

# GFF OPEN SCIENCE POLICY

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# I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of Open Science (OS) generally describes a variety of strategies and approaches that are aiming at providing access to research and its outcomes to a scientific community and to stakeholders beyond the scientific community as well as to a broader public interested in science. Open Science is not only beneficial for research as it contributes to high-quality research. Also, society as a whole benefits from Open Science as it provides access to research results that have been funded by the tax payers.

Open Science therefore enhances the visibility of research outcomes and by making data available to the entire scientific community, it supports interdisciplinarity. Furthermore, as research outcomes are published through open access channels, OS contributes to generating more impact as stakeholders beyond the scientific community, such as policymakers or the industry, are provided access to relevant insights and conclusions of research. As OS allows to access data and outcomes, it also avoids duplications and creates synergies when researchers can build upon previous research. Hence, Open OS makes research and the entire publication process more efficient. At the same time, it supports scientific integrity due to the possibility of replication and reproducibility. OS furthermore supports building research networks as researchers from all over the world are more likely to find Open Research Data and project outcomes. Regarding its societal impact, the availability of objective and reliable information can help to respond to the distribution of fake news and to meet the post-truth phenomenon.

The GFF acknowledges the relevance as well as the benefits of Open Science<sup>1</sup> through the *GFF Open Science Policy*, which follows the basic principles of Open Science: **transparency, inclusion, correctness, fairness** and **sharing**. The *GFF Open Science Policy* builds on the two main Open Science approaches: **Open Research Data** and **Open Access Publications (OA)**. The *GFF Open Science Policy* will come into force on 1.1.2025.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/about>

## 2. OPEN RESEARCH DATA

Open Research Data might include quantitative or qualitative survey data, study protocols, software codes, results of experiments, measurements, observations, recordings, images, metadata and other relevant data in the context of a research project, which are provided to the scientific community through an open research data repository.

The GFF requires a dedicated **Data Management Plan (DMP)**, where the relevant data sets that are generated and/or analysed as well as respective protocols are defined and described. Furthermore, it provides details on the preparation of the data and their distribution through Open Research Data repositories. The DMP includes descriptions of research data characteristics, documentation, metadata, availability and storage as well as legal or ethical issues. The DMP as well as relevant updates of the DMP have to be uploaded as part of the annual reporting and the final reporting.

The GFF requires that GFF-funded projects deposit shareable research data, metadata or any other data including contextual information in a research data repository. At the same time, the GFF emphasizes to follow the principle of ***as open as possible, as closed as necessary*** in order to ensure the compliance with institutional regulations, ethical principles and the jurisdiction related to security, data protection and privacy. The projects therefore need to assess, if data can be shared or not. Furthermore, any GFF-funded projects need to take into account any limitations, specifications and requirements defined in the call documents before making the research data available in an Open Research Data repository.

The GFF places strong emphasis on the availability and the quality of research by following the **FAIR** principle, which is defined as ***Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable***. In case of legal, privacy, security or data protection concerns, alternative options such as restricted or closed access should be assessed.

Finally, the GFF encourages GFF-funded projects to provide their research data also after the project lifetime through dedicated open licenses and usage rights. For ensuring visibility, long-term non-commercial availability and uptake as well as for boosting the European research community, the GFF recommends to provide the data through a **data repository** that operates on the **common standards** defined by the **European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)**.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://open-science-cloud.ec.europa.eu/>

### 3. OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journals have become the main channel for disseminating research results. As open-access articles are downloaded four times more often than non-open access articles and receive more citations, the GFF **requires to publish in peer-reviewed OA journals**.

When publishing in OA peer-reviewed journals, GFF-funded projects have to take into account the following guidelines:

- In the case of “**Gold Open Access**”, the GFF requires that a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version can be deposited in a suitable open access repository. The published version should be made available immediately and the metadata should be made fully open, searchable and machine-readable from the time of the deposit.
- In the case of “**Green Open Access**”, the GFF requires that the full text of the publication is made available through a open access repository as a pre-print or as a post-print.
- In the case of “**Hybrid Open Access**”, the GFF covers the costs for a single open access contribution in a transformative open access journal in case research institution and the publisher have signed a transformative open access agreement.

Where relevant, the GFF generally encourages to post **preprints** of journal articles under an open license on a preprint platform and/or in a repository, and request to add the DOI to the preprint after the article has been published in the dedicated journal.

GFF-funded projects are furthermore encouraged to also provide **open access** to **other types of publications** such as monographs, book chapters, conference proceedings, grey literature, reports and others.

## 4. COSTS & REPORTING

The GFF will recognise **open access publication fees** such as article processing charges (APCs) or book processing charges (BPCs) as **eligible costs**. For quality assurance purposes and for the costs to be eligible, the journals have to be listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Generally, the GFF requires that funded publications have to be made available under an open content license, such as **Creative Commons** (CC BY, CC0) or similar.

**Estimated costs** for Open Science need to be calculated and justified in the **proposal**. The **actual costs** of publications in peer-reviewed OA journals, book publications and costs associated with the management of research data (such as their preparation for the publication in an Open Research Data repository) are **reported** and covered through the **funding** of a GFF-funded project.

**Reporting** on the compliance with the GFF Open Science Policy will be required as part of the annual and the final report. In the event of non-compliance, the GFF retains the right to reduce the amount of the funding at the payment of the funding rates or thereafter.

## 5. REFERENCES

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