BUILDING SKILLS FOR OPEN SCIENCE

University of Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE)
Dejana Carić, Iva Vidović, Draženko Celjak

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE:

In 2025, Croatia adopted the Croatian Open Science Plan, which provides recommendations and actions for implementing Open Science in line with UNESCO, European Commission, and OECD recommendation. The Plan addresses key areas including Open Access to publications, open research data, Open Science infrastructure, research assessment, and the development of skills and support for Open Science. However, Croatia still lacks a formal, nationally organised education programme for data stewards and information specialists, while training in Research Data Management (RDM) and Open Science is mainly provided through standalone initiatives. The Plan [1] therefore recommends to "regularly organise training for scientists to ensure they are familiar with the principles of Open Science, recognise the benefits of applying these principles in the research process, and actively participate in their implementation". It further states that "libraries within the science and higher education system, together with national service providers and research funders, provide guidance to the Croatian research community on matters related to Open Access and Research Data Management".

University of Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE) addresses these needs through two complementary frameworks:

- **SRCE Academy** - provides structured educational packages for institutions and supports staff training planning
- **SRCE's educational programmes** - enables individuals to choose learning opportunities according to their own needs

Within these frameworks, SRCE offers e-courses on Open Science, Research Data Management and FAIR principles, complemented by courses in Advanced Computing, Programming, Statistics and Data Analysis. The courses are tailored to the Croatian Open Science and Advanced Computing Infrastructure, as well as the national policy environment.

In **2026**, the **Open Science courses** will be revised and redesigned to keep them aligned with developments in national infrastructure and the Croatian Open Science Plan, while making the learning experience more engaging, consistent and easier to follow.

COURSES:

Research Data Management

- Publishing and Reusing Research Data
- Managing Personal and Sensitive Research Data
- Documentation and Storage of Research Data
- File Naming, Organisation, Versioning and Data Formats
- FAIR Principles for Research Data
- Introduction to Research Data Management

P200

Documentation and Anonymization of Research Data

- Anonymisation of Research Data
- Documenting Research Data
- Creating a Data Management Plan

P250

Research Data Management

- Open Licensing of Research Outputs
- Research Outputs and Dissemination
- Anonymisation of Research Data
- Documenting Research Data
- Creating a Data Management Plan
- Publishing and Reusing Research Data
- Managing Personal and Sensitive Research Data
- Documentation and Storage of Research Data
- File Naming, Organisation, Versioning, Data Formats
- FAIR Principles for Research Data
- Introduction to Research Data Management

RDM

Open Science and Licensing of Research Results

- Open Licensing of Research Outputs
- Research Outputs and Dissemination
- Open Science

P300

Open Science

- Open Research Practice
- Open Science Foundation

Research Software Management Theory and Practice

- Software Management Plan
- Archiving & Citation
- Software Licensing
- Documentation & Metadata
- Quality Assurance
- Git & Version Control
- Versioning
- Software Management
- FAIR4RS
- Introduction to Research Software

NEW

REDESIGN FOCUS:

- updating course content and structure
- aligning content with current Open Science and RDM policies and guidelines
- standardising the presentation of learning materials
- creating smoother transitions between course units
- adding more practical examples
- adapting materials to different learning styles
- introducing more interactive learning elements

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PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS:

SRCE in collaboration with:

- National and University Library in Zagreb
- University of Rijeka Library
- University Library of Split
- City and University Library in Osijek
- Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)

SOURCE: [1] https://mzom.gov.hr/UserDocsImages//dokumenti/Znanost/Otvorena-znanost//croatian-open-science-plan-revised-mzom-eng.pdf#page=19&zoom=100,92,352