OPEN SCIENCE SKILLING AND TRAINING INITIATIVES IN EUROPE

ESTONIA

Interview with Liisi Lembinen, University of Tartu Library, Estonia

Liisi chairs the Management Board of the Consortium of Estonian Libraries Network and is Development Director of the University of Tartu Library.

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How did your Open Science skilling initiative begin?

Eight years ago, we decided to move from Open Access to Open Science. We are part of the OpenAIRE Advance project, which focuses on Open Science.

Please describe the context and aims of the initiative.

We offer research data management training for PhD students. There are two courses to choose from: Research Data Management and Publishing and Research Data Management. Both are available in Estonian and English. Additionally, there is extra curriculum training available for researchers and librarians.

How is the initiative managed and coordinated?

The initiative is organised by the library and managed and led by data specialists.

What organisational framework does your initiative use?

First, a research data specialist position was established. We then set up an Open Science team for the library, consisting of eight members. This team came up with a) the resources for skilling/training participants b) conferences and online training to train the trainers beforehand c) the choices and policies relating to this initiative. Currently, there is no set policy for Estonia or the university. However, our library's strategy has Open Science as one of its major pillars. Estonia is also developing a framework to deal with its national Open Science policy.

Who are your target audiences?

Our target audiences include library staff, researchers, PhD students, and PostDoc researchers.

Which skills are prioritised?

TOP PRIORITY	STRONG PRIORITY	NOT A PRIORITY
• FAIR Data • Open Science Skills	• Scholarly Publishing • Research Infra-structures and the EOSC	• Citizen Science • Metrics & Rewards

Why did you prioritise some skills and exclude others?

We do not prioritise Citizen Science because, at the moment, it seems there is little interest for it at the university or in Estonia in general. Metrics and Rewards are also not a priority for us because they are handled by the university's grant office.

Which channels and learning types are used?

Face-to-face, distant learning, self-training activities, group learning, and individual learning are the learning types we use and webinars, web/online training, conferences, DCC, RDA, and DataCite are the channels.

Which formats are used?

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), PDF documents, and slides.

Is there formal recognition?

It forms part of the curricula for each course.

What impact do you expect from this initiative?

We hope that more young researchers will become aware of Open Science and acquire the needed skills. Additionally, since we also train librarians, we hope that they will then train researchers at their own universities.

How do you train the trainers?

Face-to-face meetings, sharing training information and webinar opportunities online.

How do you recruit the trainers?

We do not recruit trainers.

What have you learnt so far?

It is easier to get younger researchers interested, as they are more willing to learn about Open Science in general.

What's next on your skilling/training calendar?

We would like to invest time into getting our Data Management Plans out to a wider audience, as well as developing our research ethics and technical skills.

What about the budget and the costs?

We had a budget of €214,000 to set up DataCite Estonia Consortium and join DataCite. Other than that, we have no special funds allocated for any of the Open Science activities. This budget we even shared with the university's Museum of Natural History, which was interested in receiving DOIs for their research data.

Which challenges have you encountered?

Regarding skills, there was nobody in Estonia who we could learn from. All the trainings came from abroad or were learnt on a self-study basis. In addition, there was very little interest that library would be part of it. We did set up text and data mining in our library, but there was zero interest in this service so these specialists eventually left.

Another challenge is getting the university on board. We had to do a lot of the work by ourselves, including that relating to advocacy.

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

You need to get both the university and researchers on board in order to make it work. Libraries alone can do nothing.

Have you seen any impact of your initiative so far?

Yes. Most researchers now turn straight to the library regarding Open Science and Data Management questions. The Ministry of Education and Research as well as the Estonian Research Council also see us as their strongest partner in implementing Open Science in Estonia.

References

https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/collaboration-between-researchers-and-academic-library/155415

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://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3701370

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