



OPEN SCIENCE SKILLING AND TRAINING INITIATIVES IN EUROPE

NETHERLANDS

Interview with Nicole Will, TU Delft, Netherlands

Nicole is Head of Education Support at TU Delft Library.

[Website](#)

Email: N.U.Will@tudelft.nl

How did your Open Science skilling initiative begin?

We started this initiative quite a long time ago with open access publishing, by creating an open archive for our researchers. We implemented a training workshop on information literacy and Open Science and redesigned it in 2015. This training workshop was integrated into the graduate school programs (the graduate school is in charge of the registration and training calendar), and is mainly intended for beginners in PhD programs. We made a series of roadshows in order to stir awareness and interest in data issues, and to present the principles of open FAIR data. A second workshop for PhD students resulted in a MOOC (Open Science: Sharing Your Research With The World), and enables credits to be earned.

Please describe the context and aims of the initiative.

Researchers, teachers, students and support staff will (further) develop certain skills in order to be able to apply the Open Science principles in their daily practices. This cross-cutting theme will create an overview of these skills needed and connect the existing training modules (and training still in development) in the projects, and coordinate the further development of courses in a comprehensive way. A difference should be made between trainings (courses) where participants learn and acquire skills and knowledge and activities like roadshows and presentations aimed for creating awareness on certain topics. This project only takes into account the trainings.

For more information on the Open Science Program of TU Delft, please read [TU Delft Strategic Plan Open Science 2020-2024: Research and Education in the Open Era](#).

What organisational framework did you use for this initiative? How is the initiative managed and coordinated?

The workshops are run by the TU Delft Library. The MOOC is a cooperation between the Library and the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management. The Library develops the various training programs and the graduate school gives its approval to their integration in their own programs. Within TU Delft Library, different departments work together. For





example, because of educational expertise, the Head of Education Support works with the Research Data Department and the Research Support Department.

Who are your target audiences?

Mainly (but not only) researchers, PhD, teachers and students.

Which skills are prioritised?

TOP PRIORITY	STRONG PRIORITY	MODERATE PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholarly Publishing• FAIR Data• Open Science Skills• Research Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metrics & Rewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Infrastructures and the EOSC

Why did you prioritise some skills and exclude others?

FAIR software has been added. Citizen Science isn't a priority for the moment, but TU Delft is reflecting upon the existing projects and the way to present them properly.

Strictly speaking there are no skills excluded, especially when it comes to the Open Science program. We added open education, and try to take as many needs as possible into account.

How do participants acquire and stay updated on these skills?

Several departments within the Library work together in order to keep the trainees up-to-date.

How do you recruit and train the trainers?

The training of the trainers is based on this collaboration. We organize and visit conferences in order to update the skills of all our trainers and to raise awareness on emerging trends, so that they are able to pass on the new skills and knowledge. There are no intern courses strictly speaking.

The recruiting of trainers depends on the training workshops they will be in charge of, and on the individual expertise of each member of TU Delft's Library staff. Each department recruits (external) specialists depending on their training and specialities. The Library has a supporting role according to the needs of the programs, and uses its own community and its own network.

Which channels, learning types and formats are used?

Channels and learning types used: face-to-face, distant learning, self-training activities, blended learning, group learning, and individual learning.

Formats: MOOC, PDF documents, slides, videos.



Is there formal recognition?

It is a formal training and participants receive a certificate of attendance upon completion. We also set up a formal recognition of our training program through credits by the graduate school.

What impact do you expect from this initiative?

Awareness and best practices. Apply Open science principles in the daily practices.

What have you learnt so far?

People show much interest in the courses. The demand is strong. The program has to be suited also to the expectations of the trainees. Thus, the Library seeks to develop programs that are as suited to people's needs and are as demand-driven as possible.

There are a lot of initiatives in order to develop the courses, insofar as these courses cannot be redundant with others. These courses have to be different pieces of a puzzle the researcher has to pick and choose, so that these pieces suit his/her needs as well as possible. The program has to be coherent, clear, and organized in a timely manner: a training program can be needed at a precise moment, not three months before or after.

What about the budget and costs?

The new [Open Science program](#) explicitly refers to a budget for the whole program.

Costs for the skills theme include essentially working time for the library staff members participating in the program, and to set up a system to coordinate the offer.

Which challenges have you encountered?

One of the biggest challenges is to integrate Open Science into researchers' daily practices and routines. You shouldn't look at it only as an extra.

What would you tell others looking to do a similar program?

Start by looking for possible collaborations inside your library and with researchers.

Which resources helped you to develop this initiative?

We used external resources, especially for the Open Science program. Each project within the Open Science program is an occasion of analyzing the courses that may be necessary to develop and what already exists when it comes to Open Science. A European report listing the various skills and best practices the researcher has to enforce when he/she starts putting Open Science into practice is available [here](#).

This case study has been produced by [LIBER's Digital Skills for Library Staff & Researchers Working Group](#). For more case studies, and the original version of this one, please see: <https://zenodo.org/record/3701370>

2020