UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA OPEN SCIENCE POLICY

General

1. The aim of the University of Latvia's (hereinafter – UL) Open Science Policy (hereinafter – the Policy) is to define the fundamental principles according to which UL ensures broad public access to research results, promotes public involvement in research processes, strengthens the understanding of open science principles, and facilitates UL's integration into European and global scientific ecosystems and resources (such as the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure (ESFRI), etc.).

2. This Policy springs from the mission, vision, and values of UL as defined in the UL Constitution and the UL Strategy for 2021–2027. It also draws upon "Latvian Open Science Strategy 2021-2027" [1], the regulatory framework and policy planning documents of the Republic of Latvia[2,3,4], the requirements set forth by the European Union[5], and the recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)[6] and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)[7].

3. Openness is one of the fundamental values of the UL, as outlined in its Strategy for 2021–2027. In line with this principle, UL supports sustainable innovation, fosters collaboration, and develops new approaches aimed at strengthening the excellence of UL's scientific work, promoting science-based development, and enhancing the societal impact of science. Consistent with this core value, UL actively supports integration of open science approaches in all its activities.

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[1] Latvian Open Science Strategy 2021-2027. https://www.izm.gov.lv/en/media/17072/download?attachment
[2] Law on Scientific Activity. https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/107337-law-on-scientific-activity
[3] Regarding Guidelines for Science, Technology Development, and Innovation 2021-2027. https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/322468-regarding-guidelines-for-science-technology-development-and-innovation-20212027
[4] Guidelines for Digital Transformation 2021-2027 (available only in Latvian). https://likumi.lv/ta/id/324715-par-digitalas-transformacijas-pamatnostadnem-20212027-gadam
[5] Open science in Horizon Europe. https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en
[6] UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949
[7] Recommendation of the Council concerning Access to Research Data from Public Funding. https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0347

4. The open science approach improves the quality and integrity of science, stimulates collaboration, public engagement, knowledge transfer, and innovation, and broadens the accessibility and reusability of research results. At the same time, the open science approach is implemented while respecting academic freedom, honesty, and ethics, as well as intellectual property rights, personal data protection, and the protection of commercial information.

Core principles

5. The results of publicly funded UL research projects, such as publications, data sets or software, must be made publicly available along with relevant metadata[1] and documentation. Once published, these resources must:

    5.1.   have a persistent identifier[1]

    5.2.   have an appropriate open license[1], which permits free use in any way that does not contradict legal regulations

    5.3.   be compliant with FAIR[1] principles (they must be findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable)

    5.4.   follow the guiding principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary".

6. The Policy is implemented in the following areas:

    6.1.   open access[1] to scientific publications

    6.2.   open access to research data

    6.3.   open-source software created during the research process

    6.4.   citizen science[1].

7. The Policy is binding on all UL institutions and administrative units that are involved in execution or support of research activities within UL.

8. The Policy is binding in all cases where research is financed with public funds. In cases where the research funder has set different requirements for the accessibility of results, the conditions set by the funder shall prevail over this Policy. In cases where the research is funded by a private entity, the application of the Policy is determined by agreement with the research funder.

Implementation

9. UL creates and sustains an internal system for motivating and supporting scientific work that stimulates the use of the open science approach and provides support for its broader application in the development and implementation of Latvian national science policy.

10. In collaboration with its partners, the UL creates an open science infrastructure that ensures the implementation of the Policy and guarantees the long-term preservation and accessibility of research results, including maintaining the following resources within international scientific information systems:

    10.1.   institutional repository[1] for research publications

    10.2.   research data repository

    10.3.   platform for preparing and publishing scientific journals in open access.

11. UL encourages researchers to primarily use the open science infrastructure maintained by UL for publishing scientific publications, research data, and open-source software, unless other repositories are more appropriate for the specific nature of a particular field, study, or type of research result.

12. UL provides researchers with the necessary support for the practical implementation of open science principles in their research work, including developing guidelines, organizing educational events, and offering consultations and practical support services.

13. UL develops guidelines for research data and open-source code management and dissemination, as well as guidelines for citizen science. UL follows the goals and principles set out in this Policy for other open science-related areas as well.

14. UL constantly evaluates the progress of the implementation of the Policy. Based on the evaluation results, UL reviews the Policy and its implementation plan.

15. The Department of Science is primarily responsible for the implementation of the Policy, in collaboration with other LU institutions.