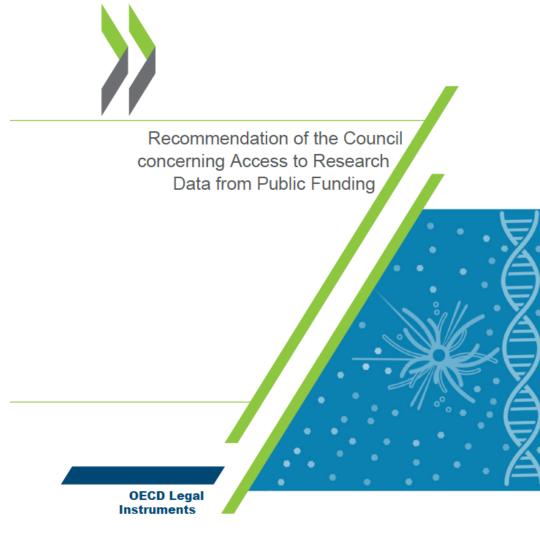# Access to Research Data from Public Funding
The OECD Recommendation

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Summary

- The OECD and OECD recommendations.
- Why a recommendation on research data?
- Overview of the recommendation.
- Key issues.

https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0347

Recommendation of the Council concerning Access to Research Data from Public Funding

OECD Legal Instruments

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OECD

The OECD and OECD Recommendations

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- An international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives.
- Inter-governmental, 38 member countries (all the ExPaNDS nations).

OECD Recommendations
- Legal instruments which are not legally binding.
- Practice accords them great moral force - represent political will of Adherents.
- Adherents expected to do utmost to fully implement a Recommendation.
- Members that do not intend to implement a Recommendation usually abstain when it is adopted.

Why a Recommendation on Research Data?

- Enhancing access to research data from public funding, can promote scientific discovery, technological progress, innovation and economic growth, improve policy advice, and enhance welfare for individuals and society at large.
- Supports reproducibility of research results and reduces duplication of effort.
- Purpose to provide guidance on enhancing access to research data.
- Recommendation adopted by OECD Council in 2006, and amended in 2021.

- Is not a law or a policy – it creates environment within which national policy can be developed.

Overview of the Recommendation

- 7 key policy areas:
  - **Data Governance for Trust**
  - **Technical Standards and Practices**
  - Responsibility, Ownership and Stewardship
  - Incentives and Rewards
  - Sustainable Infrastructures
  - **Human Capital**
  - International Co-Operation for Access to Research Data
- Wide scope – definition of public funding and research data.
- Explicit that data should be FAIR.
- Supports widest use of open licences and open standards.

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Scope

Factual records (such as numerical scores, textual records, images, and sounds) resulting from **research that is partially or fully funded by public funds**.

Other **research-relevant digital objects** from public funding: metadata, algorithms, workflows, models, and software (including code) resulting from research that is partially or fully funded by public funds, which are used in a research and development context.

Data Governance for Trust

Recommends that Adherents develop and implement co-ordinated mechanisms, strategies, or policies to make research data and other research-relevant digital objects from public funding openly accessible and reusable to the largest extent possible, while taking into account the need to restrict access for legitimate private, public, and community interests.

Key issues:
- Foster and support open access to data by default, else as open as possible.
- Provided without discrimination and free of charge.
- Promote a culture of confidence in dealing with data requests.

Technical Standards and Practices

Recommends that adherents take measures to promote, foster, and where appropriate, require compliance with technical standards and practices that make research data and other research-relevant digital objects from public funding **findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable**.

Key issues:
- Improve **findability** by assigning PIDs and publishing metadata.
- Develop data **access** infrastructure within and across domains.
- Promote **interoperability** with semantic and technical standards.
- Support **reusability** with human/machine actionable metadata and supporting environments (code, workflows etc).
- Use open standards where possible.

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Human Capital

Recommends that Adherents support the development of the human capital necessary to realise the full potential benefits of enhancing access to research data.

Key issues:
- Identify gaps and formulate strategies to develop and maintain the diverse skills necessary for data-driven research and innovation, including training a cadre of dedicated data managers and stewards with expertise in curation and stewardship of research data, as well as research software engineers.
- Attract and retain data scientists through building attractive career paths.

Other Key Issues

- Support researchers in adopting 'best practices' for management of data.
- Encourage the widest use of open licences, where these are appropriate.
- Foster/require the adoption of measures to recognise and reward the provision of access to, and maintenance of, research data as a recognised research output.
- Support the development of robust and open indicators on impact of access to research data, including tracking data and software citation.
- Develop strategies to ensure sustainable infrastructures for research data, including data and software repositories and services.
- Support efforts to improve interoperability among global research infrastructures to leverage national investments and innovation, and to encourage inter-disciplinarity.

Monitoring

OECD CSTP is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Recommendation and reporting on this to the Council no later than five years following its revision and at least every ten years thereafter.

In 2026 CSTP will report to Council on the state of play regarding the implementation, dissemination and continued relevance of the recommendation.

This implies that adherents will need to be able to report their progress on implementing the recommendation. For example, working with communities to develop targets and reporting on progress towards these targets. Depends on the national context.

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Thank you

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Responsibility, Ownership and Stewardship

Recommends that Adherents take measures to ensure a clear delineation and allocation of responsibility, ownership, and stewardship for access to publicly funded research data and other research-relevant digital objects from public funding across the research data ecosystem, while also tailoring and implementing licensing and other management of intellectual property rights to optimise scientific discovery and innovation and protect research data and digital object producers' rights.

Key points:
- Support researchers in adopting 'best practices' for management of data.
- Encourage the widest use of open licences, where these are appropriate.

Incentives and Rewards

Recommends that Adherents, in co-operation with research institutions, funders, and scientific communities, foster and support the development and implementation of effective models of reward and recognition that provide incentives and remove disincentives for researchers and research support staff to provide access to research data.

Key points:
- Foster/require the adoption of measures to recognise and reward the provision of access to, and maintenance of, research data as a recognised research output.
- Support the development of robust and open indicators on impact of access to research data, including tracking data and software citation.

Sustainable Infrastructures

Recommends that Adherents take necessary measures to support development and maintenance of sustainable infrastructures to support the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of research data free of charge at the point of use.

Key points:
- Develop strategies to ensure sustainable infrastructures for research data, including data and software repositories and services.
- Support efforts to improve interoperability among global research infrastructures to leverage national investments and innovation, and to encourage inter-disciplinarity.

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International Co-Operation for Access to Research Data

Recommends that Adherents collaborate at the international level on access to research data in order to enable free exchange of ideas and enhance scientific discovery, notably where making use of datasets across borders bilaterally or multilaterally can help the advancement of science and contribute to solving global societal challenges.

Key points:

- Work together internationally to develop common definitions, data and security standards, frameworks etc for access to research data across jurisdictions and national borders.

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