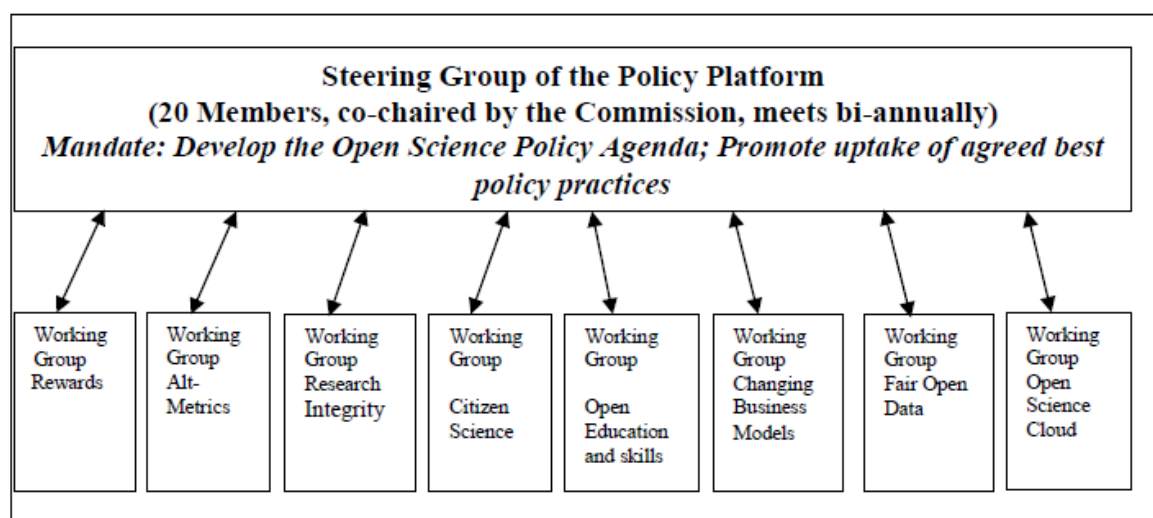
### **Timetable and implementation of the Platform**

The Open Science Policy Platform will function as a dynamic, stakeholder-driven mechanism for bringing up and addressing issues of concern for the development of Open Science. It will allocate responsibilities and obligations to each key stakeholder, as well as monitor and support policy implementation. It will look at how Europe can reap the benefits of Open Science and recommend best practices.

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<sup>1</sup> The Public Consultation on Science 2.0: Science in Transition revealed that stakeholders expect that Open Science will make science more credible (addressing scientific integrity), reliable (better and transparent verification of data), efficient (avoid duplication of resources) and more responsive to societal challenges.

The working groups will engage with as many interested parties as possible and will embrace interactive online participation. The work and outcome of the discussions of the working groups will be widely shared with the research communities and interested public to give them the opportunity to contribute. All underlying discussion material, minutes and reports will be published on an interactive website of the Platform. There will therefore be room for a real exchange of views among peers and new actors.



The working groups will report to the Steering Group, which will meet twice a year. The Steering Group will discuss the suggestions of the working groups and, if consensus is reached among its members, they will take up the responsibility to advocate the suggestions among their respective member organisations. The working groups would need to meet up to four times a year and most of the work will be done remotely, including engaging with other actors through an interactive website.

The Steering Group will be set up in early 2016. The Steering Group of the Platform will initially consist of 20 leading individuals of key organisations. The working groups will have up to 10 experts.