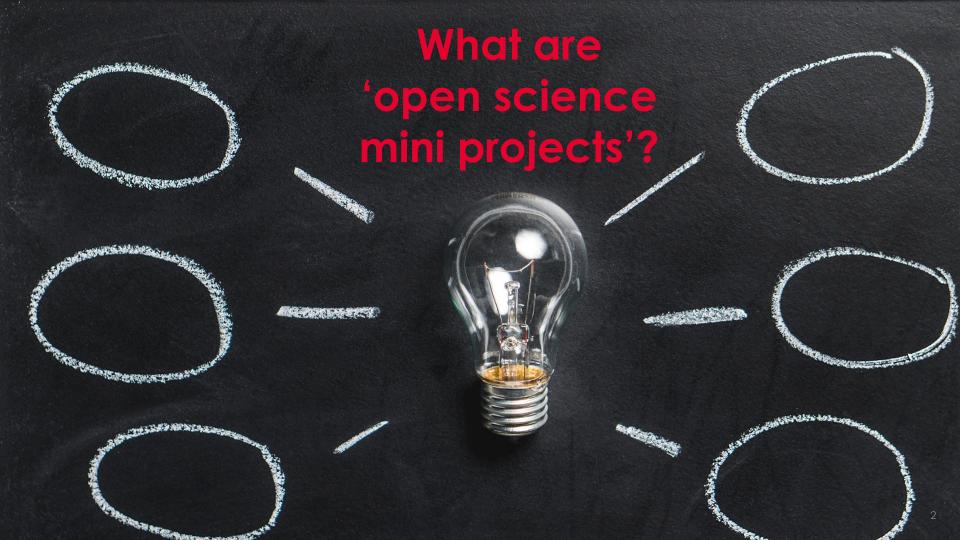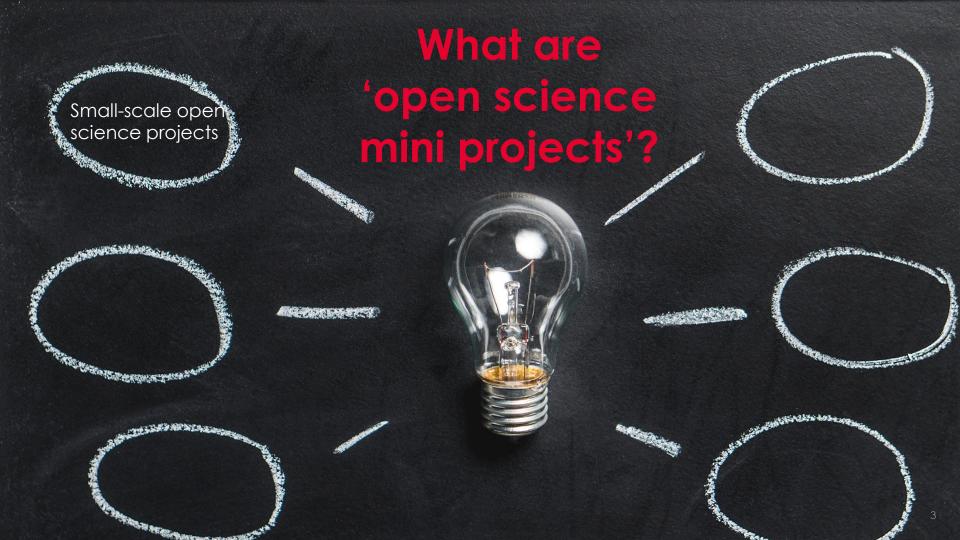# Open Science Mini Projects

Institutional support and strategic funding as a tool for increasing researchers' open science initiatives

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Åbo Akademi University

What are 'open science mini projects'?

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Small-scale open science projects

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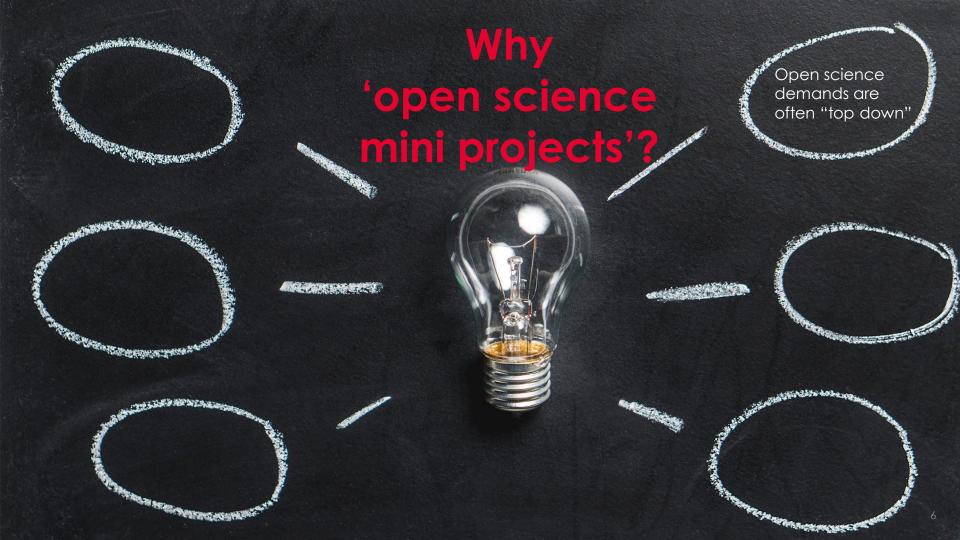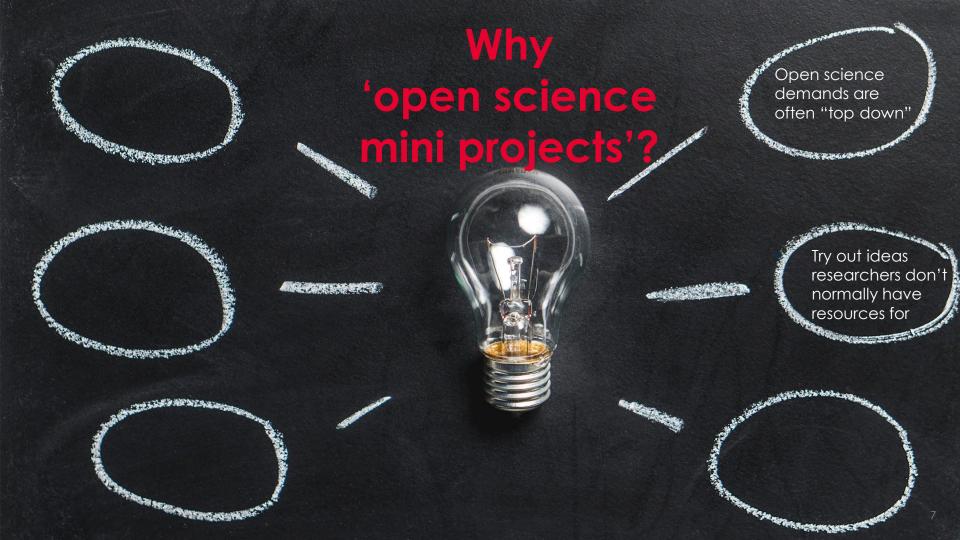
Ideas and initiatives from researchers

What are 'open science mini projects'?

Small-scale open science projects

Ideas and initiatives from researchers

Researcher service and small-scale funding instrument

Why 'open science mini projects'?

Open science demands are often "top down"

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Try out ideas researchers don't normally have resources for

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Financial and institutional support and advising for researchers needed

What did ÅAU do?

- Collaboration between the ÅAU library and vice-rector for research
- Design of application process for researchers
- Strategic funding since 2021
- Open calls within the university

Who can apply?

- ÅAU affiliated researchers, doctoral researchers, teaching staff
- Head of subject should be informed
- Budget max 1000 €

Evaluation criteria

- ❑ Relevance (for open science)
- ❑ Feasibility
- ❑ Sustainability (long-term access)
- ❑ Benefit for the research milieu
- ❑ Distribution between faculties/subjects

Evaluation group:
Chief librarian
Vice-rector for research
Service manager (library)
Leading Coordinator for Open Science

Ideas do not need to be perfect

2021 **8 completed projects**

2022 **11 completed projects**

2023 **12 positive funding decisions**

Some examples of completed and ongoing mini projects

Workshops, seminars, events…

Seminar on citizen science and archipelago research , (Centre for Life-Long Learning, Institute for Archipelago Research, Habitability project)

PhD Workshop: Open Science – Risks and Possibilities in the Field of Minority Studies (ÅAU Minority Research Profile)

Anonymization workshop for qualitative and quantitative research materials (theology, FHPT)

Video data as open science: a workshop on sharing and anonymizing video data (Experience Lab, FPV)

Short courses about open software and tools

Using RMarkdown and GitHub to make your data and analyses more FAIR (marine biology, FNT)

Intro to R statistical analysis software: 5 two hour guided lectures in a computer lab to introduce students to R and statistical analysis more generally (social policy, FPV)

Implementing the free and open statistical software Jamovi in Quantitative Research Methods courses for teacher students (special education, FPV)

Digitization of materials, improving documentation and metadata…

Improving the documentation of the ZeroCostDL4Mic platform *(cell biology, FNT)*

Digitization and improving metadata, Cultura archive

Translating…

Researcher's guide to citizen science (Swedish translation) (information studies, FSEJ)

Open educational resources

in the Library of Open Educational Resources (aoe.fi)

[Webbskrapning av Twitter (2021). Andersdotter, Karolina](#) (information studies, FSEJ)

[Jugendsprache – Undervisningsmaterial för en tyskatimme i gymnasiet (2023). Carmain, Speckmann, Acke](#)(German language and literature, FHPT)

[Improving the analysis of eye-tracking data using Python library PyTrack (2022). Zhigulina](#)(information systems, FSEJ)

After the project

Outcomes and effects

Awareness, knowledge, attitudes

"The project was highly appreciated by the participants, and will be of great importance for their continued research efforts."

"I have greatly benefited from familiarizing myself with Jamovi and will begin to use Jamovi more extensively in my own research as well."

Engagement and discussion with colleagues

.."The discussion picked up central questions such as why it makes sense and how research can be done by using open data, and the value of using previously collected data and not always collecting own data for all empirical projects."

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New skills and capabilities

"The project was a great success. Everybody managed to get all the software working and where uploading their own data into R and GitHub."

"The main challenge of the project proved to be the actual process of producing an OER. Many practical issues arose, for example how to deal with the fact that materials included in the resource would be outdated after a while or links might not be accessible any longer. Because of the goal-oriented discussions at the workshop, we found solutions to all challenges."

Some knots

- Sustainable archiving
- Choice of proper open licenses
- Project administration and time management
- Resources needed from the Open Science Team

What's on the horizon?

- External or internal **motivation**?
- **Research assessment** and open science activities > participants are encouraged to add the experience and project output to their CV's
- Planning of staff's **work hours**
- Long-term **funding** needs to be secured

There are a few steps ahead before open science is 'the new normal'

Image sources

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