
AURORA

Open Science and Citizen Science: From Principles to Practices

Seminars, Workshop, Training Events (2025-2026)

Co-funded by the European Union

As part of the Aurora 2030 Work Package 10 "Open Science and Citizen Science", Task Team 10.2 announces a cycle of workshops, training events, and open seminars designed to foster awareness, skills, and discussion on the practical implementation of Open Science and Citizen Science across Aurora universities.

Running from **November 2025 to May 2026**, the series blends **structured learning, hands-on training, and thematic debates**. It is conceived as a coherent path to empower doctoral and master students, early-career researchers, and academic staff with the knowledge, competencies, and ethical awareness needed to integrate Open and Citizen Science practices in research and teaching.

Type of event	Topic	Date	Mode
Workshop	Best Practices in OS and CS	4th November 2025	Hybrid
Training Event 1	Research Data Management, FAIR, Ethics in CS	18th December 2025	Online

Training Event 2	Open-Source Software, Workflows, Licensing	23th January 2026	Online
Open Seminar 1	Open Data, Open Access in Teaching, CS in Higher Education	20th February 2026	Online
Training Event 3	OS in scholarly communication	26th March 2026	Online
Open Seminar 2	Legal and Ethical Challenges in OS and CS	16th April 2026	Online
Open Seminar 3	The role of OS and CS in AI and innovation	18th-21th May 2026	In-person (Aurora Annual Conference, Duisburg-Essen)

🔗 **Secure your spot:**

Register through the following link:

https://forms.office.com/e/5jE1J2PhKp?origin=lprLink

3rd Open Seminar

The role of Open and Citizen Science in AI and innovation

⏰ **Date:** 21 May 2026 (09:00–11:00 CET) 👥
Mode: Hybrid

Short Description

This last open seminar of the series examines the strategic role of Open Science in building AI-ready research ecosystems and the transformative potential of environmental DNA through Citizen Science, while adhering to FAIR principles. The session explores how bridging the gap between molecular biology and broader environmental monitoring can democratize scientific tools and foster a more sustainable future. The speakers will showcase practical strategies for navigating the challenges of data interoperability and participatory research, from high-level bioinformatics and "One Health" frameworks to local biodiversity assessment in schools.

Speakers:

- Maria Luisa Chiusano (UNINA), *From Molecules to Systems: towards a Holistic Perspective*
- Florian Leese (UDE), *Measuring Biodiversity, Shaping the Future: Why Environmental DNA Belongs in Schools and Citizen Science*

Chair: Roberto Delle Donne (UNINA)

💡 **WHY ATTEND? CORE TOPICS COVERED**

- **AI-Ready Research Ecosystems:** Discover how Open Science and FAIR principles drive the cultural and scientific shift toward high-quality, interoperable data, the essential foundation for trustworthy AI in life sciences and biotechnology.
- **Democratizing Biodiversity Science:** Learn how molecular tools like eDNA metabarcoding are being moved from high-level labs into schools and local communities, empowering the next generation of citizen scientists to monitor overlooked ecosystems.
- **From Molecules to Systems:** Explore the methodologies needed to bridge the gap between molecular biology and complex biological systems, fostering a holistic perspective linking ecosystem health with agriculture and sustainability.

📍 **Location:** LK 052 (ground floor), Lotharstraße 65 (UDE Campus, Duisburg)

🔗 **Access directly**: https://tinyurl.com/yc2pau5w

SPEAKERS



Maria Luisa Chiusano is a Professor of Molecular Biology who has spent years leading bioinformatics and data management services at the University of Naples Federico II. With an extensive background in omics sciences and over 100 peer-reviewed publications, she has coordinated numerous international consortia and developed essential biological databases. Now, as an expert involved in major European infrastructures like ELIXIR and the EOSC ecosystem, she supports the scientific community by promoting FAIR data engagement and managing complex data across health and environmental domains. She has

been collaborating with Aurora since 2025, bringing her passion as a "data lover" scientist and educator to the network.



Florian Leese is a Professor of Aquatic Ecosystem Research who leads a specialist group in biodiversity monitoring at the University of Duisburg-Essen. For several years, he has coordinated DNAqua-Net, building one of Europe's largest networks of scientists and practitioners to advance DNA-based bioassessment. Now, by leading international standardization efforts within ISO and CEN, he supports regulators and the scientific community in translating genomic research into official environmental protocols. He is a key contributor to European initiatives like DNAquaIMG and is dedicated to making science accessible through citizen science and public engagement.