

Policy component 1: Open access to research data

This national policy component is the Finnish research community's shared guideline for the advancement of open access to research data. The policy component does not include other research materials such as samples or research methods, which, in accordance with the policy structure, may be addressed in their own policy components.

As stated in the first version of the policy in 2021, the policy component on open access to research data primarily concerns research data that has been produced or used as part of a research or development process as of 1 July 2021, and

- where the researcher is working in or is affiliated with a Finnish research organisation and/or is funded by a Finnish research funding organisation, or
- where the research or development project involving the compilation or use of the research data takes place in a Finnish research organisation and/or is funded by a Finnish research funding organisation.

The objectives and actions presented in this policy do not only concern the opening of research data, but focus on responsible data management throughout the lifecycle of research data. The policy covers all types of research data, including personal or confidential data that cannot be shared openly.

Research organisations plan the overall management of research data according to their own starting points and implement solutions either independently or in collaboration with other actors.

Objective 1

Research organisations have organised, structured and assigned responsibility for the strategic management of research data management and decision-making at organisational level.

Actions

- The research organisation ensures that responsibilities and decision-making related to research data management and the production, use and development of data management services are clear and transparent.

Objective 2

Research organisations promote the openness, reuse and responsible management of research data by creating incentives and monitoring mechanisms.

Actions

The research organisation:

- actively develops incentives to enable the publication and reuse of research data.
- develops indicators and monitoring for responsible data management.

Objective 3

Each research and development project draws up a data management plan that covers all stages of the research data life cycle.

Actions

The research organisation:

- integrates the creation and updating of data management plans into its research and service processes and makes use of the information obtained from machine-readable, continuously updated plans.
- provides data management training, support and guidance tailored to the needs of its community to students and researchers, research, development and innovation staff, teachers and thesis supervisors at all career stages.
- ensures that thesis supervisors evaluate and comment on data management plans as part of their supervision work.
- supports research design so that the costs of data management can be anticipated.

Objective 4

The rights and responsibilities related to the use of research data must be clearly agreed upon by all participants in the research.

Actions

The research organisation:

- creates clear and consistent principles and practices, such as contract templates, for agreeing on the rights and responsibilities related to data produced in research. Contractual practices support the ability of researchers to work and collaborate nationally and internationally.
- provides guidance, training and support on legislation and licensing related to research data management.
- provides guidance on how to cite research data and requires citations to the research data used in research in its publication guidelines.
- ensures that its data storage services (such as data repositories, data catalogues, and data archives) provide guidance on how to cite the research data stored in them and how the terms of use are presented.

Objective 5

Research data produced in research and development projects and its life cycle are documented so that metadata supports the verification of research data and results, and the reuse, further use, findability, interoperability and accessibility of research data in accordance with the FAIR principles.

Actions

The research organisation:

- supports researchers in selecting and assessing the value of the research data to be preserved.
- supports the documentation of research data, reproducibility of research and production of metadata by providing appropriate services, guidance and training.
- supports research planning so that research projects are prepared for the resourcing of data documentation.

Objective 6

The research organisation provides appropriate technical solutions and services for research data management.

Actions

The research organisation:

- provides the infrastructure and services needed to support the storage, preservation, processing and sharing of research data at different stages of its lifecycle.
- utilises relevant reference architectures, such as the Open Science and Research Reference Architecture 2024–2030 and the Data Management Reference Architecture, in developing the infrastructure and service framework described above.

Objective 7

Research organisations engage in multiprofessional cooperation for the development of training, skills, and required data management services.

Actions 7

The research organisation:

- develops skills, practices and services in national and international collaboration.
- describes the expert roles and job descriptions needed in its organisation and creates career paths for these roles. Data management skills are recognised and acknowledged.
- offers expert training in data management or enables participation in such training.