

# Netherlands National Open Science Festival 2020-2023

[https://web.archive.org/web/20230000000000\\*/opensciencefestival.nl](https://web.archive.org/web/20230000000000*/opensciencefestival.nl)



**Motto:** MEET | SHARE | INSPIRE | CARE

This motto is originally from the Netherlands National Open Science Festival, but now also in use in eg. Germany for their National Festival. All elements of the Festival should be connected to this tagline.

**Main target group:** Active researchers from universities (of applied sciences) and other institutions in NL

**Other target groups:** data stewards, librarians, policy staff and local and national management

**Scope:** National. This means that the Programme/Organisational Committee (not the host institution) is in the lead content wise.

**Where:** Each edition is hosted by a different university and is an onsite event.

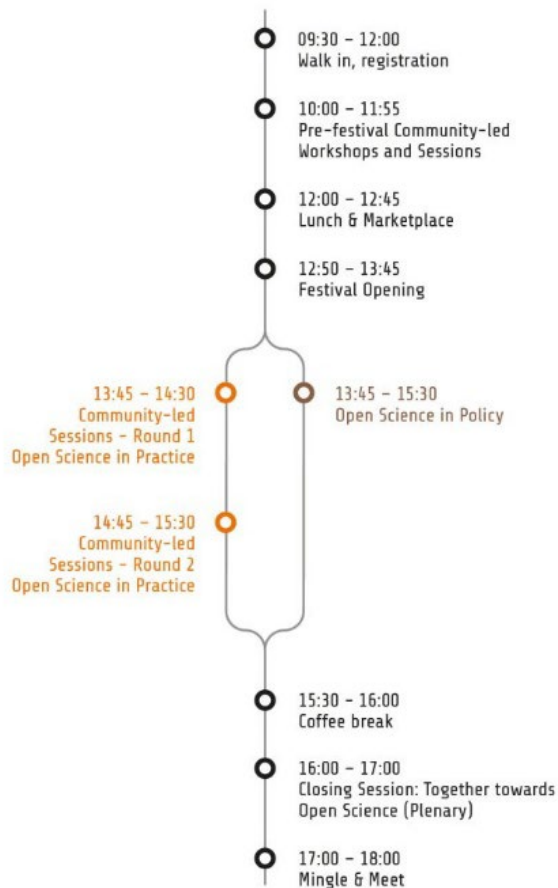
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**Language:** English

**When:** Yearly

**Goal:** An opportunity for those interested in Open Science to:

- 1: meet peers
- 2: learn more about Open Science practices in research
- 3: learn more about current Open Science policy in the Netherlands



These goals were for instance met in two separate tracks at the 2022 edition of the festival:

**Track 1: Open Science in Practice** consisted of 18+ community-led, interactive workshops and sessions that focus on what Open Science means in the everyday work of researchers in the Netherlands. This track featured sessions about peer review, diamond open access publishing, how to create synthetic data, citizen science use cases, recognition and rewards in UMC's, etc.

**Track 2: Open Science in Policy** shone light on institutional, national and international policies that shape Open Science in the Netherlands. Developments, challenges and opportunities were discussed, including the updated Netherlands National Open Science Programme, mainly by highlighting examples of local and national policies. In other years there was no distinction in tracks.

In some years there was an Call for Open Science Awards attached to the Festival, for open initiatives or open use cases, but that was seen as a bit much for a one day Festival. There was a wish to divide the Festival over two days, to be able to make a distinction between shorter community led sessions on day one, and more in-dept specific longer workshops on day two, but that was not possible due to practical reasons. This might be an idea for future events.

### Guiding Principles to be as open and inclusive as possible

- Practise what you preach as much as possible. Every decision in the set up of the Festival is assessed:
  - Does this decision influence the openness and inclusiveness of the event?
  - Does this decision adhere to the Festival Motto?
  - Is this interesting from the researchers point of view?



Which sometimes can be difficult; next to costs that are sometimes a barrier, there are situations where there is not one ideal solution. For instance the decision to not live stream the breakout sessions: this can be seen as excluding people who can't come to the event, but on the other hand means that in the sessions experiences can be shared that participants don't want to share outside the room. Or the decision to only use English as the conference language; this includes people who don't speak Dutch, but excludes people who don't speak English very well.

- Ensuring diversity in all aspects of the Festival without this being made explicit. Geographical, type of institution, gender, cultural background, age, domain, OS topic etc., taking the time to find new faces to present and talk about what is expected of people that don't feel safe to immediately accept the invitation. Ensuring that special needs for presenters are met in a pro-active way. NB: non-typical presenters are invited to talk about their research or expertise, not about diversity.
- A broad programme committee that consists of active researchers and support staff active in open science, to review the submissions for the Open Call for Community Led Sessions and shape the plenary and policy sessions.
- An understanding that the audience is there to meet and discuss developments with peers, not to listen to one way (top-down) presentations. This led to the 'rule' that there should always be interactive elements included when people present.
- Open style of communications; explaining to the potential audience why certain decisions are made, how their feedback is taken into account, mistakes that were made etc. and consistent communications: this is our shared National Open Science Festival. Quick response to questions addressed at the organisational committee.
- Letting everyone know that there is a Code of Conduct for the event, and offering a CoC response training to the volunteers in the CoC response team.
- Info about accessibility of the building and rooms, audio facilities etc. on the website, and a question in the registration form about any access requirements people would like the organisational committee to be aware of. This for instance led us to ensure there are extra microphones in the breakout rooms.
- Have an extra room available for whoever needs a quiet space during the event;
- Registrations that are personal; which means that after a cancellation someone from the waiting list can get the open spot, not a colleague or friend of the person who cancels.
- Have an open feedback form where people have the opportunity to share their feedback without restrictions.
- Everything developed for the Festival is CC BY and shared; eg. with other countries who want to organise their own Festival, or on Zenodo: all community led session leads are encouraged to share their outputs in Zenodo Open Science Festival Communities for each edition.

For info on the set up of the Netherlands National Open Science Festival in an online setting, you can also see the [Guidelines for Community Led Sessions at the Netherlands National Open Science Festival 2021](#) that were previously shared.

