

Open Science Fellows Program Lessons learned

<http://wmde.org/opensciencefellows>



Fields of Activity



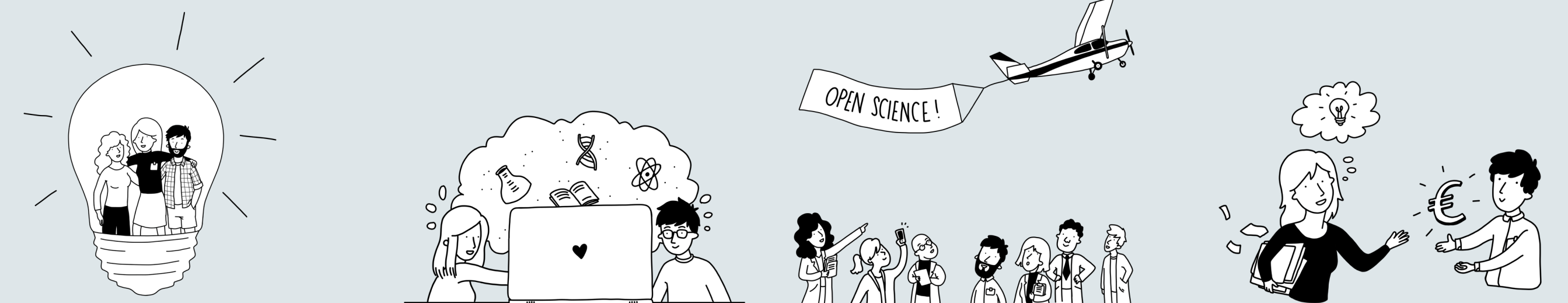
Capacity Building
Open Science is not a standard – yet. This poses certain challenges. And that is why we provide capacity building in suitable tools, strategies and legal knowledge to open up research data, methods and results. This way, the Fellows will be ready for Open Science.

Community of Practice
We are stronger together. Therefore we support a sustainably growing community. Community members are connected and spread the principles of Open Science within their institutions. Our goal: The recognition of Open Science as essential for good academic practice.

Institutional Impact
We believe the framework conditions for Open Science can be changed by making it visible and encouraging new institutional practices.

For education and science to be up-to-date, we work with the Fellows to achieve recognition for contributions to Open Science in daily university business and appointment procedures.

How does it work?



Over a period of eight months the Fellows are individually advised by mentors who already apply Open Science methods in their research.

In addition to theoretical basics on the topics of Open Knowledge and Open Science, the Fellow Program also shows participants how to apply them in practice.

The program is designed to make the subject of Open Science more visible and to promote it in scientific institutions and communities.

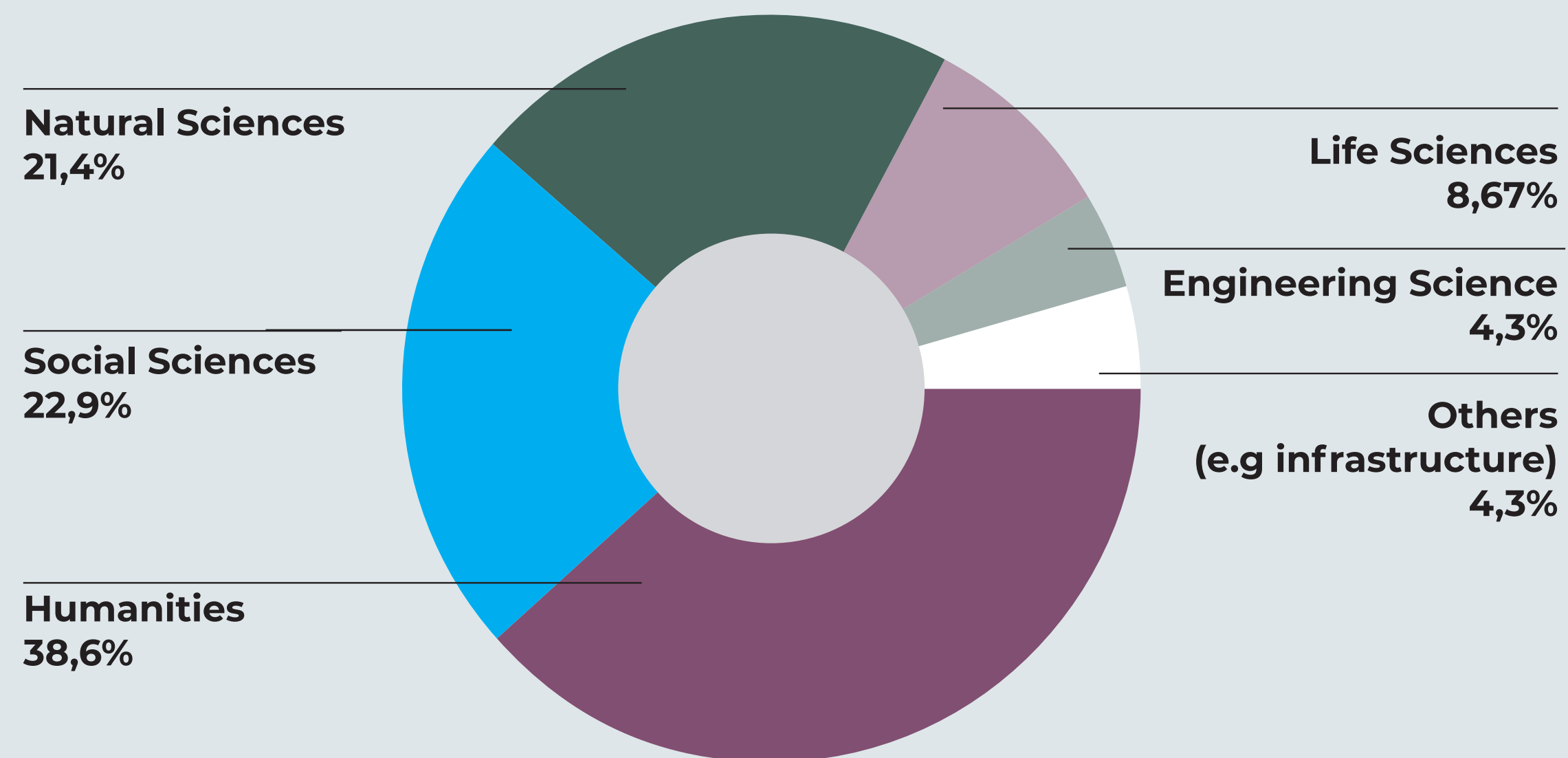
Each Fellow receives a grant of € 3000/€ 5000.

Riesenspatz Illustration, Illustration Mentoring / Qualifizierung / Sichtbarkeit / Finanzierung, CC BY-SA 4.0

Some Numbers

↓ In 4 years 276 applications have been received	↓ Since 2016 70 Fellows from Germany, Austria and Switzerland have been supported	↓ Fellows came from 54 institutions
↓ 15 Open Science experts served as mentors since 2016	↓ 8 partner organisations have been supporting the program financially or with their expertise	↓ 10 program events took place in Berlin, Hannover and Kiel

Fellows by scientific field



Impact

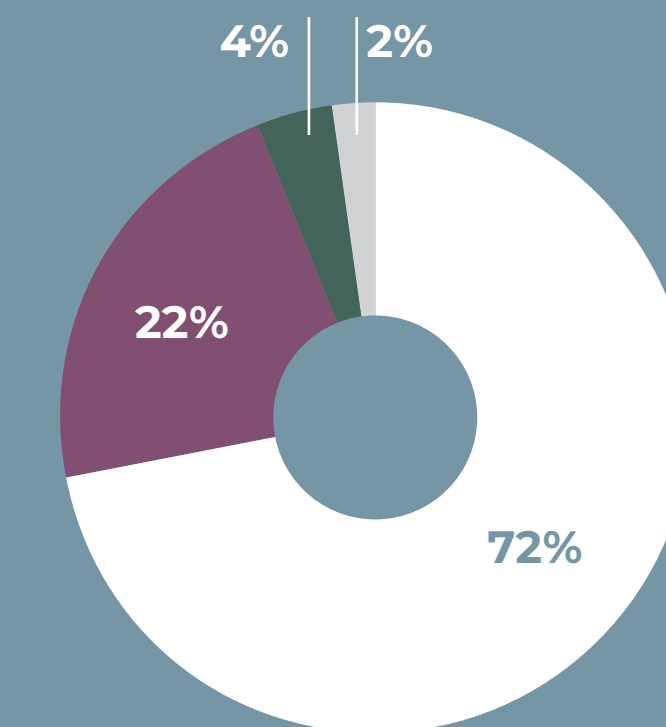
Fellows were able to ...

- ... significantly increase their knowledge about Open Science
- ... share their knowledge in numerous workshops and lectures on Open Science at their institutions
- ... motivate others to work open
- ... get in touch with like minded Open Science enthusiasts
- ... start new initiatives to foster Open Science in their institutions (e.g. working groups and initiatives)
- ... have an influence on institutional policies and processes

Benefits for your own engagement with Open Science – assessment of the Fellows

(program years 2016/2017–2018/19, n=46)

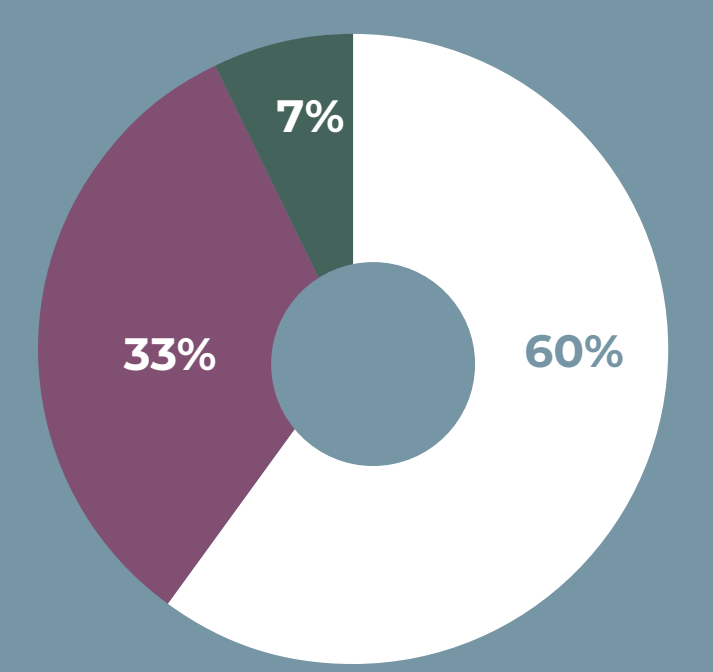
● very high
● high
● average
● low



Benefits for promotion of Open Science – assessment of the Fellows

(program years 2016/2017–2018/19, n=46)

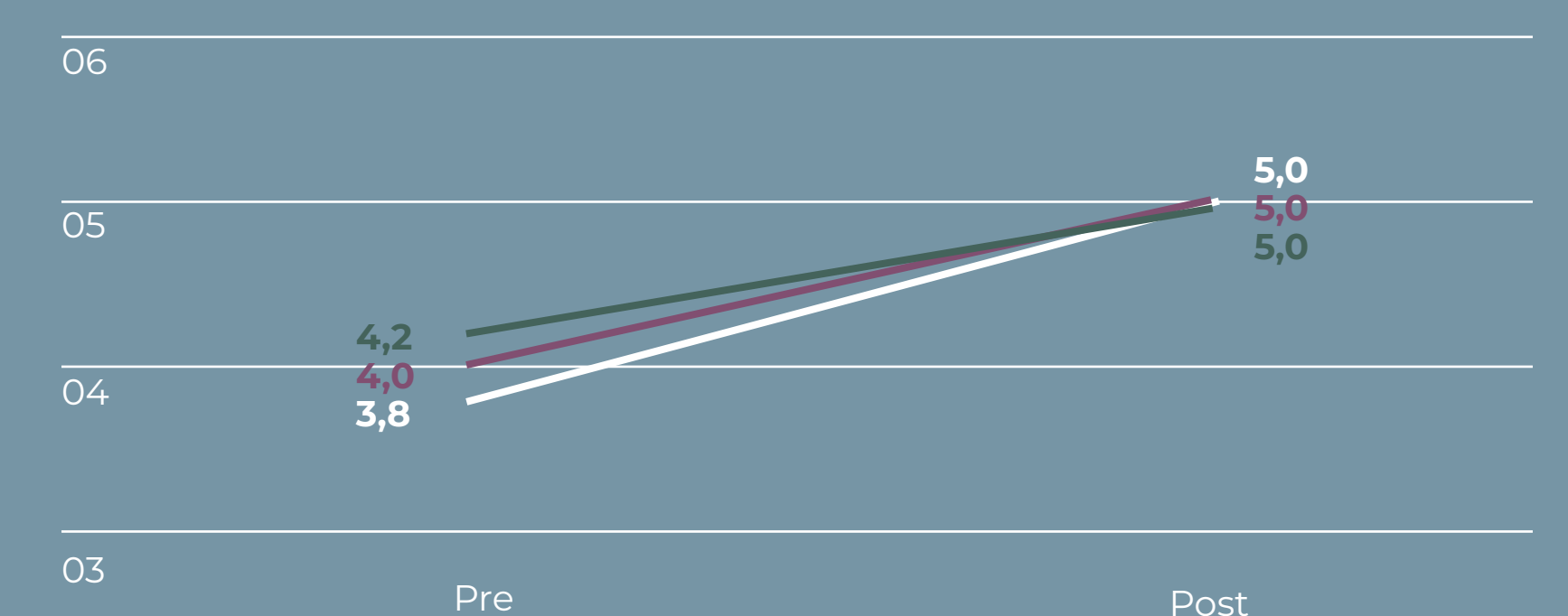
● very high
● high
● average
● low



Level of knowledge on Open Science (Pre vs Post, average per program year)

Scale 1 – no knowledge to 6 – comprehensive knowledge

● 2016/2017 (n=10) ● 2017/2018 (n=20) ● 2018/2019 (n=20)



Ralf Rebmann, Auftaktveranstaltung Fellow-Programm 2019 - 174, CC BY-SA 4.0

Findings

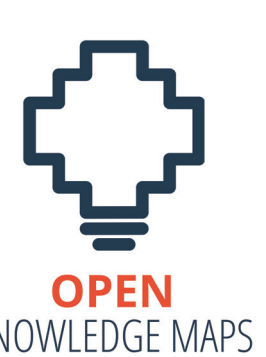
By the majority of the program participants the close mentoring of the Fellows by the Open Science experts is seen as the core and central success factor of the program. The individual support not only enables the Fellows to apply the knowledge they have acquired on open principles in their work, but also to pass on their own motivation for the topic to others.

Institutional change takes time and requires continuous commitment. The Fellows

themselves act as multipliers in their institutions, but as individuals without an official mandate they are often unable to make a significant change here.

In our view, a growing community of practitioners working together to advance the idea of Open Science in scientific institutions (and in society) in a sustainable manner holds great potential, which is why we want to invest more resources here in the future.

Academic Partners:



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