



# OPEN SCIENCE SKILLING AND TRAINING INITIATIVES IN EUROPE

## ITALY

*Interview with Elena Giglia, University of Turin and OpenAIRE NOAD in Italy*

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### How and when did your Open Science skilling initiative begin?

This initiative started so that university staff members could support and contribute to the implementation of the university's Open Access (OA) Policy, enacted in 2013. Furthermore, researchers and PhD students began to show more and more the willingness to disseminate Open Science (OS) practices.

For library staff, the initiative started in 2013. I gave three courses (7 hours each) to train all staff on OA, so they could properly support the policy. There was a follow up training on data in 2015 and on Open Science in 2018 (consisting of three 7-hour courses each). Around 90 people have been trained so far. For researchers, the initiative started also in 2013 and for PhD students in 2018.

### Please describe the context and aims of the initiative.

I started training staff to support the university policy and OA practices. The course consisted of a theoretical part on the how and why of Open Access, and a practical part on the tools needed to support OA practices. We usually start with an overview of current practices and their flows, to see the advantage of the Open alternative, and finish with a practical session on tools. In the last two years, I also provided a lot of training outside my institution ([see an overview](#)).

### What organisational framework did you use for this initiative?

I gathered ideas during conferences and training courses (e.g. the FOSTER Bootcamp) which I attended. I was inspired, among others, by the FOSTER and OpenAIRE training materials and videos. Twitter is also a powerful source, which helps me to stay up-to-date with the most recent topics.

The major policy relating to this initiative – and providing a framework for our activities – is the Open Access Policy that was enacted in 2013.





## How is the initiative managed and coordinated?

I periodically organize trainings within my institution. I am also invited by various external institutions to give training. I am a 'one-woman office' so I manage and organize everything on my own. No specific budget is allocated to these activities as it is part of my job.

## Who are your target audiences?

Library staff, researchers, and PhD students and well as administrative staff supporting research projects.

## Which skills are prioritised?

TOP PRIORITY	STRONG PRIORITY	MODERATE PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scholarly Publishing</li><li>FAIR Data</li><li>Research Infrastructures and the EOSC</li><li>Metrics &amp; Rewards</li><li>Open Science Skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Research Integrity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Citizen Science</li></ul>

## Why did you prioritise some skills and exclude others?

Citizen Science is almost excluded as it is not the main interest of researchers here. EOSC and FAIR data are the priority at the moment because we need to involve communities in the building of the EOSC. Current scholarly publishing and its flows are usually my starting point, to make the case for the need of an Open alternative.

## How do participants acquire these skills?

Various approaches are used, depending on the audience. There is always a lecture followed by a practical session (for librarians and staff members) or card games (Kramer/Bosman - for PhD students). Researchers acquire these skills through lectures only. There is always plenty of time for questions and answers.

## How do you keep trainees updated with these skills?

Through periodic courses.

## Which channels, learning types and formats are used?

Face-to-face and group learning as well as slides, which are useful as people can always go back to the suggested tools and documents.

## Is there formal recognition?

Yes, participants receive a certificate of attendance.

## What impact do you expect from this initiative?

After receiving training, we hope that librarians and staff members will be able to better support OA/OS practices and that PhD students and researchers will take at least the first step towards OS.



The main challenges are linked to the research assessment criteria which deeply affect authors' behaviours. My aim is to show how you can do OS without harming your career, and on the contrary, boosting it.

### What have you learnt so far?

You need to adapt your content to speak the language of your trainees. Every community has its own reaction to OS. Every community has its own issues, which we try to solve together.

### What's next on your skilling/training calendar?

A training for students in a Social Science course. This will be the first time that we introduce OS training to students. One of the professors asked me to give a two-hour introduction to OS during his course.

In spring 2020, we also plan to organize an in-depth course on FAIR data and data management.

### Which resources helped you to develop this initiative?

<https://www.fosteropenscience.eu>

<https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/node/2219>

<https://101innovations.wordpress.com>

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