

# Moving towards more responsible metrics – a case of Tampere University

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.3712077](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3712077)

# National developments in responsible evaluation

Within the context of national **Open Science coordination** (by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies):

1. Recommendation for the responsible evaluation of a researcher (published Nov 2019)
2. Recommendation for the responsible use of research metrics (to be published in early 2020)
3. Working group on incentives for openness in research (to start work in the beginning of 2020)

**Publication Forum** (a classification of publication channels created by the Finnish scientific community to support the quality assessment of academic research)

- recently published instructions on how to use the classification system because universities have (mis)used the system (~ indicator) for unit and/or individual level evaluation and comparison
- Instructions describe the underlying assumptions and limitations and provide guidelines for the use of the classification regarding principles of responsible metrics

Research integrity as an underlying principle: responsible conduct of research applies just as much to evaluating research as it does to doing research

# Tampere University

- University of Tampere and Tampere University of Technology were merged at the beginning of 2019 establishing the new foundation-based Tampere University.
- Together with Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Tampere University constitute the Tampere university community.
- The university community includes 30 000 students and the number of annual person-years is more than 4200. Tampere University has over 19 000 degree students and an academic staff of 2600.
- Tampere University is one of the most multidisciplinary and research intensive universities in Finland.
- Research focuses especially on topics related to technology, health and society.

# TUNI Open science guideline + TAU OS action plan

- The openness of science is considered as an integral part of good scientific practice and researcher skills.
- Our [Open Science guideline](#) defines the general principles of openness and the specific principles of open publishing and data. We also disclose how we monitor and assess the progress and impact of open science. In order to implement the open science policy, we have prepared separate action plan for TAU.
- TUNI Open science guideline was approved in June 2018, and the TAU action plan in December 2018.

# OS follow-up and evaluation - Guideline

Tampere University systematically follows up on and evaluates the progress and impact of open science and research. Furthermore, it makes the necessary decisions in order to reach the desired goals. -> Evaluation June 2020

In particular, the higher education community monitors the realisation and development of open publishing, the opening of research data, and good data management practices.

For the purpose of monitoring and evaluation, Tampere University develops open evaluation methods. The follow-up indicators are public. The progress and impact of open science are also assessed by external evaluation.

The action plans on open science and research in the Tampere higher education community are updated as necessary.

# Action plan - TAU

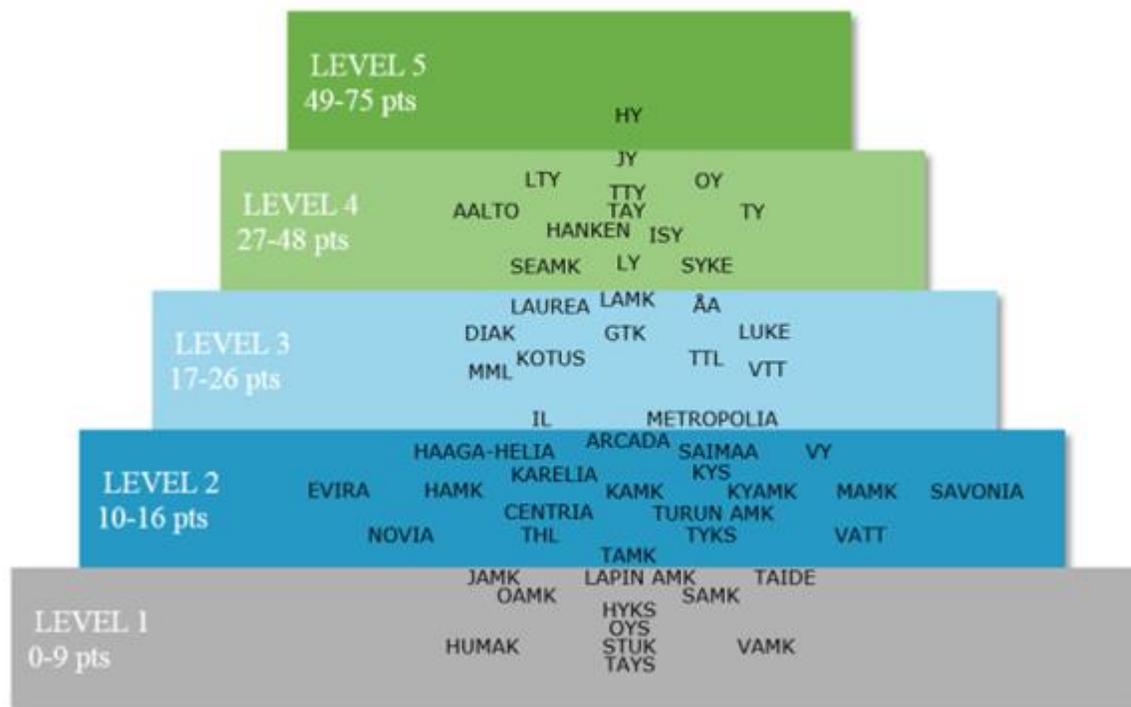
An evaluation and monitoring plan will be drafted defining the goals, topics, criteria, indicators, methods, processes and responsibilities of the follow-up.

An open webpage will be dedicated to describing the content and purpose of the follow-up indicators.

Open science will be one of the areas assessed in the University's next research assessment exercise (RAE). The University will also ensure the high international level of its openness policies by actively participating in international development work.

## Opportunities, promotive effect? The Ministry of Education and Culture's evaluation of openness in the activities of research organisations and research funding organisations 2016 & 2019

### Evaluation of Operational Culture Maturity Rankings of Research Organisations



- Level 5 — Strategic
- Level 4 — Managed
- Level 3 — Defined
- Level 2 — Partly managed
- Level 1 — Unmanaged

- ▶ We expect to be at Level 5 in the 2019 evaluation!
- ▶ We hope to see openness of evaluation methods used in research organisations as part of the next national OS evaluation.

# Library: metrics team

- Before metrics expertise as part of research and publication support expertise
- Strategic decision to strengthen the skills → Specific team for metrics services (bibliometrics, altmetrics, datametrics)
- Part of Open Science Services (= publication support, research support, metrics, Tampere University Press)
- Library acknowledged as a partner in knowledge management. Metrics team provides services mainly for the senior management of the university and training on research(er) visibility and impact especially at doctoral level.

# Commitment to DORA

- Tampere University signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment [DORA declaration](#) as the first Finnish university in March 2019. It was already mentioned in the Open Science Action plan in 2018: "The University is committed to adhering to the DORA declaration, which emphasises the responsible assessment of research."
- Not all the details in implementation clear, but the more general aim is already shared and established! Commitment to DORA principles guides our evaluation development.
- A reliable and transparent assessment of the scientific merits is important to us, especially in recruiting (see: <https://www.tuni.fi/en/news/potential-improvement-evaluation-scientific-work>).
- DORA is also available in Finnish.

# System for monitoring and assessing research at TAU

Proposition has been drafted by a working group consisting of researchers, Science Council as steering group, next step consultation with faculties.

Research at TAU is very diverse in terms of disciplines, agendas, methods and research cultures → the rationale and form of each assessment will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

All assessments will be designed and conducted following international and national guidelines on responsible evaluation. In addition, seven principles taking into consideration the university's strategic aims:

1. Evaluation systems must reflect the diversity of different disciplinary needs and approaches
2. Evaluation should reflect accountability
3. Focus on inputs, outputs and outcomes
4. Judgement will always be involved
5. Consideration of impact needs to be embedded in ongoing research, not added on at the end of the process
6. Evaluation should also consider the quality of the university's research environment as a site for research work
7. Evaluation should be cost-effective

# System for monitoring and assessing research at TAU

Evaluation process involves *monitoring* – collecting appropriate data and reflecting on research activity, and periodic *evaluation* – a more formal process that takes a snapshot of the current state of research.

In monitoring, differences in scientific fields must be taken into consideration:

- Differences in aims and indicators must be accepted (even within a faculty)
- Faculties should be able to choose which indicators they wish to follow → selection (and monitoring) made concurrently with yearly planning of operations, but the same indicators should be used for a minimum of three years
- In addition to optional indicators, a set of KPIs will be used. They are the same for each Faculty.

All indicators considered in proportion to: size of the faculty, demographic structure and the number of researchers on personal grants.

NB! This system does not consider the evaluation of individual researchers.

# Grand challenges

- Gaining the trust of the scientific community in terms of monitoring and assessing research
- Implementation of national recommendations as well as DORA principles → we can talk the talk, but can we walk the walk?
- Resources to ensure the highest quality data and highest quality processes (the two pillars of responsible evaluation)
  - Enough expertise in the support services
  - Mandate to the experts to follow the principles

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!