

Visions, needs and requirements for (future) research environments: An exploration with Marie Curie Fellow Ottavio Quirico

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Researchers are at the very heart of the EOSC: So what do researchers really need to do cutting-edge research? How do they think the EOSC could support them in their endeavours? Let's see what Marie Curie Fellow and expert in international law Ottavio Quirico has to say.

“Facilitating open access and the circulation of ideas (interdisciplinarity)”

TU Wien: What does your work currently focus on?

OQ: International law and international relations, EU law and politics. I develop a systemic analysis of international relations, for instance, concerning the regulation of climate change, aiming to identify inconsistencies and improve the system. This research is mostly based on documentary sources (documents of relevant institutions and scholarly work) and fundamentally aims to provide policy advice.

TU Wien: What routines do you repeatedly do, that could be automated?

OQ: Library catalogues automatically retrieve relevant sources and this works well. Maybe, an engine indicating institutions with research affinities can support collaboration.

TU Wien: What (data) challenges are you facing in your research?

OQ: Not all resources that I need are open access. Sometimes, only specialized institutions have access to specific resources. In addition, I occasionally need to travel to access printed books. However, these are increasingly available online, although mostly not open access.

TU Wien: What is the meaning of open access and open science and how does it increase the value of your work as a researcher?

OQ: Open science facilitates access to scientific data for professionals and the larger public; it is a positive development as it helps to access resources anytime and anywhere. Open data is more problematic, it is important to recognize authorship and to clarify whether specific data, for instance, data embedded in graphs, are open data. However, in order to encourage researchers coming from my field to open our science, ideas need to circulate and dialogue is essential to developing collaboration and finding solutions to problems.

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TU Wien: Why do you think it is important to start a dialogue and develop collaboration?

OQ: It is important to discuss with colleagues from the same disciplines and other disciplines, and to

have access to interdisciplinary resources, to develop ideas and find viable approaches, possibly solutions, to problems. It is fundamental that academics have a dialogue with colleagues from governmental and non-governmental institutions. Thus, if EOSC allows retrieving contacts that are active in a specific area of research, it facilitates collaboration and advances research.

TU Wien: You mention that access to interdisciplinary resources is important. Please, may you also give an example here? How does your research benefit from interdisciplinarity?

OQ: In social sciences, at least political scientists, economists and lawyers need to talk to each other. For instance, it is only by discussing with economists and political scientists the problem of rolling back incentive schemes for investment in renewable energy that a lawyer can develop a correct perception of institutional problems and develop tailored answers for investment governance. Cross-fertilization is fundamental in all fields. Think, for instance, that Karl Jenkins took inspiration from the work of Renaissance-Architect Andrea Palladio to compose the string concert 'Palladio'.

TU Wien: How will research look like in 5-25 years? What will be the effect and impact on research environments like infrastructures, services and policies?

“Facilitating access to resources and exchange of ideas improves interdisciplinarity, which is essential to broadening and developing different perspectives on problems”

OQ: Digital sources accelerate and facilitate access to resources and circulation of ideas. This is likely to increase in the next 5-25 years. Furthermore, facilitating access to resources and exchange of

ideas improves interdisciplinarity, which is essential to broadening and developing different perspectives on problems.

TU Wien: How could EOSC help you facing these challenges and make your vision for future research environments come true?

OQ: Open access to resources and availability of digital versions of books would be highly beneficial. It would also be helpful to speed publication processes. Currently, publishing in peer-reviewed journal takes time. However, publishing via online platforms might preclude publication in peer-reviewed journals. It would be helpful to find a solution, because the world evolves rapidly. In addition, it is important to facilitate collaboration on an interdisciplinary basis.



Ottavio Quirico is an Associate Professor at the University of New England, Law School, and a Member of the Centre for European Studies within the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. He has been, inter alia, a Marie Curie Fellow at University Panthéon-Assas (Paris, France) and a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy). He has acted as a consultant to the United Nations and has recently been awarded a Jean Monnet grant by the European Commission for the research project Implementing Climate Policies.