

An abstract graphic featuring a network of interconnected hexagons in various colors (blue, orange, purple, pink, green, white) and circuit-like lines with arrows, suggesting a complex system or data flow. The hexagons are arranged in a somewhat circular pattern, with some containing internal circuit diagrams. The lines are thin and grey, connecting the hexagons and extending across the background.

Open Science Policy in Flanders

“The Flemish Open Science Board”

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Open Science in Belgium

- The “Brussels Declaration on Open Access” (October 2012)
- Colloquium “Open Access to Excellence in Research”. Signing of the “Brussels Declaration on Open Access”.
- Kind of a symbolic start of the Open Science policy in BE / Flanders
- Science Policy is both a federal and a regional competence
- Establishment CIS CFS Working Group “Open Science and Open Innovation” (Committee for International / interfederal communication on science policy matters)
 - Towards EOSC GOVERNANCE BOARD
 - Towards SWG OSI (ERA)
 - MLE, e.a.
 - DELEGATION of the EOSC EB WG members (nov 2019)
 - intra-Belgian coordination of the policies

The Flemish Government Agreement 2019-2024

- *“The Flemish Government fully draws the map of Open Science in the European context, and we make our knowledge institutions responsible for implementing a policy in this area. Scientific research funded from public funds should be publicly accessible as soon as possible according to the principle, 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'. This applies both to access to publications as well as for access to the underlying research data. The implementation of the Open Science policy is done in close consultation with all actors and stakeholders involved, and with proper attention in career-wise valuation and valorization of an Open Science mentality, for example through altmetrics.”*

History of Open Science in Flanders

History of FOCUS EVENTS on OS some in collaboration with the Royal Academy, BELSPO, FWB and the European Commission

- January 2018: White paper VLIR on “Research Datamanagement (RDM) and the universities May 2018
- January 2019: study in coop with Technopolis BV
 - Mapping of the Flemish situation
 - Identifying good practices “inspirational benchmarking”
 - Policy recommendations for a governance on Open Science in Flanders, specifically taking into account
 - EOSC challenge !
 - FRIS as a “catalogue of metadata”
 - **Governance suggestion “Flemish Open Science Board” (FOSB) => Decision Flemish Govt Dec 2019**



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FLEMISH OPEN SCIENCE BOARD:

Challenges

- Landscape analysis
- Need to include all stakeholders such as universities and non-university stakeholders like Strategic Research Centres, Flemish Scientific Organisation
- Identification of common challenges / specific challenges
- **makes it easier to deal with the EOSC Challenges together**
- Roadmap for implementation of the Flemish Open Science Policy



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FLEMISH OPEN SCIENCE BOARD

Mandate & Governance

- Kick off meeting 21st February 2020
- Continued stakeholder interaction
- MANDATE: ADVISORY FUNCTION to the minister on ROADMAP and budget plan (€ 5 million) , strategic principles
- FWO : coordination hub (data stewards, knowledge hub,.. data hub, discovery hub
- 3 working groups established (and some taskforces)
 - Working Group Architecture
 - Working Group Metadata and standardization
 - Working Group RDM & Open Science



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SO FAR

- Summer of 2020 : € 3.275.000 for data stewards towards the institutions within the FOSB
- Autumn 2020 : consultancy study PWC to support the WG Architecture
- December 2020 : MED VR with an update on the Roadmap Open Science, with the work of the three WGs included:
 - 1st Architecture plan
 - KPI-set (KPI 0 – ORCID-ID, KPI1-DMP, KPI2-FAIR DATA, KPI3-OA pub, KPI4-Open Data with 3 trajectories depending on zero measurement)
 - Metadatamodel for research data



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FLEMISH OPEN SCIENCE BOARD

SO FAR

- Website for stakeholder interaction
 - update roadmap
 - Implementation of the open science policy starts
 - Close interaction with the members of the EOSC Association (including BELNET as “mandated organisation”)
 - Further interaction with FRIS, for KPI monitoring and for “gateway to EOSC”
FRIS = Flanders Research Information Space
<https://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/en/fris-flanders-research-information-space>
<https://www.researchportal.be/en>
- => Implementation of the Architecture Plan foreseen for 2022: decentralised model with interoperability



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Architecture Plan & Implementation

“During the data life cycle, different data architectural solutions are needed to address the needs of users and address the requirements from funders and government, such as the KPIs defined by FOSB.

We have collected information across FOSB institutes to assemble concrete and structured information: which **infrastructures are already in place**, what the short-term (next year) **plans** are and how the institutes envision **collaboration** across the network. This allowed us to assemble the research data management (RDM) infrastructure matrix to develop a first version of the FOSB data architecture. Based on this, budget can be allocated to realise or further develop the plans of the institutes. This plan is envisioned to be annually updated, tracking progress and allowing for adaptations and reorientations based on new insights gained”.

- ⇒ Solutions for short term & long term archiving, taking into account both institutions with broad spectrum of sciences (universities) and institutions with domain-specific metadata
- ⇒ Join forces to negotiate contracts with 3rd parties, where institutional solutions are absent



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !
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- **Feel free to contact me!**