



Council of the  
European Union

002419/EU XXVI. GP  
Eingelangt am 24/11/17

Brussels, 24 November 2017  
(OR. en)

14881/17

RECH 383  
TELECOM 315

**NOTE**

---

From: The Commission  
To: Council

---

Subject: Open Science  
*- Information from the Commission on the state of play*

---

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on the above-mentioned subject with a view to the Competitiveness Council on 1 December 2017.

INFORMATION NOTE ON OPEN SCIENCE FOR COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL-

1 DECEMBER

The Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP) met 4 times, e.g. in September and December 2016 as well as in March 2017 and in October 2017. Commissioner Moedas participated in the first three meetings. At their first meeting, the Open Science Policy Platform agreed to address the entire scope of the European Open Science Agenda, which includes 8 top-level ambitions, covering: the Future of Scholarly Publication, FAIR Data, the European Open Science Cloud, Altmetrics, Citizen science, Research Integrity, Rewards, and Education and Skills. So far, the Open Science Policy Platform has - consensually - adopted three documents with recommendations on respectively 'the governance and financial schemes for the European Open Science Cloud', 'Open Science Publishing' and "Next Generation Metrics". At the Competitiveness Council of 30 May 2017, the Commission informed on the first two topics, and will inform on the issue of 'Next Generation Metrics' at this Council meeting .

The OSPP adopted its opinion on 'Next Generation Metrics' at their last meeting in October 2017 on the basis of an assessment of a report of an Expert Group on Altmetrics. The OSPP fully endorses the European Commission's Expert Group on Altmetrics report's emphasis on the importance of using a mix of quantitative and qualitative metrics in research evaluation. Furthermore, the OSPP wants the discussion of metrics (or indicators) here not to be seen as alternatives to mainstream metrics, but rather as an important and necessary evolution in the type of metrics used to assess researchers careers and performance. Therefore the preferred terminology is here 'next generation metrics' rather than 'altmetrics'.

The OSPP advocates a distinction between two types of indicators used to assess, reward and incentivise open research: [1] indicators that *measure Open Science behaviours* themselves (such as how often does the researcher publish open access; how openly they share other research outputs, methodologies or milestones; do they contribute to open peer review, etc.). [2] indicators that *provide insight into the quality, value and potential impact of the research outputs in a way that incentivises open science behaviour*. The context of this second type of indicators is broader. It should focus on the *development and application of a set of new and innovative indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, that measure quality, value and potential impact* of a researcher, project or organisation's outputs – while retaining and improving existing indicators that do so already.

The Commission will establish an Expert Group on Indicators for Researchers' Engagement with Open Science. This expert group will make a proposal for the use of indicators as proposed by the OSPP.

The Open Science Platform has adopted a work plan which foresees that advice on all these 8 ambitions should be provided, in an integrated and systemic manner, in spring 2018 ahead of the 29 May 2018 Competitiveness Council. The OSPP will by then have a view on the interlinkage between Rewards and the use of indicators as well as with other open science policies such as the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud and employment of open data. The open use of any metrics is not possible without an open data infrastructure.

At the 29 May 2018 Council a broader discussion on Open Science will be possible since by then an integrated advice on Open Science Policy by the OSPP will be available.

---