Policy Update

Policy Component 1: Open Access to Research Data

The glossary used in the policy component can be found in the published version of the policy (link). The glossary is not subject to consultation.

Introduction to the Policy Component

This national policy component serves as a shared guide for the Finnish research community to promote open access to research data. It does not apply to other research materials or methods, which can be addressed in separate policy components according to the policy framework.

The policy component on open access to research data primarily applies to research data produced or used as part of research or development processes starting on or after July 1, 2021, in the following cases:
- The researcher is employed by or affiliated with a Finnish research organisation and/or funded by a Finnish research funder.
- The research or development project that collects or uses the research data is hosted by a Finnish research organisation and/or funded by a Finnish research funder.

The measures do not prescribe how organisations should address these issues, leaving research organisations to design solutions based on their specific contexts. Organisations can implement solutions either independently or in collaboration with other actors.

Objective 1

Research organisations have established and assigned strategic management and decision-making responsibilities at organisational level for research data management.

Actions:
- The research organisation ensures that the division of responsibilities and decision-making processes related to research data management and the provision of related services are clear and transparent.

Objective 2

Research organisations promote openness and responsible management of research data by creating incentives and metrics.

Actions:
- Research organisations actively develop incentives to enable the publication and reuse of research data.
- Research organisations develop monitoring of responsible data management.

Objective 3

Every research and development project prepares a data management plan that accounts for all stages of the research data lifecycle.

Actions:
- The research organisation integrates the preparation and updating of data management plans into its research and service processes and leverages information from continuously updated and machine-readable DMPs in these processes.
- The research organisation provides training on data management tailored to the needs of its community, including students, researchers at all career stages, research, development, and innovation staff, teachers, and thesis supervisors.
- As part of their supervisory role, thesis supervisors evaluate and provide feedback on data management plans.
- The research organisation supports research planning to anticipate data management costs.

Objective 4

The rights and responsibilities associated with the use of research data must be clearly agreed upon by all parties involved in the research.

Actions:
- The research organisation establishes clear and consistent principles and practices, such as a contractual framework for agreeing rights and responsibilities for data generated by research. These practices support researchers in operating and collaborating nationally and internationally.
- The research organisation provides guidelines, training, and advice on rights and licenses related to research data.
- Research organisations provide guidance on how to cite research data and require citations to research data used in publications in their publication guidelines.
- Data preservation services (data repositories, data catalogues, data archives, etc.) provided by research organisations include instructions on how to cite research data stored within them.

Objective 5

Research data produced in research and development projects and its lifecycle must be documented so that metadata supports the verification of research data and results, as well as the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reuse research data in accordance with FAIR principles.

Actions:
- The research organisation supports researchers in selecting and valuing data to be preserved.
- The research organisation supports the documentation of research data, reproducibility of research, and metadata production by providing adequate services, guidelines, and training.

- The research organisation supports research planning to allocate resources for data documentation within research projects.
- The research organisation develops incentives for the production, documentation, and openness of valuable data.

Objective 6

Research organisations provide appropriate technical solutions and related services for research data management either independently or in collaboration with national and international actors.

Actions:
- The research organisation provides storage and preservation solutions that take into account the lifecycle of research data, as well as infrastructures and services that support data processing.
- Organisations will use relevant reference architectures, such as the Open Science and Research and Data Management reference architectures, to develop the framework described in the previous action.
- The research organisation provides clear guidance and sufficient support services for the handling, documentation, storage, preservation, and sharing of research data in line with good data management principles.

Objective 7

Research organisations engage in multidisciplinary collaboration to develop training, skills, and necessary data management services.

Actions:
- The research organisation develops expertise, practices, and services through national and international collaboration.
- The research organisation describes the expert roles and job descriptions needed within its organisation and creates career paths for these roles. Data management expertise is recognised and acknowledged.
- Higher education institutions provide training for data management experts or enable participation in such training.