

# FAQ and common misconceptions regarding Open Science

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**“BE OPEN meets OSCAR” - Open Science Collaboration: Joint event | 16th June**

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This project has received funding from  
the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme  
under Grant Agreement No 824323 and Grant Agreement No 824350



# FAQ's Open Science

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What does Open Science include? Let's explore some common used words:

**Open Access:** freely accessible publications for everybody via: gold and green Open Access

**Open Data** is the practice of opening your data (e.g. measurement data) as unlimited as possible to as many people as possible. The best practice is to commit to the **FAIR** – principles when it comes to sharing data. Your data should be **F**indable, **A**ccesible, **I**nteroperable and **R**eusable.

**Open Source (Software)** is the practice of sharing the source code of your software freely with everybody. The open source practice is about releasing your source code under a free licence that allows others to **use, adapt and redistribute** your software **freely**.

**Open Methodology:** transparency regarding the uniform laboratory processes e.g., lab work.

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## Does Open Access equals Open Science?

**No!** Open access is a subcategory of open science. It is a common misunderstanding, that it basically means the same, but open access mainly describes the concept of having free information for everybody. A very popular example is the free access to research papers.

Open Science is much more than open access, it is a way of conducting science and research. It would be wrong to reduce it to open access, as it would leave out a lot of other powerful open science practices.

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## **Does Open Science contradict intellectual property?**

Doing research by following the open science methodology does **not** mean that you give up your IP rights. In fact, it is a misunderstanding, that open science and IPR have a direct correlation to each other. They are two sperate topics. They are two different topics and are well compatible with each other. You can be assured, that you will keep the copyrights of your creations, even if you share your knowledge with the community. It is essential that people understand that they also do not have to share every last detail of their work. The EU emphasises that the motto should be *"As open as possible, as closed as necessary"*.

## **Does Open Access means that I have no property rights on my publications?**

**No!** Open Access means publishing your work in a way that everybody has access to it. It means that you are allowing people to see your work, but **not** to copy it and sell or use it commercially without your permission.

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**When I apply to a EU-funded project, do I have to fully open all of my reserach?**

Not yet. The EU comission in not forcing the projects to open up their project related research. Please followup with the next presentation.

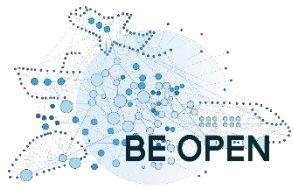
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**I heard that Open Science and open access leads to a lower quality of research results. Is that true?**

**No!** This is one of the most unfortunate misconceptions that exist when thinking about open science. The fact is, that Open Science leads to more quality. Open science itself is a methodology that should be implemented in the good scientific practice anyway. Good scientific practices like being transparent regarding your methods does **not** diminish the quality of your research. On the contrary, the more people have access to research methods and results, the more they will be downloaded, used, discussed and improved. This leads to multiple proof of your results and concepts. Poor quality of research would be revealed fast.

What definitely leads to a low quality of research and publications is the rise of *predatory journals*. Those fake journals are often missusing the Open Access quality label. They have nothing to do with good scientific practices or Open Access, as they do not have peer review or any kind of quality control in place. They also demand horrendous APCs from authors.



**Thank you for your attention!**

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