

MetaDocencia: Co-Creating and Teaching Open Science

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We are a community of researchers, technicians, and educators, primarily based in Spanish-speaking Latin America. This document summarizes what we do, our impact, and how we advance our mission.

Our Mission

To advance innovation with a local perspective that responsibly builds scientific and technical capacities by co-creating networks, learning spaces, and accessible resources for Spanish-speaking communities.

The Problem

Our community is based in countries with high inequity in scientific training. For Open Science, the most visible concepts and approaches are created in highly-resourced regions (such as areas with easier access to technology, internet connectivity, and stable economies and institutions). The current solutions are often incompatible with many barriers and limitations in Spanish-speaking and Latin American regions. For example, high-quality resources, events, networks, and other well-funded initiatives are mainly in English and often inaccessible to non-English-speaking regions. Furthermore, there is usually an insurmountable economic barrier associated with high-quality resources when they are available in Spanish.

Our Approach

Our approach to this problem is supported by three pillars:

- **Training** is the base of all the projects that build scientific and technical capacities in a responsible and accessible way.
- **Community** supports projects that liaise communities and generate networks so that the production, communication, and application of scientific and technical knowledge are globally equitable.
- **Contextualization** (from English to Spanish and vice versa) promotes the development of a Latin American perspective in all the projects where we co-create networks, learning spaces, and resources.

Our Impact

Training Pillar

In less than five years, **we have reached 2.4k+ community members from 30 countries** (on all continents except Antarctica!) **and trained 1.4k of them. Over 80% of our trainees have completed our post-workshop surveys, expressing very high satisfaction** (minimum Net Promoter Score (NPS): 71%, average NPS: 89%, where NPS = % of promoters - % of non-promoters and NPS > 50% is considered excellent).

Our training includes but is not limited to:

- **[ALTa Ciencia Abierta, part of NASA TOPS initiative to transform to Open Science](#): Free virtual cohort training where we teach introductory contextualized Open Science over 6 weeks** and strengthen the Spanish-speaking Open Science community.
 - **Only in 2024 did we reach 450+ participants from 26 countries.** In addition to belonging to the Spanish-speaking community, **40%+ of our participants self-identify as members of underrepresented groups** in the scientific community.
- **Train the Trainer workshops in Spanish** in partnership with [The Carpentries](#) or [CABANAnet](#). In 5 editions, both online and in person, **we certified almost 70 instructors** to teach programming and data science skills to researchers.

Community Pillar

- Co-creation of our [Hive of Fellow Communities](#), **an initiative showcasing and linking efforts with 20+ communities worldwide.**
- Participation in the **development of cloud-native research and training resources for communities of practice in Latin America and Africa**, in partnership with five other valued-aligned organizations: [2i2c](#), [OLS](#), [IOI](#), [CSCCE](#), and [The Carpentries](#) ([link to full project](#)).
- Guidance of [LABI's](#) **community-based governance development.**

Contextualization Pillar

- **Contextualization and live interpretation to Spanish** for [NASA TOPS Open Science 101](#) and other projects led by IOI and 2i2c.
- **Advising and facilitating CZI's Open Science and Events Teams** during the first [CZI event in Latin America](#).
- **Liaising, organizing, and facilitating a focus group with Spanish-speaking Latin American researchers** for [CS&S' Landscape Report on Climate Sensitive Infectious Disease Communities of Practice](#).

Our Team and Support

[MetaDocencia's team](#) includes outstanding professionals from multiple marginalized groups in Science. With its diversity in several intersections - gender, disability, migration status, first language, career stage, affiliation, geography, or discipline - MetaDocencia works to improve our realities based on each of our walks of life and aspirations. **MetaDocencia currently has a fully remote-distributed team of 51 professionals in 16 cities and eight countries.**

MetaDocencia started as a grassroots organization with 100% volunteer effort and now manages over US\$1.4M in successful grants and [consulting services](#) contracts received during less than five years from 10+ [sponsors](#). We are fiscally sponsored by [Code for Science & Society](#), a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Selected Reports and Publications Over the Last Year

Most of our publications are Spanish/English bilingual and published in [MetaDocencia's Zenodo community](#), which has 170+ publications.

Institutional

08/06 - [MetaDocencia's Organizational Chart](#)

03/24 - [Creating Genuine Connections and Cultivating a Culture of Wellbeing in Team Events, both In-Person and Virtual](#)

01/24 - [2023 Report](#)

11/23 - [Spaces for Growth: Learning How to Give and Receive Positive Feedback](#)

Projects

08/24 - [The Collaborative Experience of the First Contextualization into Spanish of the Open Science 101 Course Developed by NASA](#)

08/24 - [Our Journey to Contextualize Knowledge and Teach Open Science in Spanish](#)

07/24 - [What Do We Mean When We Talk about Contextualization?](#)

06/24 - [Grant Report. Ciencia Abierta Accesible: Community-Based Teaching of the TOPS OpenCore Online in Spanish](#)

Topics

07/24 - [Open Science in Action: Permanent Household Survey Case](#)

06/24 - [Open Science Conversations Collective Reflections](#)

05/24 - [Tips for Getting Invited to Write for an Academic Journal](#)

03/24 - [Contributing to the Discussion on the Decolonization of Health Research](#)

11/23 - [Generative AI Poses Ethical Challenges to Open Science, a Comment for Nature Human Behaviour](#)

For our Immediate Future

- [Leveling the Funding Field for Researchers from Spanish-Speaking Latin America](#)
- [Mapping of Open Science Communities, Organizations, and Events in Latin America](#)