D5.2 RUN-EU PLUS NETWORK OF OPEN SCIENCE AMBASSADORS

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1. Purpose of the deliverable

Open science is an overarching topic that influences all work packages within RUN-EU PLUS. This deliverable aims to give a short definition and an overview on open science in the context of the European Union. It defines the role and characteristics of Open Science Ambassadors (OSA) and it establishes the RUN-EU PLUS OSA network. The deliverable also contains the nominated OSA of each partner within the alliance.

2. Open Science in modern universities

2.1 Open Science in the EU

Open Science is a crucial part of the digital future of the European Union (EU). It is a policy priority for the European Commission. By applying open science in all research and innovation funding programmes the EU intends to "improve the quality, efficiency and responsiveness of research"[1]. The official definition of open science by the EU is as follows:

> "An approach to the scientific process that focuses on spreading knowledge as soon as it is available using digital and collaborative technology. Expert groups, publications, news and events."[1]

In further detail, eight ambitions of the EU's Open Science policy are defined[2].

1) Open Data (FAIR)
2) European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)
3) New generation metrics
4) Future of scholarly communication
5) Rewards
6) Research integrity
7) Education and skills
8) Citizen science

To sum up: Open Science is seen as a system change by the European Union and it is a specific goal of the RUN-EU PLUS network to support this system change by implementing a clear Open Science strategy within the network.

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[1] European Commission, The EU's open science policy, https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en, accessed 2022/02/14.
[2] Konstantinos Glinos, Open Science, 2019/12/13, https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en, accessed 2022/02/14

2.2 Open Science in RUN-EU PLUS

As RUN-EU PLUS is part of the original RUN-EU mission, our European University is already committed to creating joint management and governance systems to underpin the alliance including open educational resources and open science research networks. Within RUN-EU PLUS we take the next step towards mainstreaming of open science practices and skills through the delivery of new programs and initiatives. We further strengthen our commitment to open science principles. As one of the first steps we set up a network of Open Science Ambassadors (OSA) to support the open science agenda across our network. The OSA network exchanges best practice and mutual learning within the alliance.

3. Open Science Ambassadors (OSA)

3.1 Why OSAs?

The RUN-EU PLUS alliance noticed within each partners own organisation, and within science in general, that open science is a highly relevant topic which is often not visible in the daily life on a university campus. RUN-EU PLUS wants to change this by implementing open science ambassadors (OSA) who take the topic "from the privacy of one's own office" into the public sphere of each single partner and beyond. Getting the topic to public will help to foster open science not only within the alliance but through the scientists of our alliance we will also "spread the word" to other institutions, may it be in science or industry.

3.2 General role of an OSA in RUN-EU PLUS

Open science ambassadors (OSA) play a crucial role in the establishment of an open science culture within the alliance. They represent the topic within each organisation and collaborate with the OSAs of the other partners. OSAs are intended to be early-stage researchers with a new and fresh look on the future of research and innovation. The main tasks of OSAs are to:

1) serve as link pins between RUN- EU PLUS work package 5 'Mainstreaming of Open Science Practices' and their own organisation
2) increase conversations around open science
3) cultivate awareness for open science
4) foster openness to embed open science in daily work
5) establish necessary tools of the open science agenda

An OSA knows how to convey the importance of the subject to stakeholders within the organisation and links (solicited and unsolicited) findings and advice from the organisation back to the work package.

3.3 Characteristics of OSA

In general, OSAs are early-stage researchers at masters or PhD level. They are open-minded, future-orientated and innovative and they embody an open science culture within their organisations. The RUN-EU PLUS alliance also discussed and confirmed that it is necessary to include senior scientists and non-scientists with long-term experience in open science practices as OSAs to ensure that RUN-EU PLUS reaches the eight ambitions of the EU's open science policy.

4. The Open Science Ambassador network

During month three and month six of the RUN-EU PLUS project, the Open Science Ambassador (OSA) network was set-up.

4.1 Definition, tasks, and way of working

The RUN-EUPLUS OSA network consists of two local OSAs from each of the partner within the alliance. The network will elect one member to serve as OSA network manager. He/she is responsible for the communication with the WP lead. The RUN-EU PLUS OSA network will define and implement an annual working plan for new practices and improvement of open science skills, transversal to the alliance members. The OSA network manager together with the WP lead will be responsible for the final decisions on the programme of the workshop training programmes. The OSA network together with the representatives of the work package is also responsible to prepare workshop training programs not yet available within the alliance (as identified in the GAP analysis). A special emphasis is set on new practices of open science skills transversal to the alliance members. The OSA network will gather at least twice per year and on a more regular basis as required. If the OSA network manager recognises the need for further meetings, he/she is allowed to announce further gathering throughout the year. At least one OSA per partner will participate in the regular meetings.

4.2 Composition of the network

The following table summarises all members of the OSA network known so far. It shows in an impressive way how diverse and wide-ranging the network is in terms of scientific fields involved but also in terms of open science competences. This is a crucial aspect to meet the needs of scientists of all partners within the RUN-EU PLUS alliance.

Table 1 – The members of the RUN-EU PLUS Open Science Ambassador Network

Open Science Ambassador (OSA) network			
 Michael Hellwig	Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences	Computer Science, Deep Learning, active in promoting free books and open science in general	Postdoc
 Anna-Maria Baronenkova	Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences	Micro analysis of materials, Lifetime testing, Experimental data acquisition and publication	PhD research Student
 Tania Marsh	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	PGDip Library & Information Studies, open access publishing, FAIR data, alternative metrics, etc.	Librarian
 Jessica Walsh	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	Analytical Scientist and Circular Bioeconomy Researcher	PhD research Student
 Dulce Correia	Polytechnic of Leiria	Libraries Services Director, Information Science	Librarian

Sonia Goncalves Pereira	Polytechnic of Leiria	Research in Health Sciences, clinical microbiology, former science manager with connection to open science	Professor
Anna Mikkonen	Häme University of Applied Sciences	Information Science, developing services for open science practices, data management planning	Postdoc
Olli Niemitalo	Häme University of Applied Sciences	Data management and pre-publication practices for drone image data, data driven knowledge creation and utilization	Data analyst
António Rocha	IPCA – Polytechnic Institute of Cávado and Ave	Industrial engineering, industrial management	Professor
André Carvalho	IPCA – Polytechnic Institute of Cávado and Ave	Industrial engineering, quality management, business transitions, sustainability	Adjunct Professor
Jellie Visser	NHL Stenden	Open educational resources, open access, open science, FAIR data	Librarian

Deike Schulz	NHL Stenden	Meaningful communication, CSR and reflective communityship, Knowledge Commons	Professor
Tihana Czakó-Vasic	Széchenyi István University	Financial literacy, publication opportunities	PhD research Student
Gabor Dogossy	Széchenyi István University	Development of Biopolymers, recycling, injection modling and simulation, supervisor in research, Bachelor, Master and PhD supervisor	Associate professor

In the upcoming months, the OSA network will have its first gathering in an official online opening meeting. During the meeting, an OSA network manager will be elected by the members and the network will support the first open science workshop to be held on June 1st and 2nd 2022.

5. Summary and outlook

Open science is fully embedded in the research and innovation strategy of the European Union. RUN-EU PLUS recognizes the need to implement practices of open science in the daily life of researchers and innovators of each individual partner. Therefore, we will equip RUN-EU PLUS researchers and innovators with the necessary tools to champion the open science agenda. To do so, an important first step was taken during month three and month six of the RUN-EU PLUS project as the OSA ambassador network was set up. It consists of two open science ambassadors of each partner and covers a broad range of scientific fields so that it is ensured that different aspects of open science are covered by the RUN-EU PLUS alliance. In the upcoming months and years, the OSA network will help to foster open science in RUN-EU PLUS and will help to establish necessary training courses across all scientific career stages.