

# Data sharing at WUR: As open as possible, as closed as needed



Can you share research data of your project openly? Check the following:



None of the above applicable?  
You can likely publish the research data under open access.



Do any of the above apply? You may have to place (some of) the research data under restricted access. In some cases, closed access may be required.



If no agreements or contracts have been set-up, confer with the business unit holder or chair group holder, to determine the conditions for sharing data.



## Open access

Access without restrictions is allowed. The research data can be published in a data repository or other online platform and can be freely accessed and reused by others. Make sure to choose a repository that assigns persistent identifiers to the data (see the [WUR repository finder](#)). The research data is directly accessible to others under the terms of the licence chosen during publishing.



## Restricted access

Access to the research data is allowed on request and under specific conditions. For example, on condition of a data sharing agreement with confidentiality obligations. Data can be placed under restricted access in i) data repositories that provide restricted access or ii) the WUR W-drive or Yoda@WUR. As a minimum, the metadata should be published open access so that data availability and access procedures are visible to interested parties.



## Closed access

Access to the research data is not allowed. As most data repositories do not provide closed access, research data likely needs to be archived on the WUR W-drive or Yoda@WUR to ensure it meets WUR requirements for security and sustainable long-term storage. Preferably, the metadata is published open access so that the existence of the research data is known. If metadata cannot be published, make sure the location of the research data is properly documented within WUR.

Contact your legal department for support in drawing up data sharing agreements, and your privacy officer and information security officer for support with safe handling, storage, and sharing of personal data, and determining the data classification. Contact [data@wur.nl](mailto:data@wur.nl) for questions. For any access level, [register](#) the (meta)data.



## Is WUR not the (only) rightsholder of the research data?

The rightsholder(s) control under which conditions data can be shared. Check whether there are formal agreements in place defining data sharing conditions (see also Do any contractual obligations apply to the research data?).

### Point(s) of attention:

- Establish formal agreements (e.g. consortium agreement or data sharing agreements) with all rightsholders at the beginning of a project to clarify the conditions under which data can be accessed, shared and reused.

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# Data sharing at WUR: As open as possible



## Does the research data include personal data?

Personal data is protected under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

*Examples of personal data include:*

- Survey responses of participants.
- Email / IP addresses.
- Names, bank accounts, addresses, social security numbers, religion, gender, sexual preference, medical associated information, legal / justice information, race, family composition, age, educational performance, personal financial situations, etc.
- Measurements on humans.
- Geographical information leading back to individuals (or one-person companies).
- Humans (researchers, students, care takers, general public, etc.) visible in photographs or camera observations.
- Identification codes (e.g. ship ID code that could lead back to an individual fisher).

*Point(s) of attention:*

- In principle, the GDPR only relates to the processing of personal data on EU territory or if the processing concerns EU citizens. However, there are other cases to which the GDPR applies. If you are processing personal data, but unsure if this processing falls within the scope of the GDPR, please contact your Privacy Officer.
- Use informed consent forms that a.o. indicate the intend of sharing data.
- Establish data sharing agreements with parties requesting data.
- Anonymise or pseudonymise the data when possible.

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## Do any contractual obligations apply to the research data?

Contractual obligations stem from agreements between rightsholders and reusers of research data.

*Such agreements often exist with:*

- Data providers (e.g. open access licence terms).
- Project partners (e.g. consortium agreement; data sharing agreement)
- Research funders (e.g. grant agreement).
- If not already specified in the agreement: statutory restrictions, e.g. state-aid limitations, public procurement legislation, data export restrictions (e.g. knowledge safety).

*Point(s) of attention:*

- Check the contractual agreements that apply to the research data.
- If no agreements are present, establish formal agreements (e.g. consortium agreement or data sharing agreements) with all rightsholders before / at the beginning of a project to clarify the conditions under which data can be accessed, shared and reused.

None of the above applicable?  
You can likely publish the research data under open access.



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# Data sharing at WUR: As open as possible



## Do any ethical obligations apply to the research data?

Your research could involve research data that has ethical considerations that may limit what you can share.

*Examples of research data where ethical requirements may apply include:*

- Research on animals require approval from e.g. the Animal Welfare Body (IvD), Animal Tests Committee (DEC), Central Animal Testing Committee (CCD).
- Research on non-medical studies on humans require approval from the WUR Research Ethics Committee (WUR-REC). Research on medical studies on humans require approval from the Medical Ethics Committee-East (METC-Oost)).
- Research using genetic resources requires compliance to the Nagoya Protocol.

*Point(s) of attention:*

- Check whether you need approval from an ethics committee or whether there are other ethical considerations (e.g. negative impact on nature / wildlife conservation efforts or humans / society) when collecting or using data from animals or humans, as these can affect data sharing.
- Ethical reviews for approval are usually needed prior to the start of a research project.

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# Data sharing at WUR: As open as possible



## Does the research data include sensitive data?

Data can include other types of sensitive data aside from personal data.

*Examples of other types of sensitive data include:*

- Confidential / financial company or industry information
- Data on the last known locations of near extinct species.
- Data on deceased humans.
- Openly available social media opinions.
- Military secrets.
- Patentable inventions.
- Data on a societal sensitive topic.

*Point(s) of attention:*

- Check whether there are ethical considerations (e.g. negative impact on nature / wildlife conservation efforts or humans / society) or legislation when collecting or using data from animals or human as these can affect data sharing.
- Check the contractual agreements that apply to the research data.
- If no agreements are present, establish formal agreements (e.g. consortium agreement or data sharing agreements) with all rightsholders at the beginning of a project to clarify the conditions under which data can be accessed, shared and reused.

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