

CONCEPT NOTE OF PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH EVENT

A Collaborative Initiative for Open Science Advocacy and Awareness Raising
by Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), Training Centre in Communication (TCC
Africa), and Public Library of Science (PLOS)

Background information, Open Science / Open Access in Northern Africa

Northern Africa is gradually adopting the Open Science movement. Several initiatives are looking at different aspects of Open Science, with Open Access being prevalent. Despite the advancements, engaging with the research community, policymakers, and the public is crucial for ensuring that open science benefits are adequately communicated and embraced.

As defined by the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, [Open Science](#) is an inclusive construct that combines various movements and practices aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible, and reusable for everyone to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefit of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation, and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community.

Objectives of the event

- Officially announce the partnership and its main goal.
- Raise awareness of Open Science principles and practices and their impact.
- Foster dialogue and collaboration among open science stakeholders. Institutional leaders, regional and supranational entities, researchers, funders, publishers, and policymakers.
- Present the partnership's roadmap and initial activities.

Key Highlights

- Remarks from distinguished speakers from important local, regional, and international organizations, Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC), Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), Bibliotheca Alexandria (BA), Africa Open Science Platform North Africa (AOSP-NA) and East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO).
- Presentation of the partnership's mission and action plan.
- Exchange information for follow-up and networking possibilities to expand collaboration opportunities.

Target Audience

- Researchers and academics.
- Open Science advocates and publishers.

- Policymakers, funders, and institutional leaders.
- Representatives from libraries, repositories, and infrastructures.

PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP LAUNCH ASREN, TCC AFRICA AND PLOS

DATE: 26th February 2025

TIME: 9 AM GMT

HOSTED/FACILITATED BY: PLOS, ARAB STATES RESEARCH EDUCATION NETWORK (ASREN)AND TRAINING CENTRE IN COMMUNICATION (TCC AFRICA)

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER	TITLE
9:00 AM- 9:05 AM	OPENING SPEECH and KEYNOTE	Joy Owango Training Centre in Communication (TCC AFRICA)	• Overview of the Forum & Objectives • Welcoming the partners
9:05 AM- 9:20 AM	KEYNOTE: Why open science is essential (perspective from North Africa)	Yousef Torman Managing Director- Arab States Research Education Network (ASREN)	The Role of Open Science in Advancing Research and Innovation.
9:20 AM- 9:35 AM	KEYNOTE: Research Funding & Open Access in the Arab Region	Prof Ahmed Fahal MBBS, Deputy President, of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils.	Research funding and open access in the Arab region, key challenges, opportunities, and their impact on scientific collaboration and innovation.
9:35 AM- 9:50 AM	KEYNOTE: Regional Insights on Open Science	Dr. Sylvance Okoth East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO)	Open Science in East Africa: Challenges & Opportunities (Video Recording)
9:50 AM - 10:05 AM	KEYNOTE: Bridging Continents Through Open Science	Roheena Anand (Executive director, Global Publishing PLOS)	Increasing Equitable Participation in Open Science
10:05 AM - 10:10 AM	BREAK		
10:10 AM- 10:25 AM	KEYNOTE:	Dr. Rania Osman Head of Information Institutions and professional Skills Department Bibliotheca Alexandria (BA)	The Role of Libraries in Open Science
10:25 AM- 10:40 AM	KEYNOTE:	Synchrotron-light for Experimental	Open Science at SESAME

		Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) Salaman Matalgah (Scientific Computing & Systems Com. team leader) Mustafa AlZoubi (Data Collection & Analysis Team Leader)	
10:40 AM- 10:55 AM	KEYNOTE	Dr.Rania Elsayed Ibrahim (Lead Scientist, AOSP- North Africa Regional Node)	Introducing Africa Open Science Platform- North Africa Node
10:55 AM- 11:10 AM	KEYNOTE: Partnership Launch:	ASREN and TCC Yousef Torman(ASREN) and Joy Owango (TCC Africa)	Partnership Road Map and Initial Activities
11:10 AM- 11:25 AM	KEYNOTE:	Raed Al-Zoubi (Open Science Expert ASREN)	ASREN's Journey in Open Science
11:25 AM- 11:50 AM	PANEL DISCUSSION Give your responses here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FgDX_Cv0WHH_6Hbj9ZL-a-GRiUK6qIO9ADs-i8SmYII/edit?usp=sharing		From our last event in North Africa in October 2022 participants articulated plans to advance Open Science through outreach initiatives, incentivization strategies, and policy reform. 1. How do you perceive North Africa's advancements in these directions? 2. What is it still needed to succeed in these reforms? 3. What collaborations is your institution looking for to advance its plans for Open Science?
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MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERS

Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN)

Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) is the association of the Arab region National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), as well as their strategic partners, that aims to implement,

manage and extend sustainable Pan-Arab e-Infrastructures dedicated for the Research and Education communities and to boost scientific research and cooperation in member countries through the provision of world-class e-infrastructures and e-services.

The Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa)

The Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa), is the first African-based training center to teach effective communication skills to scientists. TCC Africa is an award winning Trust, established as a non-profit entity in 2006 and is registered in Kenya. TCC Africa provides capacity support in improving researchers output and visibility through training in scholarly and science communication.

Public Library of Science (PLOS)

PLOS is a non-profit organization on a mission to drive open science forward with measurable, meaningful change in research publishing, policy, and practice. We believe in a better future where science is open to all, for all.

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