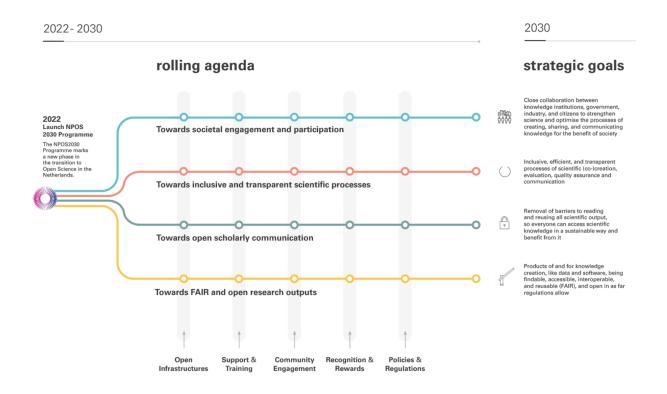# OSC-NL Feedback on NPOS Rolling Agenda

Dear OSC members,

In this document you can provide your (collective) feedback on the NPOS Rolling Agenda V0.1. This document consists of three sections, following the structure of the NPOS Rolling Agenda (see image below):

- General Feedback
- Feedback per Action Line
- Feedback per Requirement

If you agree with feedback that has been provided by others, please add '+1' at the end of the feedback

If you want to stay informed of further developments regarding the NPOS Rolling Agenda, please enter your name and email address in the table at the bottom of this document, or send an email to loek.brinkman@dans.knaw.nl

1. General feedback

- I would like to see some examples of diverse and inclusive minority groups. +1
- I would like to see a stronger vision on the current publishing climate, specifically the lack of transparent/open peer review.
- For administration of OSCs , I feel the need of Code of ethics/code of practice , and it would be fine to have National OS festivals (country wise)
- "On relevant stakeholders". Is there a mechanism to assign new roles to new stakeholders which emerge in the process?
- …0.3 funding instruments. Maybe add funding instruments to the 'professionalization and maintenance of research software'? The e-science center is partly doing this but I think it's important to move (some) research software (not always nice to use) to a state which is more attractive for non-science stakeholders (e.g. add documentation, refactoring, etc.) This topic may also fit in "3. Towards Open Scholarly Communication" or 4.6
- Relatie NPOS en lokale OS programma's is onduidelijk
- 0.4: it is not clear who will monitor and evaluate the open science practices and who is meant here (researchers? universities?). Are meta-researchers meant to evaluate researchers about open science practices? Or is NPOS evaluating open science practices from universities?
- 1.5: Citizen science should be one part of the university research but not all disciplines/research can be involved with citizen science, we also need fundamental research. Without fundamental research, researchers cannot solve societal problems. End the last sentence with "and novel methods/theories." (I would like the phrasing: "which are in balance with fundamental work and novel methods/theories.") +1
- 2.1 "Good practices are collected and shared". Is the idea to create training and workshop materials for researchers across disciplines (concerning replication and reproducibility)? And is there R&R for these practices (e.g. for doing a replication or reproduction study).
- 2.3 It is a bit weird to share grant applications? There is no consensus about making grant applications openly accessible
- 2.4 Moeten publishers zich ook confirmeren
- 2.5 Explicitly mention PhD candidates in the list
- 3: is a national public platform only meant for scientific publications or also for other output (data, materials, preregistrations)? Is this platform meant to be a national initiative or is each university setting this up themselves?
- 3.3 Green route is not making a difference, we need full open access
- We are a bit worried that the NPOS funds will be targeted mainly towards DCCs and technical solutions (based on objectives 4) instead of research processes, openness and transparency.
- We are missing focus on Team Science! An example of where this can be emphasised more, is 4.8, where it is stated that "all researchers are optimally equipped to use, develop, share and benefit from open research software", I fear that if we all need to be good at data and software, we will all do a 'so so' job – why not see the professionals like the data stewards as part of our team? Another example is that indirect contribution (which are often things

like helping someone with their code, data management etc.) should be rewarded and recognized too. Think of a perfect constellation of a team; we cannot all be the 'excellent researcher' that can do every aspect of the work themselves excellently. +1

- 4.10 is unclear: Research Software needs to be defined: software as output, or also (commercial) software used (and for that matter, does it include statistical software (Matlab/SPSS) or even operating systems?)
- There are a lot of ambitious and commendable objectives described but what I'm missing is an indication of who will be responsible/in charge of making this happen. Could this be clarified wherever possible? Would universities need to hire new personnel to lead these initiatives? And if so, how would that get funded? This is only mentioned to some extent for the 4th strategic goal.
- Both the more technical aspects that may be more in reach of policy (data, software, OA) and the more day to day aspects that are in the hands of the scholars should have a good balance. This includes more emphasis on the process (although it is already great that 'research outputs' are now mentioned instead of just data and publications, so keep up the words like logbook, labnotes, transparent methods, analysis plans), but also emphasis on open governance (can our leaders be transparent in why they give certain policies? More info on the 'why' of open science is still needed in a large group, before they accept this as the norm. Transparent and inclusive decision making helps with this.
- It is not clear to me how these strategies can relate to bigger societal challenges: i.e. energy crisis, digital divide, climate change? These have to be mentioned in the document if one addresses societal impact and citizen engagement.
- If this agenda is 'adopted', how will we evaluate it in terms of whether local universities are aiming for the same goals, do they have to report back in some way (if they get money, for instance)?
- In general the Rolling Agenda is addressing the most important points and providing realistic timelines/expectations, and a promise of financial support! I think it is wonderful that there will be more funding to hire more data stewards and research software engineers. Nevertheless, these roles need to be better embedded in the system (as also argued above with placing more focus on Team Science). Other than point 4.10 there is little attention in this agenda and in the Recognition and Reward programme on how to recognise support staff for their efforts. This was mentioned multiple times during the recent Open Science Festival as a point of attention and I'd like to see this reflected in the Rolling Agenda - starting by the inclusion of research data support staff in 4.3. For other suggestions, please see this preprint (Esther to add link).
- To what extent is the agenda supporting open practices in NL; and to what extent is trying to create an impact on a wider scale. Many of the reasons for pursuing a more equitable form of Open Access might not benefit the NL directly, but will have a positive impact on the Global South (AD)
- Read as headlines 3 and 4 overlap. 'Open research output' is part of 'open scholarly communication' → yet just opening outputs is not enough if you don't also add relevant meta-data, communication in clear terms so it is accessible to all, read-me's for re-use, science communication etc.

- **Explicitly stating aspects that fall under citizen science in the action lines now is very good, with just 'citizen science' you lose some of the granularity. We like the idea of mentioning aspects that are more 'higher level principles' over different strategic goals (societal engagement, participation, inclusive transparent processes, open scholarly communication), and including the term 'citizen science' in specific objectives as is done now. Perhaps in the objectives the aspects of accountability and anticipation (of how research etc affects different elements of the population) can aso be mentioned.**
- **Where is Open Education??**
- **OS in education → more ambitious (2025?) stronger push!**
- **Integration of support staff (software engineers, data stewards) and researchers → involve OSCs!**
- **Where is Team Science (including support staff, e.g. in 4.8, researchers cannot be good at everything themselves, they need to have diverse roles that complement each other (else we'll all be 'so so' data managers), they need to see support staff who are experts at using, developing, sharing software and data as part of the team)**
- **Tension between centralised and decentralised solutions, also Dutch versus cross-border solutions**
- **Include rationales for requirements**
- **Requirements look like a timeline, which is of course not the case. All requirements run in parallel.**
- **Ambitie document is ambitieuzer op het gebied van publishing dan de Rolling Agenda**
- **Matchen lokaal en nationaal geld, maar hoeft niet nu in rolling doc**

2. Feedback per Action Line

Feedback on Overarching Objectives (please refer to objectives 0.1-0.6 in your feedback)

- 0.5 Fantastic to hear that there will be support for Open Science Communities, and that they acknowledge there needs to be structural (does that mean from the university? Then make this explicit) financial support!
- How do these overarching objectives relate to bigger societal challenges: i.e. energy crisis, digitisation or digital divide, climate change?
- Specify what you mean with societal engagement and citizen science.
-
- …

Feedback on 1. Towards Societal Engagement and Participation (please refer to objectives 1.1-1.5 in your feedback)

- General comment: In the ambition document of NPOS a comment states that: "Consider Renaming Citizen Science into Citizen Engagement or Societal Engagement." I have not read or heard what was the consideration to make this profound switch to Towards Societal Engagement and Participation. If these considerations are not clear, then Citizen Science should be the programme line's name (NPOS accepted officially the report "Kennis en krachten gebundeld: CS in NL' (2020) - written in collaboration with KNAW - and this was the base for the 'programme line' Citizen Science). Citizen Science and Societal Engagement and Participation are related but are very different.
- Under the intro Rationale Societal Engagement and Participation the text should be adapted accordingly, and start with Citizen Science is an essential part of… The second paragraph should also start with Citizen Science instead of societal engagement and participation.
- local level research agendas if could be shared in advance via the societal engagement network will optimise efforts.
- It would be relevant to emphasise that Citizen Science can tackle the problem of Data Divide and the Digital Divide in society.
- In 1.4. to emphasise participatory urban planning, architecture and engagement in territorial development would be relevant.
- The balance between fundamental research and societal engagement is not specified.
- I am realising this document should stress topics that are still in need of more attention, but if OS will be the norm, then at this point, it reads like there is too much emphasis on societal engagement.
- The code of conduct has some nice principles, e.g. "*Responsibility also means conducting research that is scientifically and/or societally relevant."* I think not all research (fields) is equally suitable for societal engagement and participation, but it is suitable for conducting research responsibly in terms of deciding what to study (whether that be for scientific or societal reasons), researchers may not always have to ask the public about what to study (this may even backfire, e.g. if the public only wants us to cure cancer, who will study viruses for when a pandemic occurs, as was unfortunately understudied before covid), but researchers could indeed be more conscious of the value of the work they do.

- On page 3, clarify what RPOs, RFOs, and HEIs are
- What is meant with the quadruple helix under objective 1.3? This is not mentioned anywhere before
- This central online repository in objective 1.3, is this just meant for publications (as stated under 3.4) or also research data (associated with those publications)? What about existing data repositories such as Dataverse and Zenodo? Do they still play a part in this?

  In 2025, RPOs, RFOs, and HEIs recognize the value and impact of Citizen Science-approaches. Participatory and inclusive research practices are embedded as part of mainstream research, funding, education and innovation processes. Dedicated funding programmes and policy instruments serve to support and sustain Citizen Science initiatives at all scales in all domains of knowledge production and education.

- Objective 1.5 Replace Societal Engagement by Citizen Science.

Feedback on 2. Towards Inclusive and Transparent Scientific Processes (please refer to objectives 2.1-2.5 in your feedback)

- The focus now is on 'intermediate steps', which is nice. But in addition, it would be good to also stress the diversification of (recognised and rewarded) research outputs, in particular research software and contribution to societal engagement.
- 2.1 to the end of this sentence, '..for replication and reproduction.' add: ..' and other forms of verification.'
- Is the scope of 2.4 National? If so, how does this relate to policy/initiatives at EU level. It is not realistic to march 'too far in front of the troops'.
- Education on Open Science & Open Education are important topics, but more are a better fit with 'Line 0'.
- 2.1 sharing best-practices binnen OSCs, verankerd in policy
- "2.1 In 2025, replication and reproducibility of scientific claims are recognized and rewarded as crucial parts of the research process. Good practices are collected and shared, and dedicated funding instruments have been established for replication and reproduction." perhaps add to the end of this sentence: "for replication, reproduction, and other forms of verification or robustness checks"
- 2.3 grant applications is een heet hangijzer. Misschien hier even links laten liggen. Wellicht alleen de meta-data.
- 2.3 include preregistration
- 2.5 include PhD candidates
- In point 2.3: shouldn't the intermediate outputs also connect to the end output, i.e. the research data? And what is meant with notebooks? Lab notebooks? Important to be clear about that. In case of lab notebooks, a direct link with the research data resulting from the experimental setups described in there is very important.
- International level pioneer network during the project period to bring the open science collaborative approach known to all academia & industry as well
- 2.5 Why is the timeline set for 2030? This is one of the objectives that can be achieved earlier. If all the other objectives/ambitions are to be achieved it is very

important that master students (also PhD candidates and other staff) are already following training in 2027/2028. Implementation, roll out and effect of training can take a very long time so I think the time line should be more ambitious here.
- Please emphasise interdisciplinary research
- Promote digital lab notebooks
- Include action for Goal 2 on policy
- Structural funding for OSCs → NPOS vs institutional
- Kansen voor OSCs
- Wie heeft mandaat voor verschillende acties?
  - Risico: wie zorgt er voor dat Rectoren/decanen er achter staan.

Feedback on 3. Towards Open Scholarly Communication (please refer to objectives 3.1-3.4 in your feedback)

- Objective 3.2: "the digital infrastructure for scientific publications and metadata is sustainable and <u>preferably</u> open". I suggest that "preferably" is removed. I feel like this leaves it open to interpretation by publishers. +1
  - Alternatively, rephrase to "open by default".
- I'm missing a stance on freeing academia from the hold of commercial publishers, as was articulated in the Ambition Document. +1
- 3.2   "reuse and analysis by anyone" what is the stance on reuse by commercial entities (e.g. sell a derived product)? I can imagine there are situations where this is/is not desired. Maybe say by "anyone" -> "under the conditions of the license" (and maybe leave the door open for different license variants)
- 3.4 Making publications public does not immediately allow people to use it ….
  - Make more explicit how this will be achieved
- Only green route is not the way to go and the current gold OA route is too expensive
- Generally this section 3 is very cautiously written. It leaves a lot of room for publishers to keep the status quo up. As someone else said, this should be more progressive against conventional publishers.
- 3: terminology comment: what is an Open Access licence? I think this should be an open license?
- The rationele (above the objectives) mentions preprinting and preprint peer review, but the objectives themselves are less ambitious ("a harmonised multi-route approach (green, diamond, as well as gold Open Access) which emphasises sustainability, cost-effectiveness and public values"
- What roles can the universities play in Open Communication? Can the university presses play a bigger role? Can the Open Knowledge Base play a larger role and manage more than metadata but also the outputs themselves? Can the role of the https://openjournals.nl/ be extended to more than articles?
-
-

Feedback on 4. Towards FAIR and Open Research Outputs (please refer to objectives 4.1-4.10 in your feedback)

- I'm missing actions to stimulate reuse of research products
- 4.7 don't use the word 'Open Science Community' here, to prevent confusion. Alternatives: academic or research community.
- 4.10 I guess the goal is to develop standards/levels of 'reproducibility', because depending on the problem reproducibility may only go back to some extent (e.g. the anonymization of data cannot necessarily be reproduced because access to personal records may be prohibited.   Another example is that the reproducibility of some research results cannot be checked as they require massive high performance computing infrastructure and big data storage.
- 4.3 Nice to see % for FAIR data but what about % for (FAIR &)Open data
- 4.8 "all researchers"? What about team science? Equipped → supported +1
- 4.4: I miss financial support for discipline specific infrastructure here. This is currently one of the biggest gaps in concretely realising FAIR data. As disciplines are crossing national boundaries it is very complicated to support these initiatives that are already being developed by research communities without support (as maintaining a repository is not new/innovative which limits funding opportunities).
- 4.4: The 4TU repository could be included as an example, asking also how this could be engaging stronger with spatial and architectural data to feedback into point 1: Societal Engagement.
- 4.10: It is fantastic that research software support staff is mentioned here in terms of recognition and rewards! However, this is not the case for research data support staff. This should be added to 4.3 in a similar fashion as done in 4.10 (*Both research and support staff are recognized and rewarded for their active involvement in making data more FAIR*). Data Stewards/Data Managers/RSE's are in comparable situations and this should be reflected in this document!
- Objectives 4 relate closely to Objective 1. However, I miss the crosslinks between them (Citizen Science and FAIR data).

3. Feedback on Requirements
(please indicate how well each of the requirements have been addressed by the corresponding objectives)

1. Make Open Science possible through Open Infrastructures

- Lacks financial support for discipline specific infrastructure
- …
- …
- …

2. Make Open Science easy through Support & Training

- Here 4.3 is mentioned, while this point says nothing about support/training. If it is mentioned that research <u>and support staff</u> will be recognised for their efforts it could fall under support for Open Science.
- OSCs are not mentioned in these objectives, which signals that there should probably be another objective added somewhere that speaks to the role that OSCs can play in making it easy through educating the research community with community events and network function. (anna)
- The role of open education is not clear here. How could open education and teaching platforms serve / contribute to open science, and the other way around.
- 2.5 Both the universities and Open Science communities can work towards educating and training at all levels (from first year courses to staff to support staff), and this can start right away.
- …

3. Make Open Science normative through active Academic Community Engagement

- Same here, the role of open education has to be integrated in the whole requirement. How can citizen science / engagement benefit from models, platforms and practices of open education?
- Academic Community Engagement will only become active if and when they understand the principles of Open Science, and of FAIR data, open access and citizen science. This is not, yet, the case so investments/incentives need to be made to make this normative.
- …
- …

4. Make Open Science rewarding through incentives (Recognition & Rewards)

- "Both research and support staff are recognized and rewarded for their active involvement in the development, maintenance, and application of research software." add rewards for software review, refactoring and reproducibility experiments?
- Include research data support staff in recognition and rewards, not just the research software support staff.
- Citizen Science - as part of Open Science - needs other incentives than the 'traditional' ones in academia. Therefor, special educational modules in line with Recognition & Appreciation should be developed (change of mindset how Open Science should be rewarded)
- …
- …
- …

5. Make Open Science compulsory through Policies and Regulations

- In its Strategy 2023-2026, NWO states that conducting 'open' research with the help of citizens is crucial. At a national level, the minister of Education, Culture & Science embraced the advice of AWTI (Advisory board for science, technology and innovation) to highlight the importance of societal-driven demands with a specific role for Citizen Science. Engagement with society and citizens receive more prominence, as will transdisciplinary research (at the level of NWO). This part - Citizen Science - of Open Science needs special attention to be developed.
- … Er wordt goed benadrukt dat open science erkenning en waardering behoeft, maar 'policies and regulations' faciliteren ook de transitie naar een nieuw E&W systeem, met andere woorden, er zouden onder 'make OS compulsory through policies and regulations' ook concretere acties genoemd kunnen worden die E&W verankeren in beleid (denk aan ROG, promotie/bevorderingsregelementen, vacatures waarin OS principes worden verwerkt).
- …
- …

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