

PROJECT DETAILS

Project title:	FACILITATE OPEN SCIENCE TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH
Project acronym:	FOSTER
Project URL:	www.fosteropenscience.eu/project
Project coordinator:	Dr. Eloy Rodrigues (University of Minho, PT) / eloy@sdum.uminho.pt
Project duration:	01/02/2014 - 31/07/2016
EU contribution:	1 499 860 EUR
No. of partners:	13
Type of activity:	Coordination and Support Action
Programme:	Science in Society, Seventh EU Framework Programme for Research (FP7)
Area:	Open Science, Open Access



Dr. Eloy Rodrigues

Foto: Clara Boavida

The FOSTER project: Pushing forward the successful implementation of Open Access

The project “FOSTER – Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research” develops trainings and training materials on Open Science.

Why should a spotlight be placed on this and where is the connection to the Science with and for Society programme?

One of the main activities of the Science with and for Society programme in Horizon 2020 and its predecessor Science in Society in FP7 is to increase the accessibility and use of the results of publicly-funded research. The implementation of Open Science (OS) and one of its main pillars, Open Access (OA), therefore receives important support from projects funded through these programmes.

In recent years, OS and OA have become key drivers for research and innovation as well as political priorities, which is illustrated, e.g., by the fact that the optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge is one of the priorities of the European Research Area (ERA). Also, OA to publications resulting from Horizon 2020 projects is mandatory under Horizon 2020. Additionally, projects in certain areas

of Horizon 2020 are part of the Open Research Data Pilot. The importance of OS/OA was reinforced once again when the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, defined three strategic priorities for European Research and Innovation in 2015: Open Innovation, Open Science, and Openness to the World.

Raising practical capacity and awareness

To implement OA successfully, knowledge about this subject is essential. For example, researchers need to know how OA works and how it strengthens excellent research and innovation. This is where the FP7 Science in Society project FOSTER steps in.

FOSTER is one of the “tools” of the European Commission to implement the strategies and policies on OA by raising the awareness and the practical capacity to use OS/OA. Its main objective is to support different stakeholders, especially young researchers, in adopting Open Access in the context of the European Research Area and in complying with the Open Access policies of Horizon

2020. FOSTER reaches out and provides training to a wide range of disciplines and countries in Europe, offering and supporting face-to-face and distance training. It aims to integrate Open Science in current research workflows by targeting researchers and strengthens the institutional training capacity through a train-the-trainers approach.

The FOSTER consortium consists of 13 partners from 8 EU Member States, coordinated by Dr. Eloy Rodrigues, Director of the University of Minho Documentation Services in Portugal.

According to Rodrigues, the most relevant achievement of FOSTER so far is the impressive training programme on Open Access, Research Data and Open Science, which the project managed to establish and support since 2014. By the end of 2015, around 3,000 people – mainly researchers and especially young researchers – had participated in more than 100 FOSTER-supported or -organized training events in 20 European countries. These numbers are set to rise further in 2016; it is expected that around 1,000 more stakeholders will participate

If you would like to find out more about the Horizon 2020 programme part **Science with and for Society**, please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/area/society>.

More exciting projects on Open Access and other SwafS areas such as gender equality, science education or ethics can be found on Cordis, the community research and development information service.

in the ongoing training activities from **FOSTER**. Even after project completion, the project will have a lasting impact on the adoption of OS/OA through the sustainability and re-use of the training materials and the training portal where anyone interested in OA/OS can find target group-specific and free-of-charge resources, Rodrigues highlights.

Open Access promotes better and more efficient science

Rodrigues points out that it is now widely recognized that OA promotes better and more efficient science, and that it fosters innovation in research, economy and society, e.g. by building on previous research and avoiding duplication. More broadly, OS will result in more transparency and integrity in research, promoting collaboration and networking, and facilitating the identification of scien-

the position that publicly funded research should be publicly available for everybody.

Participating in EU Research: Networking is the key

Rodrigues is well experienced in EU projects. For him, one of the most enriching and valuable experiences of participating in EU projects is the opportunity to get into direct and close contact with partners, people and organisations from many European countries. This, he highlights, has contributed not only to a better knowledge and understanding of the rich diversity within Europe, but also to learn from very different experiences and best practices. Rodrigues has an important advice for newcomers to Horizon 2020 and Science with and for Society: "Networking is the key. Try to identify the relevant researchers and

good personal and institutional contacts with relevant partners and potential partners is very important to prepare good, solid and potentially winning project proposals, but also to successfully run and complete the projects you participate in."

Regarding the Science with and for Society programme of Horizon 2020, Rodrigues emphasises that there are several topics, challenges and problems related to social and societal aspects of research activities and/or the impact of science and research in society, which by their nature are horizontal to most/all research fields. So, the most efficient way to address these issues and challenges, he proceeds, is to have a distinct programme like Science with and for Society rather than establishing individual research projects in the context of other thematic programmes.

Open Access

The practice of providing on-line access to scientific information that is free of charge to the reader.

In the context of Research and Innovation, open access typically focuses on access to 'scientific information', which refers to two main categories: peer-reviewed scientific research articles (published in academic journals) and scientific research data (data underlying publications and/or raw data).

Source: Participant Portal, Glossary

tific responses to the societal and environmental challenges that Europe and the world are facing. In addition, he underlines that the European Commission takes

organisations on the topic you will be working on, and establish formal or informal working relations with them. Even if you are not directly collaborating in the same project(s), having

Become a practitioner in Open Access!

Visit the training portal of the **FOSTER** project and make use of the project's products. For example, it has developed online-learning courses which will equip you with know-how on how to implement OA. Courses are available for a wide range of stakeholders including researchers and students, project managers, librarians, repository managers, policy makers, re-search funders and publishers on <https://www.fosteropenscience.eu>.

On the **FOSTER** training portal you will also find a collection of resources on OA/OS which will make you even more of an expert on the subject – such as presentations, videos or an Open Science taxonomy. You simply need to register.