



Quality assurance Group

WP1 REVIEW OF DELIVERABLE: P3 - *Mapping the situation regarding the awareness and knowledge of open science principles within academic community*

DELIVERABLE DETAILS

Title of the deliverable:	Survey on open science attitudes and experiences among Serbian scholars
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WP leader:	University of Novi Sad
QAG reviewer(s):	Lazar Petrovic, Snezana Smederevac, Petros Stefaneas, Marina Lenisa, Caspar Addyman, Thed van Leeuwen
Short description of the deliverable:	
<p>Unrestricted access to scientific information has become the main impetus and precondition for development of knowledge-based society. Open science principles are recognized as a priority within the future European Research Area that should provide better circulation of research results within academia and society. Promotion of these principles among various stakeholders is not only a mean to foster the exchange of ideas, but also a mechanism to make science itself more responsible, more responsive, and more efficient. This is particularly relevant for small and developing economies such as Serbian, in order to improve the accountability and effectiveness of publicly-funded research and foster the engagement of the industry and wider society in science. The implementation of open science principles in Serbian academic community is still at its embryonic stage. Currently there is no clearly defined strategy or a policy regarding open science at the national level, apart from the rules that define the obligation to deposit PhD theses defended at Serbian universities in publicly available institutional repositories. Current research evaluation rules, as well as promotion and tenure requirements, strongly encourage authors to publish their papers in prestigious international journals that are almost exclusively subscription-based. On the other hand, publishing model of the majority of Serbian journals could be described as platinum open access, which means that neither subscription nor article processing fees are charged. In such a situation, Serbian researchers are not always aware of various modalities of knowledge dissemination and possibilities to make their research output more visible and accessible. Furthermore, a considerable number of papers by Serbian authors in the past few years have appeared in so-called "predatory" journals and other publications of dubious quality, thus raising an issue about the common perceptions and possible misperceptions of the open access idea.</p>	



The main aim of the BE-OPEN project is to foster the implementation of open science principles at Serbian universities. In order to achieve this goal, three prerequisites must be met. The first is establishing a set of policies and guidelines at the national and institutional levels. The second is building a network of institutional repositories and a proper infrastructure to comply with those policies as well as the recommendations on open access to scientific publications and research data set by the European Commission. Finally, the third prerequisite is to promote and encourage the open science culture among scholars. Sustainability of the project's results largely depends on the willingness of researchers to embrace the idea of open science, but also on the level of compliance of guidelines and infrastructural functionalities with their general and field-specific research needs and practices. Hence, the aim of this study was to explore knowledge, attitudes, and experience about open science principles among researchers and scholars from Serbian faculties and research institutes. Data were gathered in order to provide a baseline for the preparation of open science policies at national and institutional levels and for the adoption of a recommended set of features and functionalities for institutional open science repositories.

QUALITY ASSURANCE DETAILS

Assurance point:	Issues to be addressed:	Assessment:	Comments:	Recommendations:
1. Compliance with the objectives of BE-OPEN	Does the deliverable comply with the overall objectives of the project?	Deliverable complies with objective of the project	N/A	N/A
2. Compliance with the specific objectives of the work package	Does the deliverable comply with the WP Objectives as specified in the WP description?	Deliverable complies with WP objective specified in the WP description	N/A	N/A
3. Correspondence with the description of work of the relevant activity	Does the deliverable correspond with the activity description as specified in the Application Form?	Deliverable corresponds with the activity description as specified in the Application Form	N/A	N/A
4. Compliance with the deliverables format	Is the deliverable presented using the Project's deliverable format?	Deliverable is presented using the Project's deliverable format	N/A	N/A
5. Adequacy of complementary information	Examples of complementary info: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External sources used • Bibliography • List of contacts • Methodology used (i.e. for surveys) 	Deliverable Adequacy of complementary information complies with minimum information required	N/A	N/A

Methodology used (i.e. for surveys)

Methodology:

Instrument: The questionnaire used in the survey was custom-made in order to cover all relevant issues related to the project's goals. It was prepared in LimeSurvey open source software and distributed online in Serbian language. The English translation is given in Appendix 1. The questionnaire was composed of 38 questions organized into four categories: 1) general data about researchers, 2) data on typical participants' information-seeking behavior and usage of various scientific information sources and literature, 3) data on participants' publication behavior, preferred publication types, and general research activity, and 4) attitudes, experience, and overall knowledge related to the implementation of open science principles.

Sample:

There are more than 160 accredited faculties and research institutes in Serbia and some 100 registered research organizations in business sector. Approximately 16.000 researchers are in some way related to research and development activities. BE-OPEN project is mainly focused on boosting the engagement of Serbian universities in open science, but since this is a rather relevant issue for the Serbian science as a whole, invitation to participate in the survey was sent not only to the academics employed at the six state universities participating in the project, but also to all Serbian research institutes thanks to our partners and colleagues from the Association of Institutes of Serbia. It is estimated that the questionnaire was directly or indirectly addressed to some 11.000 scholars. Current report presents the result as of July 15th 2017 but the questionnaire is still available for all interested participants at the BE-OPEN website: <http://beopen.uns.ac.rs/anketa>. A total of 1209 participants responded to the call and accessed the questionnaire. Out of that number, some 83% completed the full survey. If not stated otherwise, presented analyses have covered only the participants who answered all the questions. However, in order to make use of as much data as possible, we have applied pairwise deletion of cases and hence the exact sample size varies across questions from 803 to 968 participants.

External sources and Bibliography used:

- BE-OPEN website: <http://beopen.uns.ac.rs/anketa>

6. Adequacy of written language	Level of written English	C2	N/A	N/A
Quality assurance:				
Overall assessment and suggestions for improvement		Overall assessment is that deliverable is completely in line with adequate quality expectations for the Mapping the situation regarding the awareness and knowledge of open science principles within academic community		
Date of Quality Assurance performed by QAG reviewers:		10.11.2017.		
Deadline for submission of amended version of the Deliverable:		N/A		

BE-OPEN TEAM

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