



**NETWORK OF OPEN
SCIENCE AMBASSADORS
RELATING TO
"GREEN DEAL/CLIMATE CHANGE"
AND
"AI/DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION"**

June 2023

Work Package: 5 – Open Science Agenda

Arqus Research & Innovation Project
(Grant agreement No 101017448)

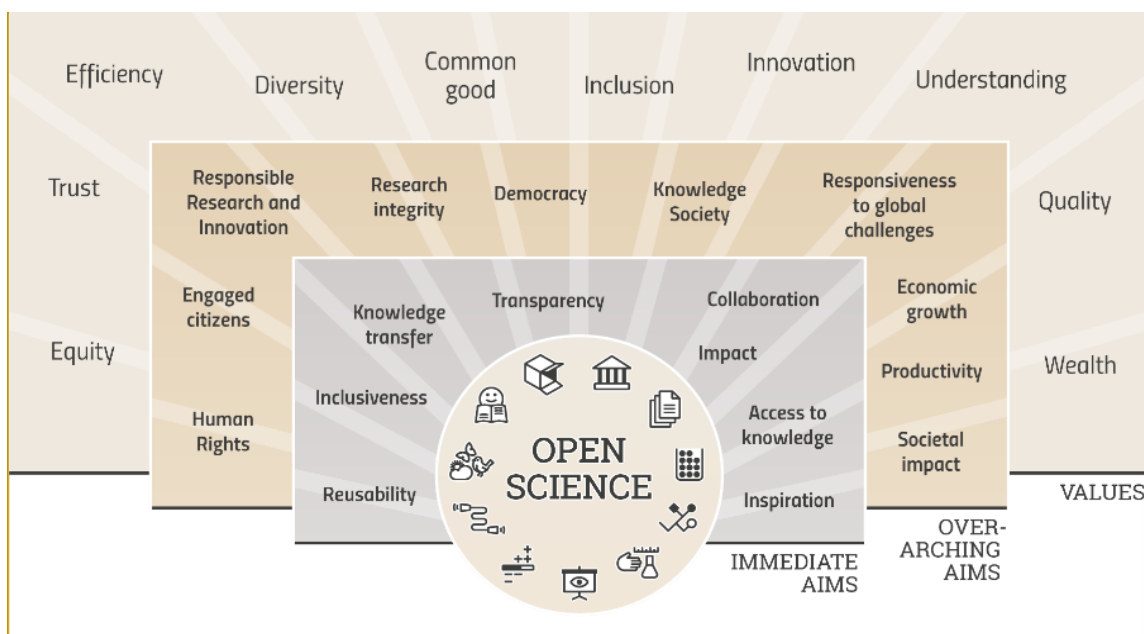
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1. Task and Goal according to the Grant Agreement

Arqus is committed to coordinate efforts in order to enhance openness in a strategic way, which aims to foster transparency, cooperation and sustainability as well as equity, inclusion and the notion of research as a common good. Work Package 5, “Open Science Agenda”, is therefore working on anchoring and implementing Open Science as a cross-cutting topic. This document contains the second of the three deliverables from WP5 of the Arqus Research and Innovation (R.I.) project.



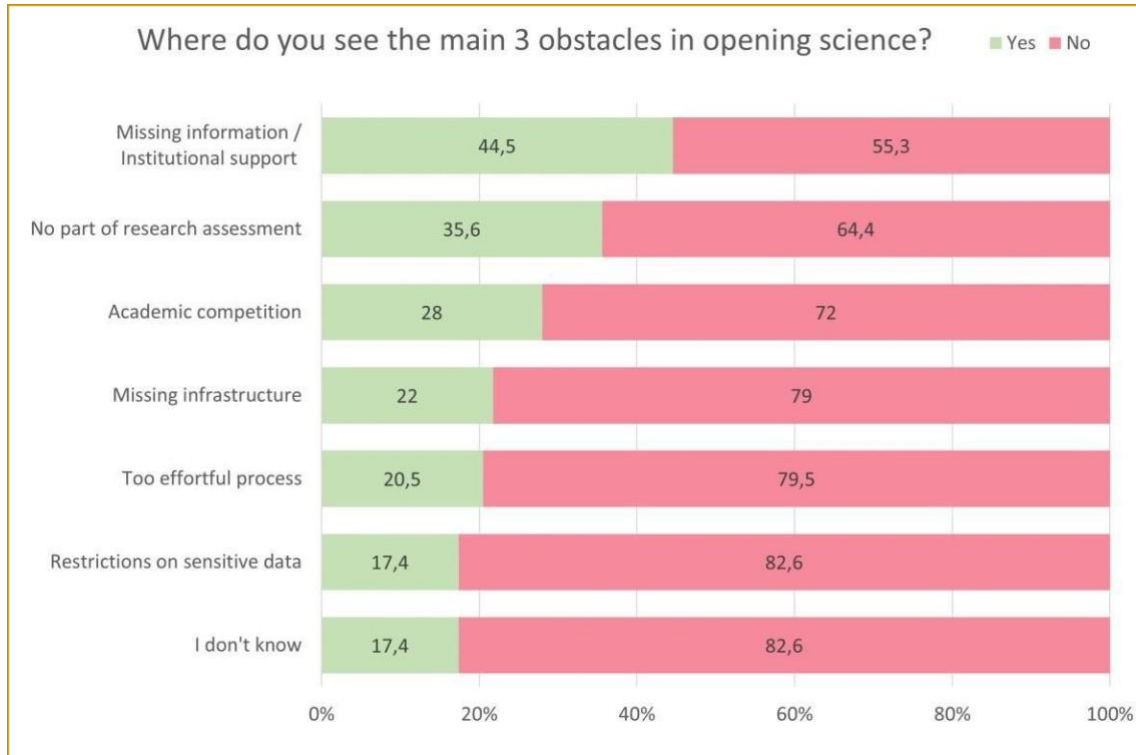
Graphic 1: The Open Science Cosmos as shown in the Arqus Openness Position Paper (Kaier et al., 2022)

Task 5.3 of the Arqus R.I. Grant Agreement contains: Identifying and Maintaining an “Open Science Ambassador” expert pool. The main task of the Ambassadors is to give discipline-specific advice and recommendations to institutional and Arqus wide researchers.

The need for such an expert network can be drawn from the results of the survey conducted by the members of WP5 in July/August 2022. Researchers from the Arqus Universities (PhD level and above) were asked about their general knowledge, experiences, obstacles and needs in practicing Open Science. Accordingly, around 45% of the participating researchers named “Missing information / institutional support” as the most pressing obstacle in opening science (see graphic 2).

To face this problem, curated information platforms and supporting infrastructures in research institutions (technical infrastructures, guidance and advice) are one way to support researchers in Open Science. To raise awareness on the topic and engage researchers, the provision of best practices, training opportunities and access to expert knowledge are another proven solution. By identifying experts and establishing a joint expert network of Open Science practitioners within the Arqus Alliance and by forming and maintaining them as a joint “Open Science

Ambassador Network” (Goal 3), interested researchers find contact points for information on Open Science at their universities as well as within the alliance and are generally made aware of Open Science through increased visibility.



Graphic 2: WP5 survey among researchers in the Arqus Alliance (2022): Where do you see the main three obstacles in opening science?

2. The Arqus Open Science Ambassador Network

2.1 Aims and Values

Implementing open practices in research is a cultural change process that needs a collaborative activity. Networks are therefore good opportunities to work together on transformative processes, learn from and inspire each other and benefit from shared best practices and expertise.

The Arqus Open Science Ambassador Network is advocating for openness within the entire research lifecycle and including societal needs, experience and knowledge at their respective universities, acting as a group of experts and multipliers as well as intermediaries between researchers, universities and the alliance. This network consists of researchers from all academic status groups affiliated to one of the Arqus universities, who are engaged in several Open Science dimensions.

For the group members, the drivers for promoting Open Science are primarily the strong belief in the idea of openness and enabling free access to academic knowledge. This includes ensuring the reproducibility of research results, improving research processes and fostering cooperation, interdisciplinary research and exchange between different disciplines. The Ambassadors are willing to encourage other researchers to practice Open Science and share

their results and findings openly and in a sustainable way. Furthermore, they are willing to support their universities and the Arqus Alliance in enhancing and implementing Open Science.

Since the Ambassadors are working on a voluntary and unpaid basis, it is not feasible to commit them for active contribution within the alliance. But it is conceivable and sensible to use their expertise as a kind of advisory board for the further development and implementation of Open Science as a ground principle for scientific work at their universities as well as in Arqus. In that sense the aims and tasks of the Ambassadors within the network could be:

- **Inspiration and engagement:**
 - raise awareness on Open Science (in their specific domain)
 - share best practice and experience at their respective universities and disciplines
 - promote Open Science at their respective universities
 - act as a point of first contact for interested researchers at their respective universities

- **Implementation and development:**
 - give recommendations and advice to responsible people at their respective universities and Arqus boards on the needs of researchers regarding Open Science
 - improve and discuss institutional OS strategies and the Arqus strategy on Open Science and its development, e.g. revising the Arqus Openness Position Paper, contribute to the development of an Open Science policy etc.

- **Expert pool:**
 - support the development of Open Science specific content at their respective universities and within the Alliance, e.g. training materials, OS-website/-blog, knowledge pills, podcast etc.
 - give advice on Open Science in academic teaching, open research agenda setting, publication etc. to researchers and multipliers
 - work as a community of practice in Arqus 2

Since the network is aimed to be a long-lasting initiative, the members of the group are free to discuss further developments and other aims and tasks.

2.2 Building the Network

In March and April 2023, WP5 published a [call](#) on the Arqus website and social media platforms asking for expressions of interest to become a member of the Open Science Ambassador Network. In addition, WP5 members adopted various recruitment strategies at their respective universities, ranging from the use of networks and mailing lists to nomination of candidates by university leaders.

Applicants filled in a standardised form describing their research interests and Open Science experience. Required criteria for inclusion in the network were strong motivation to promote Open Science, significant experience in one or more Open Science areas as well as knowledge of Open Science initiatives, networks and infrastructures.

In total, 25 applications from interested researchers from all Arqus universities reached the WP leaders by the end of April 2023. After closing the call, the WP leaders selected a group of 19 people (9 female, 10 male) from seven Arqus universities as the initial network group. Six candidates were rejected, because they did not have enough Open Science experience or were not affiliated to one of the Arqus universities.

The research interests of the candidates cover the three major interdisciplinary research priorities in Arqus: Climate change and environmental sustainability, artificial intelligence and digital transformation as well as European identity and heritage. In addition, the ambassadors` research interests focus on computer science, human technology interaction, rights in the digital age, environmental system science, landscape ecology, ocean energy, science communication, physics and neuroscience and some more.

The Ambassadors` experience in Open Science covers a wide range of topics, especially advocacy for Open Science and reproducibility, participation in Open Science networks, training and education including open educational resources, citizen science and science communication as well as open publishing including preregistration and open peer review, open data and software.

The 19 candidates were invited to the Kick-off meeting which took place on 31st May 2023.

2.3 Kick-off Meeting

The [Kick-off meeting of the Arqus Open Science Ambassador Network](#) took place online on 31st May 2023. In total, 16 candidates joined the meeting together with five members of WP5 and the Arqus coordination team. The first meeting focused on getting to know each other and on the motivation to be part of the Open Science Ambassador Network. The WP5 leaders gave insights into the structure of Arqus and its R.I. project as well as the work of WP5 so far. The Ambassadors were informed about the survey results on the status quo of current Open Science practice at the partner universities and about the related recommendations report on enhancing openness in the Arqus Alliance (Deliverable 5.1). The Ambassadors were also informed on the tasks, in which they will be involved in 2023. Furthermore, they were asked to fill in an informed consent form for the use of their pictures and contact details on the Arqus website. The submission of this form is at the same time connected with binding willingness to be an official member of the network.

2.4 Outlook and further development

The Open Science Ambassador Network is a group of Open Science enthusiasts, who are working together in order to promote Open Science, share best practices and give advice when

needed at their respective universities and in the Arqus alliance. In 2023, they will receive organisational support and be involved in the work of WP5. They will be involved in the development of Open Science training materials, e.g. through the production of video statements, and of the Open Science skills matrix, where their expertise and experience in skills needed to incorporate openness into research processes will be very welcome. Next to that, WP5 will provide information about Open Science on the Arqus website, which will also be used to officially present and promote the Ambassador network. For this, the network members will be asked for their contribution.

From 2024 on, the network will be incorporated into WP03 as a Community of Practice and will be more self-organising. The question of how to implement the network in the long-term perspective of the Arqus Alliance will be discussed with the responsible committees and groups. WP5 will act as an intermediate to hand over the network to the following project.

In general, the network will be open to other candidates, who are interested in joining and acting as ambassadors for Open Science at their universities as well as in the Arqus alliance.

3. List of Ambassadors

This list contains the names of all candidates for the network and their respective universities. The named ambassadors gave their consent to publish their name and contact information on the Arqus website.

Name	University	E-Mail
Pablo García Sánchez	Granada	pablogarcia@ugr.es
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