FOSTER Plus project - Fostering the practical implementation of Open Science in Horizon 2020 and beyond

While general awareness of Open Science (OS) approaches has greatly improved among researchers, there is still a lack of practical guidance and training to help researchers learn how to open up their research processes and ensure access to their data and results.

The EU-funded project FOSTER Plus (2017-2019) supports researchers to move beyond simply being aware of OS approaches to being able to apply them in their daily workflows. Building on the existing FOSTER portal and training materials, FOSTER develops more advanced-level and discipline-specific materials that build capacity for the practical implementation of OS and promote a change in culture.

FOSTER provides two key training resources: An Open Science Training Handbook in order to extend OS training capacity and an Open Science E-Learning Course/toolkit to enable researchers putting OS into practice.

The handbook was created by experienced OS trainers and equips future trainers with methods, instructions, exemplary training outlines and inspiration for their own OS trainings. It provides OS advocates across the globe with practical know-how to deliver OS principles to researchers and support staff within their own institutions.

The e-learning course is in particular targeted towards early career researchers. It provides a set of modules addressing key OS topics. The resource does not provide comprehensive coverage of all possible issues that may fall under a given module but rather provides focussed, practical and, where relevant, discipline specific examples to try and answer some of the burning questions researchers have about practicing OS. Modules include interactive content to ensure the training is engaging and that capability can be assessed for issue of a badge upon completion.

The modules we are developing include: What is open science?; Best practices in open research; Ethics and data protection; Open access publishing; Open peer review; Open research data; Open source software and workflows; Open innovation and licensing.

In addition to the nine stand-alone modules listed, there are learning pathways through the module content to help researchers to hone their skills in specific areas, such as the reproducible research practitioner, the responsible data sharer, the open peer reviewer, the open access author and the open innovator are in development.

We are reusing training content deposited with the FOSTER portal during the first phase of the project (2014-2016) and working with our discipline specific partners representing the arts and humanities, social sciences, and life sciences to provide relevant examples. All content will be openly licensed and easy to download / reuse. They will be accessible via the FOSTER portal (www.fosteropenscience.eu).

Both training resources, the e-learning course and the handbook, are living materials: They can be extended with additional modules or new chapters over the longer term. Apart from developing these training resources, a Train the Trainers Bootcamp will be conducted in April 2018 to convene a cohort of trainers with high multiplier potential and equip them with skills and materials to deliver OS training. This is how a sustainable use of the new FOSTER resources will be ensured.

Contact Details
Helene Brinken
Project Officer FOSTER Plus,
Electronic Publishing, University of Goettingen
brinken@sub.uni-goettingen.de

Project Details
FOSTER Plus (Fostering the practical implementation of Open Science in Horizon 2020 and beyond)
www.fosteropenscience.eu
Facebook: fosteropenscience
Twitter: @fosterscience