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Open Science in Poland: From Policy to Data Excellence

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POLICIES IN THE FIELD OF OPEN AND RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE

National Round Table with International Participation

Sofia, 25.02.2026

Introduction

Open Science (OS) in Poland is understood as a systemic transformation of how research is conducted, communicated, and evaluated. It promotes openness, transparency, accessibility, and reusability of research outputs, including publications, data, software, and methods.

Key drivers of Open Science in Poland include:

- Alignment with European Union research and innovation policy
- Participation in the European Research Area (ERA)
- Growing recognition of research data as a strategic asset
- Pressure to increase research quality, reproducibility, and societal impact

Open Science in Poland is no longer a bottom-up initiative only—it has become a policy-driven, institutionally embedded process.

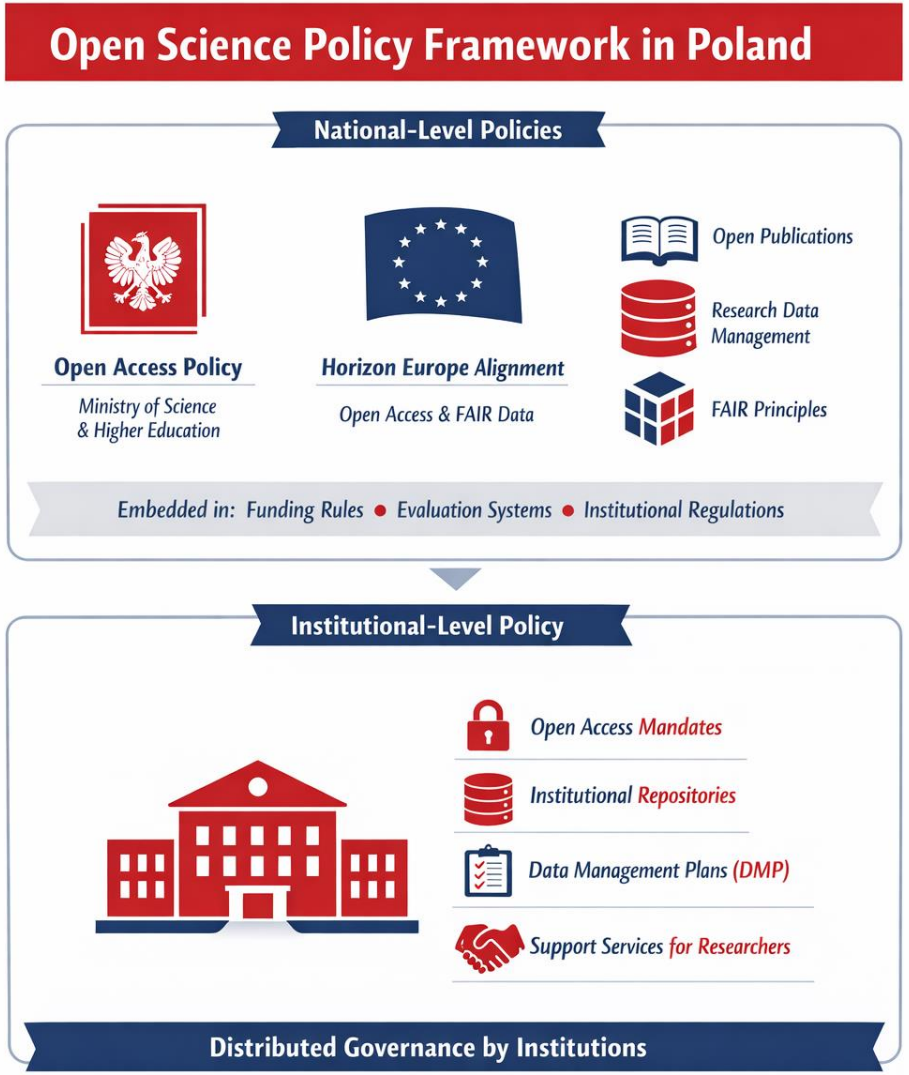
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Open Science in Poland: From Policy to Data Excellence

National-level policy

- Although Poland does not yet have a single comprehensive Open Science Act, OS principles are embedded
- This creates a distributed governance model, where institutions play a crucial operational role.
- Universities translate national and European policies to the institutional manadates or/and procedures.



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Open Science in Poland

- **Early Open Access Policies in Poland – Key Milestones**
- **2015** – The **Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW)** issued *"Directions for the development of open access to research publications and research results in Poland"*, responding to the **European Commission Recommendation (2012)**.
  → Document contained **non-binding recommendations** for funders, universities, publishers, and researchers
  → Institutions encouraged to adopt OA policies, build repositories, and appoint OA coordinators
- **National Science Centre (NCN)**:

➢ **2018** – NCN signed **Plan S**

➢ **2020** – NCN adopted an **Open Access Policy** (effective for grants from 2021)

➢ **2019** – **Data Management Plans (DMPs)** introduced, based on Science Europe guidelines

- Research data underlying publications should follow **FAIR principles** and, where possible, be shared under **CC0**
- **2025** – New NCN OA policy adopted (recommendatory character)
- **2021–2023** – Initial governmental work on a comprehensive Polish Open Science Policy was interrupted by goverment change.

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July 2025 – A new stakeholder group (librarians, researchers, data stewards) published
“Open Access Policy for Publicly Funded Research Data”

Polish Policy on Open Access to Publicly Funded Research Data

(Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego – July 2025)

1 What is this Policy?

16/17 July 2025

- Official strategic document adopted on **16/17 July 2025** by the **Ministry of Science and Higher Education**.
- It addresses research **data produced** with public funding and sets the direction for opening these data in Poland.
- The document **is guiding** (non-normative) – defining goals, principles, and future implementation steps, but not imposing immediate legal obligations.



2 Why was it adopted?

- To **advance open science** in Poland filling gaps in research data practices nationally.
- To **align** national research data approaches with international and European expectations *(e.g. FAIR and EOSC)*.

(unplicit in policy context and EU strategies)

3 Scope & Audience

- **Universities and research institutions** holding data produced with public funding
- **Research funding agencies** such as NCN, NCBR, ABM, NAWA, FNP – whhs be influenced in funding practices and data policies.

4 Core Principles

- ✓ **Open** *‘as much as possible, closed* only when necessary”
  (implicit FAIR approach)



- ✓ **Support** *for* **FAIR data** practices:
  - **Findable**
  - **Accessible**
  - **Interoperable**
  - **Reusable**



(FAIR is widely linked to open data strategies across Europe)

5 Main Goals (high-level)

- ✓ **Promote** wider opening of **research data** across Polish science.
- ✓ **Provide** an enabling environment and frameworks for institutions to **adopt open data practices**.
- ✓ **Establish organizational** and infrastructure **standards** for data management and reuse.
- ✓ **Strengthen** national coordination for open research data.

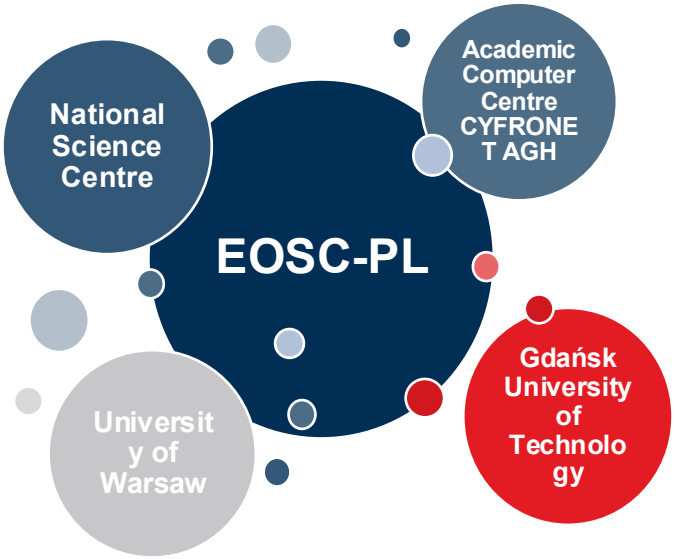
(A full mulityear implementation plan is *expected as a follow-up to this policy.)*

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One of EOSC's main goals is to create an open digital research environment that will make it easier for researchers to access data repositories, cloud services and advanced analytical tools.

The idea is realized by creating a coordinated network of European and national research infrastructures. Since March 2025, the **Polish national node – the EOSC PL Node** – along with 12 other nodes from across Europe, has participated in the process of co-creating the principles and mechanisms of the **EOSC Federation**.



Objectives:

1 **Integration**
Bring resources into the EOSC Federation

2 **Standards**
Ensure compliance with FAIR principles across all integrated services

3 **Access**
Provide federated (AAI) for a seamless user experience

4 **Interoperability**
Enable open science interoperability across platforms and services

5 **Impact**
Facilitate cross-border collaboration and efficient resource use for researchers

Governance:
A coordinated federation:
- light central steering
- strong community execution
- iterative approach

Structure:
- Defined roles and responsibilities
- Steering group
- Regular weekly meetings
- Ad hoc Working Groups

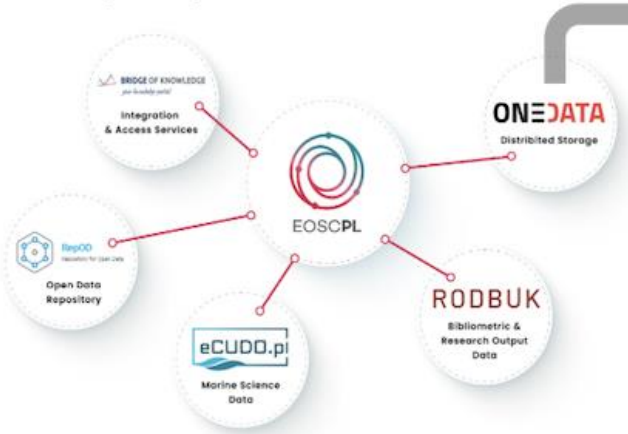
Use cases:
- Implementation of federating capabilities
- Desiginign and implementing research workflows based on resources across Federation

Node's entry point:
- Discovery platform
- Federated AAI
- FAIR-by-design working space for researchers

EOSC Node | Poland

eosc.pl – a gateway to federated research environment

Not only discoverability
EOSC.pl is becoming a space for researchers to work with and reuse data in compliance with FAIR principles.



- unifies access to distributed and heterogeneous storage resources
- enables teamwork on curated datasets
- supports metadata annotation and data discovery
- facilitates collaborative data sharing across organizations and research teams



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Institutional example – Gdańsk University of Technology

Open Science Competence Center (OSCC) in a nutshell

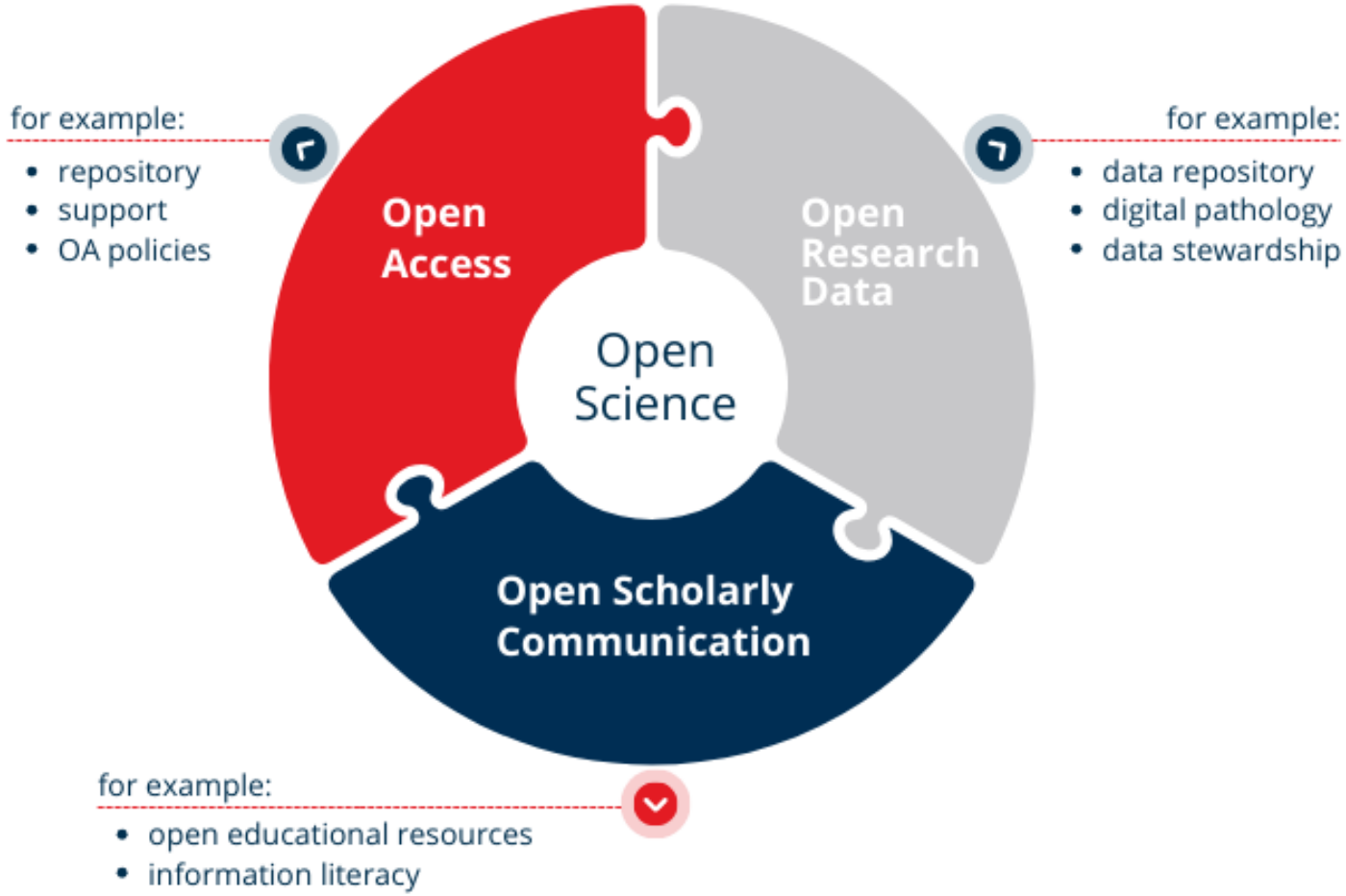


- Experience from the MOST WIEDZY project, as well as the NCN requirements to attach Data Management Plans to grant applications and the subsequent sharing of data generated within projects, indicated the need to create a team of specialists whose tasks would go beyond the standard tasks carried out in the Scholarly Communication and Open Science Services.
- The establishment of a competence center, whose main task would be to support users of the Bridge of Knowledge platform in processes related to sharing the results of scientific activity, both publications and research data, was one of the objectives of the next project – Bridge of Data).
- 2018 - commencement of work on the MOST DANYCH project and establishment of the Open Science Competence Center.
- 2019 - CKON joined the newly established GO FAIR Implementation Network.
- Between 2017-2024, GO FAIR was an international initiative supporting the implementation of FAIR principles in research data management, aimed at improving their accessibility and reuse. The organization focused on creating and supporting the GO FAIR Implementation Network, promoting standardization and interoperability of data across various fields of science and technology.

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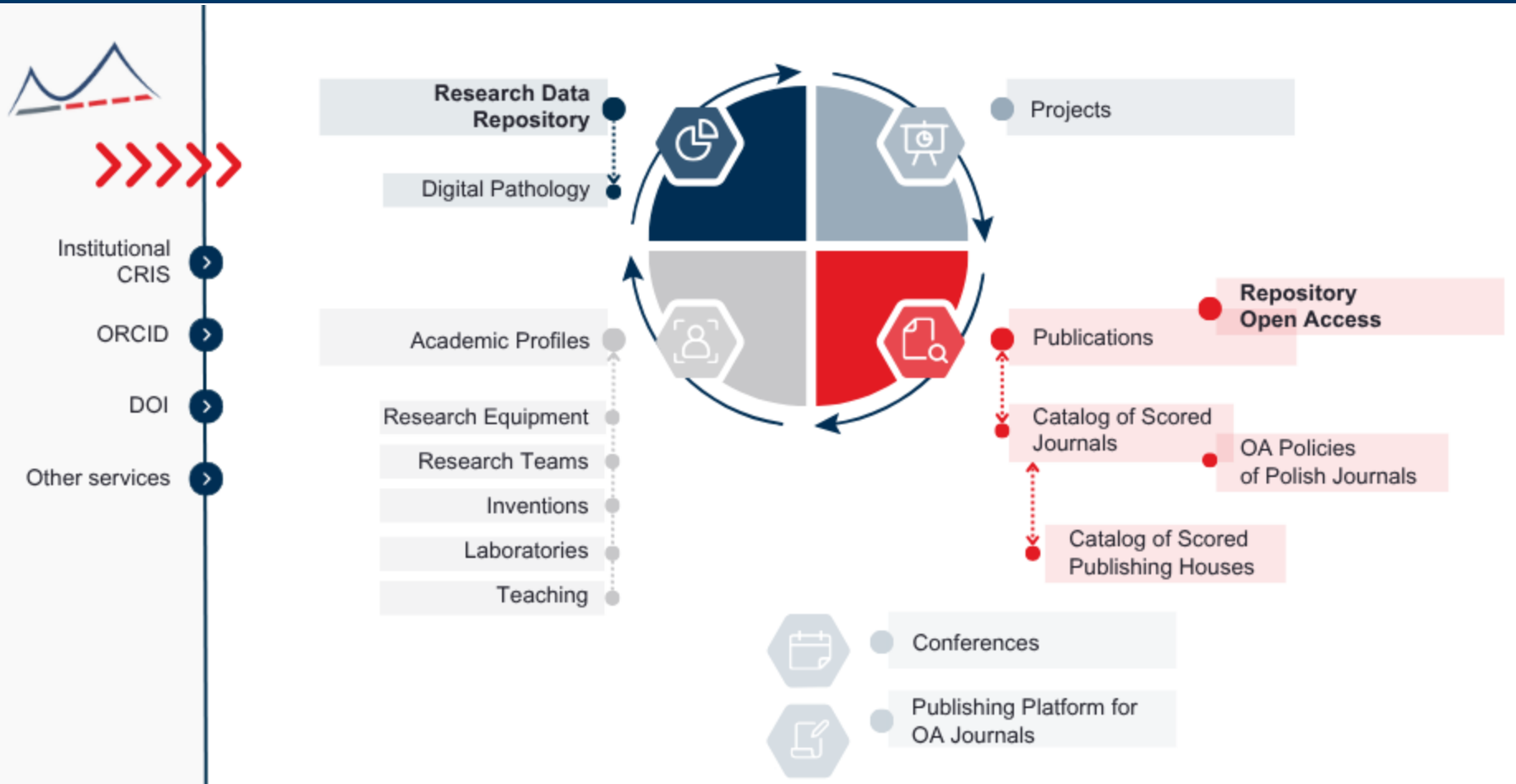
Open Science Competence Center



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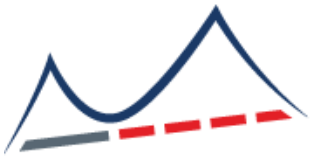
Bridge of Knowledge Platform



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Open Access Repository



BRIDGE OF KNOWLEDGE

Multidisciplinary Open Knowledge Transfer System

- one of the modules of the platform
- a tool that collects full texts of scientific publications from a wide range of subject areas, registered by employees and doctoral students of the Gdańsk University of Technology
- is part of the Open Access initiative: free and direct access to collected materials without the need to create an account
- support of the scientific community in terms of copyright law and the openness policy of the National Science Centre
- increase the accessibility, coherence and re-usability of a wide range of science, knowledge and technology resources

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Open Access publishing programmes

Agreements with publishers at national, consortium and individual level to cover APC costs for publishing articles in Open Access.

- local administration of OA programmes
- support for researchers in:

  - providing up-to-date information on the availability of particular programmes and their requirements

  - assistance in choosing the right publication path and licence, particularly in the context of project requirements and journal publishing policy

  - acting as an intermediary with the publisher
- training webinars

Springer

acm

IOP science

OXYGENIUM SUPPORTING OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATIONS

ELSEVIER

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

WILEY

IEEE Advancing Technology for Humanity

Taylor & Francis Taylor & Francis Group

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Open Research Data - Bridge of Data

Supporting researchers in activities related to deposition data in the MBridge of Data repository (MOST Wiedzy Open Research Data Catalog), such as:

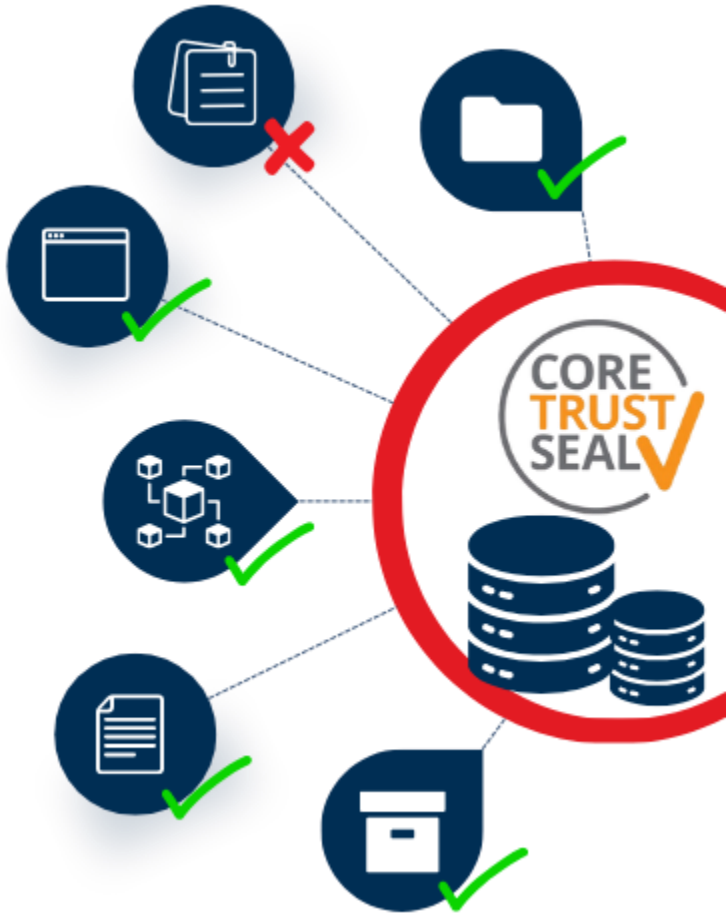
- creating metadata for datasets
- selecting appropriate licenses
- preparing data for publication
- adding new versions of datasets
- grouping datasets into collections

Assessing datasets submitted for publication:

- evaluating metadata completeness and quality
- approving verified datasets for publication in the repository

Contributing to the improvement of repository services and functionalities:

- consulting with the IT department
- preparing user instructions
- participating in quality certification applications for the repository (e.g., CoreTrustSeal)



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Digital Pathology (Virtual Microscope)

- A portal that presents collected and digitised images of tissues and cells, both healthy and diseased, in an accessible way. The virtual microscope was created during the implementation of the BRIDGE of DATA project as part of the cooperation between CI TASK and the Medical University of Gdańsk.
- Samples for digitisation are collected at GUMed and partner institutions during operations or surgical procedures, and then scanned at the GUMed Division of Medical Laboratory Diagnostics – Fahrenheit Biobank, using a specialised medical scanner. In the next step, the imaging data is transferred to Gdańsk University of Technology, where the CI TASK team handles the technical aspects.

In short:

- A separate module on Bridge of Knowledge platform
- Collection of more than 20 000 digital and anonymized tissue and cell images
- Possiblity to filter the available objects (eg. by human organs)
- Images available on open licence (CC BY-NC-SA)

DIGITAL PATHOLOGY

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Ended up projects 2023-2024

1 Data practices in an interdisciplinary perspective – building good standards and universal solutions

EOSC Future

RDA RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

The project's goal was to review data sharing practices in four scientific disciplines – architecture, civil engineering, economics, and natural language processing – and to describe data management workflow practices, implementation of metadata standards, and social aspects of data sharing. MOST WIEDZY Open Research Data Catalog has been deployed to the EOSC Catalogue and Marketplace as a data provider.

2 FAIRness Assessment Challenge

FAIR-IMPACT

The goal of the project was to help dataset providers conduct a self-assessment and maximize the FAIRness level of their resources through the use of tools such as F-UJI, O'FAIRe and FOOPS, and methods including the “FAIR Data Maturity Model” (FDMM) or “Ten simple rules for FAIR vocabularies.”

3 Creating EOSC compliant Persistent Identifier (PID) policies

eosc

The project's goal was to conduct a self-assessment stating the applicant's readiness to adopt a persistent identifier policy, using the PID policy for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), introduced in 2020, as a guide. This goal was made possible by using the beta version of the FAIRCORE4EOSC Compliance Assessment Toolkit (CAT) service, which allows coding, logging and checking compliance with the PID policy for EOSC, but also for compliance with FAIR rules, RODO regulations or licensing recommendations, among others.

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2024-2025

Actions to promote and increase awareness of Open Research Data

Initiative of Excellence – Research University (IDUB)

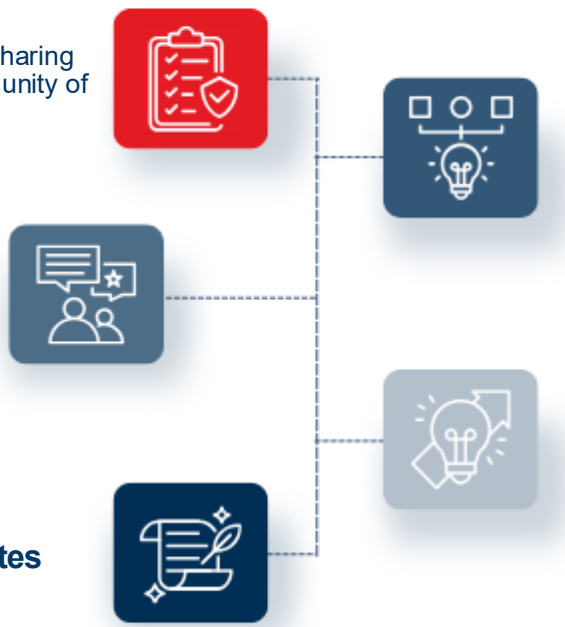
IDUB actions aim to disseminate effective methods and practices in publishing and sharing research data among the academic community of the Gdansk University of Technology.

7 discipline data stewards

Key to the goals set for this initiative is creating a team of qualified data stewards in response to the need for support for Gdańsk Tech researchers and PhD students focused on the scientific disciplines within which research activities are conducted.

7 Data Management Plan templates

Preparation and provision of model DMP templates, adapting the requirements of organizations financing scientific research to the diverse nature of data obtained at the University.



8 data descriptors and 322 datasets

The activity of data stewards contributes to increasing the quality of scientific research conducted by Gdańsk Tech employees, increasing the number of datasets and research data-related articles published by them, and in the long run, will result in an increase in the visibility of their output in the international arena.

Skills development

- The University of Vienna Data Steward Certificate Course
- Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Research Data Management
- PUBMET 2024 1st Summer School on Scholarly Communication
- Make Data Count Summit 2024

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2025-2027

FIDELIS: Establishing A European Network of Trustworthy Digital Repositories

eosc | FIDELIS

Program:	Horizon Europe
Call for proposal:	Enabling an operational, open and FAIR EOSC ecosystem (2024) (HORIZON-INFRA-2024-EOSC-01)
ID:	HORIZON-INFRA-2024-EOSC-01-03
Consortium coordinator:	CSC (Finland)
Partners:	Germany, Italy, Norway, Serbia, Czech Republic, France, Spain, the Netherlands, the UK
Gdańsk Tech Coordinator:	Magdalena Szuflita-Żurawska

The FIDELIS project aims to establish a healthy, vibrant and self-sustaining **network of trustworthy digital repositories (TDRs)** that will Foster a supportive, open science environment and guarantee FAIR data sharing. The project will **support the development and growth of TDRs within the EOSC ecosystem** by increasing interoperability across repositories and creating standards and recommendations for the long-term archiving of research data.

The Gdańsk Tech team will be responsible for, among other things, identifying the needs of research data repositories in Europe and developing and implementing an effective training and mentoring system for them in three work packages:

1. **WP8** – Repository training and support: Initiating Network cohesion and expansion
2. **WP9** – Repository training and support: Strengthening the Network
3. **WP10** – Repository training and support: Consolidating the Network

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Skills4EOSC Competence Centres Network



- **Skills4EOSC Competence Centres Network** is a coordinated network of competence centres and other entities performing this function from across Europe that provides and supports key competencies that enable the practice of open science.
- The network was established as part of **Skills4EOSC – Skills for the European Open Science commons: creating a training ecosystem for Open and FAIR science**, a Horizon Europe-funded project that aimed at a broad plan to coordinate and standardize open science initiatives, resources and training.
- Thanks to a consortium whose experience and practices cover all aspects of the open science data lifecycle, the project helped move the focus from basic FAIR and OS skills to the next generation of research data management, enhancing real machine actionability at all levels of European research. This will enable researchers to change the way they conduct research and improve its quality, as well as influence the reuse of their results.
- **The Gdańsk University of Technology Open Science Competence Center joined the Skills4EOSC Competence Centres Network in March 2025.**
- **The network also includes institutions from Italy, Greece, Germany, Sweden and Finland, among others.**

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International cooperation

Activities of Open Science Competence Centre employees in the context of international cooperation:

- participation in **teams and working groups** of different organisations, e.g. ENOEL in SPARC Europe (Kamila Kokot-Kanikuła), or the assembly of reviewers in CoreTrustSeal (Magdalena Szuflita-Żurawska)
- participation in **conferences and seminars** related to Open Science
- **networking** with entities with a similar profile
- exchange of **experience and good practices**
- active **promotion** of the Gdańsk Tech Library on the international arena

SPARC Europe

CORE TRUST SEAL

LIBER Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche Association of European Research Libraries

OpenAIRE

IATUL International Association of University Libraries

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RDA RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

International cooperation – Research Data Alliance

Research Data Alliance (RDA) is a community organisation whose main goal is to create a space for discussion and development of the infrastructure needed for the free sharing of data and conducting data-driven research. The fundamental idea behind the RDA is the need for the free flow of research data between institutions and researchers around the world.

- Gdańsk University of Technology has been an organisational member of the RDA since 2017
- Competence Centre employees participate in working groups, including Education and Training on Handling of Research Data IG, Engaging Researchers with Data IG and Professionalising Data Stewardship IG
- Magdalena Szuflita-Żurawska is a co-chair of Education and Training on Handling of Research Data IG
- Since January 2025, Magdalena Szuflita-Żurawska has also been a member of the Organisational Advisory Board (OAB), which consists of representatives of RDA organisational members and associated entities

International cooperation – ENHANCE

ENHANCE – The European Alliance of Technology Universities, bringing together ten leading European technical universities, which Gdańsk University of Technology joined in 2022. The main objective of the alliance is to promote innovative technological and social progress, taking into account the principles of sustainable development. In 2023, the ENHANCE+ project was launched, with Gdańsk University of Technology coordinating Work Package 2: Human dimension.



- Open Science Hub – coordination of a series of meetings aimed at exchanging experiences and good practices between librarians from ENHANCE universities
- Trainings offered on Innovative Learning Campus platform
- Participation in the Library and Open Science thematic group within the FOREU4ALL network of European university alliances (Magdalena Szuflita-Żurawska)

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SIEĆ KOMPETENCJI OTWARTEJ NAUKI
Data Steward PL

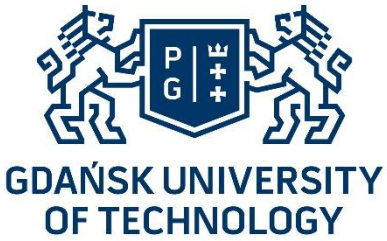
Competence Network for Open Science – Data Steward PL

The **Competence Network for Open Science – Data Steward PL** is a working group aimed at data stewards and people involved in archiving, sharing and promoting research data and open publishing at Polish universities and research institutions. It is intended to be a space for discussion for librarians, researchers, administrative staff and IT specialists on various issues related to research data management, as well as the implementation and promotion of Open Science in Poland.

Main tasks:

- creating a network of national experts with various competences to support the development of the Polish RDM community
- creating a space for systematic exchange of information (knowledge transfer) on research data management
- supporting activities promoting FAIR principles
- promoting the opening up of research data at Polish universities and research centres

Thank you


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