

The Adoption of Open Science in The Middle East

Open Science Community in Saudi Arabia

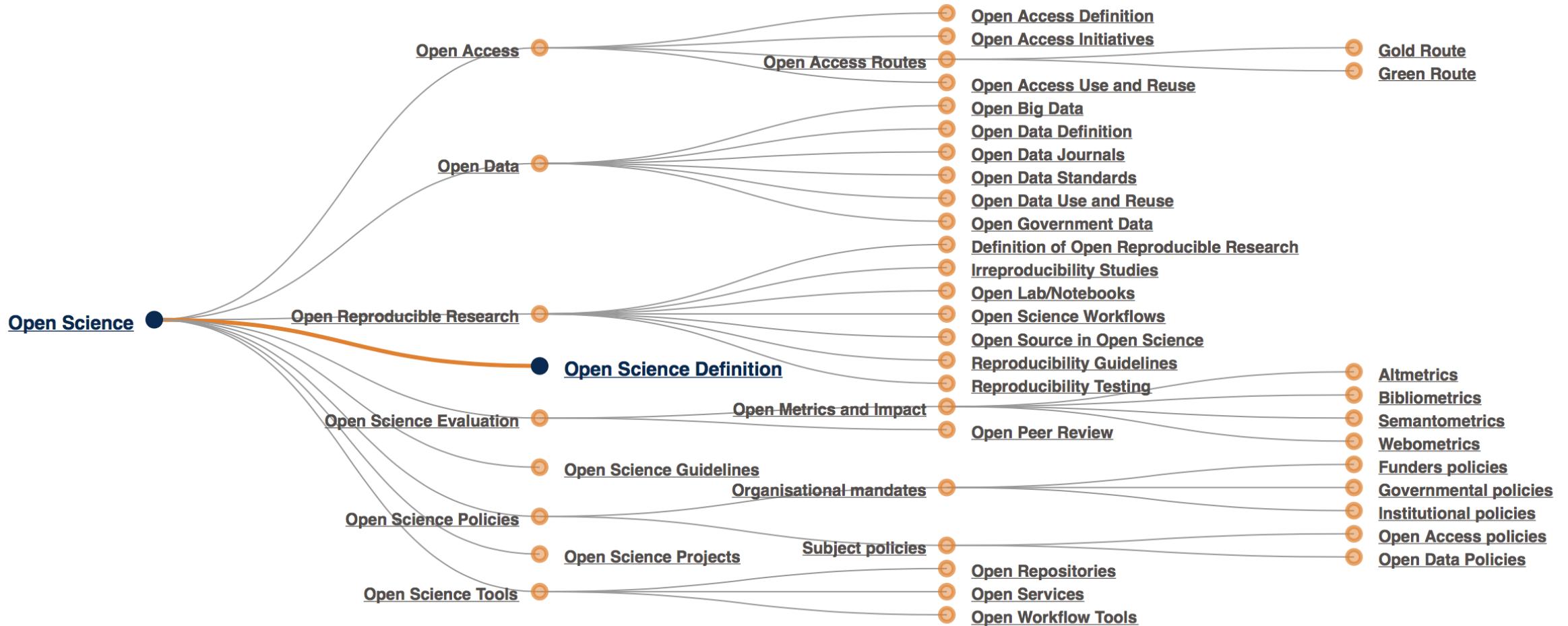
Batool Almarzouq



What is Open Science?

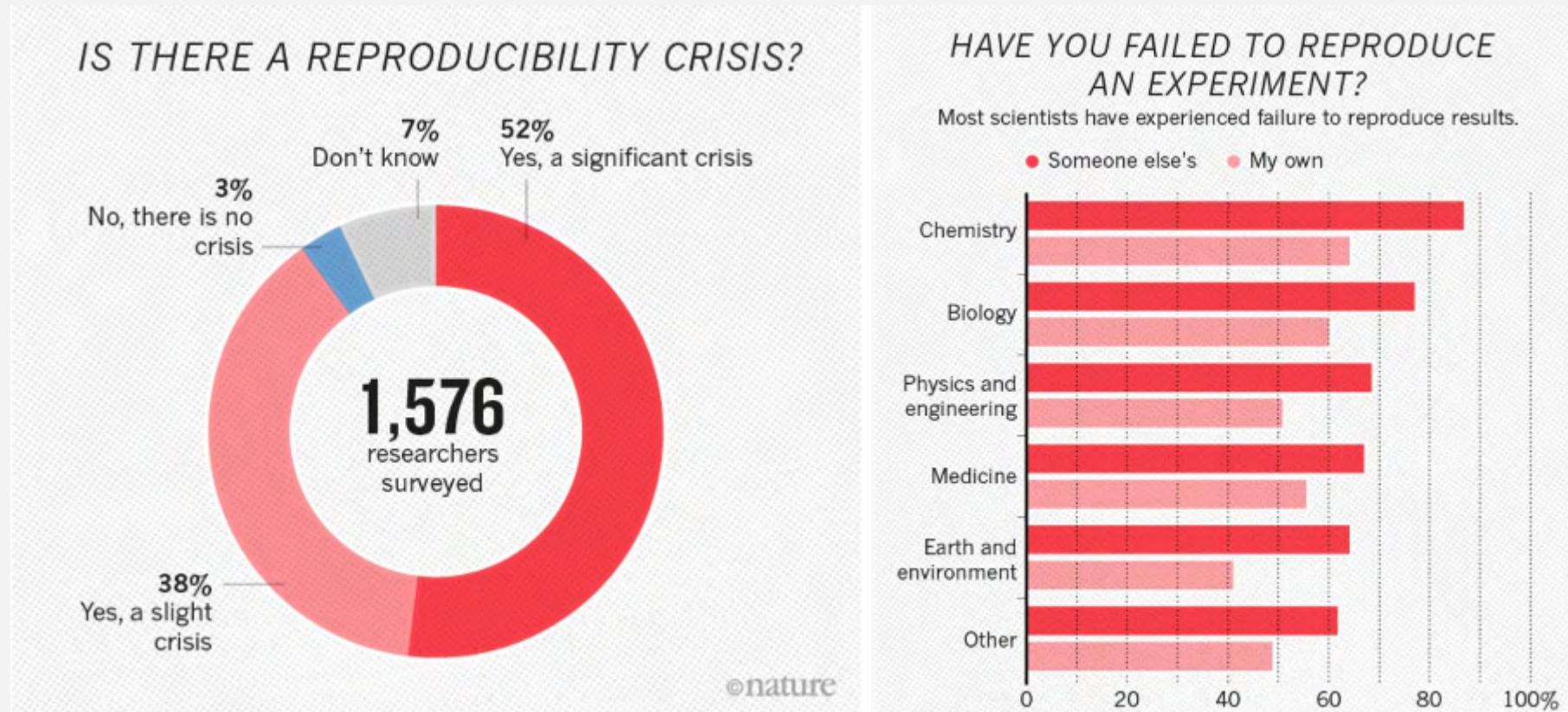
In a nutshell, Open Science describes an on-going movement in the way research is performed, researchers collaborate, knowledge is shared, and science is organised. It affects the whole research cycle and its stakeholders, enhances science by facilitating more transparency, openness, networking and collaboration.

– OpenAIRE



The image is taken from "Pontika et al (2015). Fostering Open Science to Research using a Taxonomy and an eLearning Portal. In: iKnow: 15th International Conference on Knowledge Technologies and Data Driven Business, 21-22 Oct 2015, Graz, Austria. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2809563.2809571>"

Open Science aims to fix the "Reproducibility Crisis" in Science



Credit: Key results of the survey on reproducibility conducted by [Nature in 2016](#)

After the pandemic, 193 countries gathered in Paris for the 40th session of the UNESCO's General Conference and decided to embark on a new global normative instrument on Open Science. It's referred to as the "UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science".

This process is expected to lead to the adoption of the recommendation by UNESCO Member States in 2021.

**Therefore, there is an increasing number of Open Science Communities
in Europe**

**A vast network of Open Science Communities is in the Netherlands,
Sweden, Germany, UK and many other countries ...**

BUT Open Science movement is not yet adopted in the Middle East

In 2021, We started an Open Science Community in Saudi Arabia

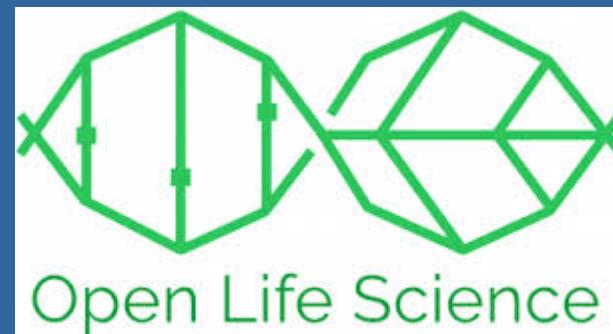
We are in the process of re-designing Open Science for Saudi Arabia to potentially be adopted by the other countries in the Middle East



Credit: The logo is adopted from Malaysia Open Science Platform

The Open Science Community in Saudi Arabia is supported by [Open Life
Science Programme](#)

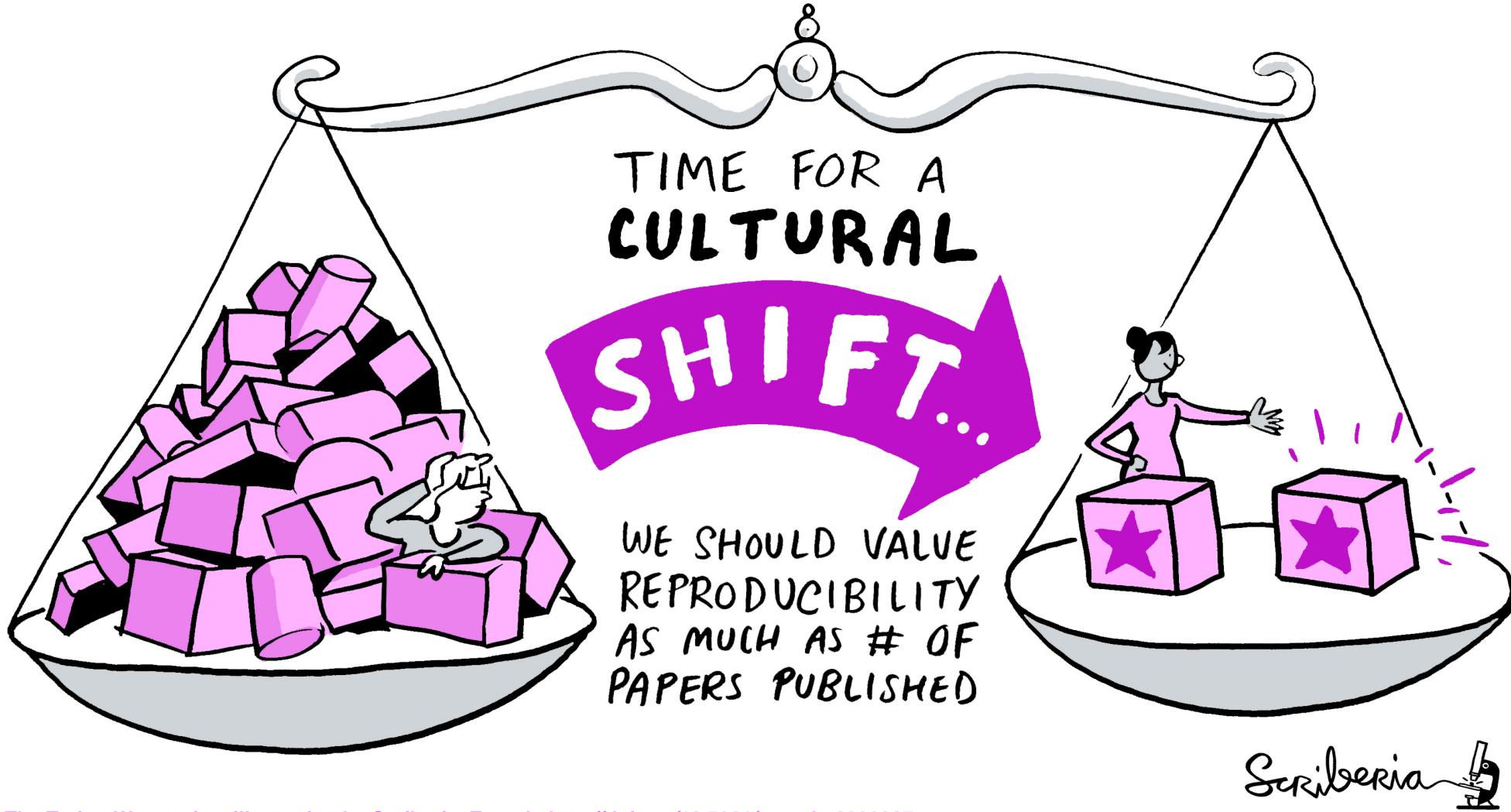
Led by Batool Almarzouq, Anelda Van der Walt and Paula Moraga



Our Vision statement

We want to create a space in Saudi Arabia where newcomers and seasoned peers can connect, inspire each other, and provide input on policies and infrastructures. Working together to make Open Science the norme. So, we are calling out to researchers and colleagues in Saudi Arabia

– The Open Science community in Saudi Arabia



The Turing Way project illustration by Scriberia. Zenodo <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3332807>

Examples of our activities in Feb 2021

- A workshop in Women in Data Science (WiDS2021) in Saudi Arabia, under the title "Collaborating on Open Data Science Projects"

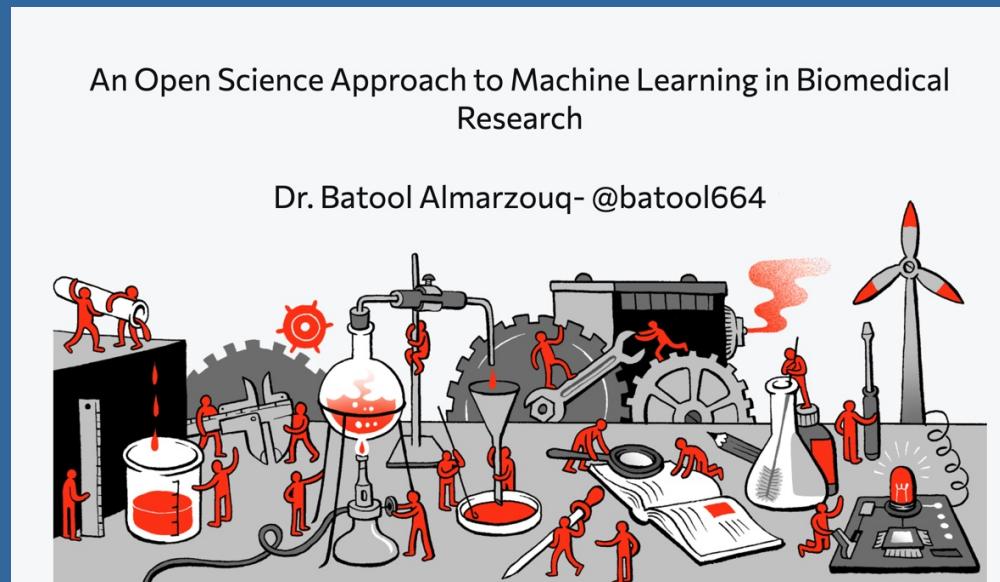
The screenshot shows a webpage titled "Collaboration on Open Data Science Projects". The page includes a navigation bar with links to Home, Code of Conduct, Setup, Episodes, Extras, License, and Improve this page. A search bar is also present. The main content area has a heading "Collaboration on Open Data Science Projects" and a paragraph describing the lesson's purpose and source. Below this is a "Schedule" section with a table mapping video times to specific topics and their descriptions.

	Setup	Download files required for the lesson
00:00	1. The reproducibility crisis and open science	What is the reproducibility crisis and how can be solved?
00:25	2. Become a champion of open (data) science	How data scientist can apply open science practices in their work?
01:55	3. Intro to Version Control with Git	How do I use git to keep a record of my project?
02:30	4. Using GitHub	How do I use git and GitHub?
03:05	5. Code Collaboration using GitHub	How can others contribute to my project on GitHub? How can I contribute to the projects of others?
03:40	6. Licensing and citation	What licensing information should I include with my work? How can I enable others to cite my work?

All of our work is citable and available in [Zenodo](#) and [GitHub](#)

Examples of our activities in Feb 2021

- A talk titled "An Open Science Approach to Machine Learning in Biomedical Research" in the Saudi Data Community.



Are you a researcher from the Middle East?

Or anywhere in the globe!

Are you an advocate for Open Science?

Or just want to learn more!

Come and join me for informal Chat on every last Friday each month at 2:00pm UTC

Zoom link: [https://liverpool-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/91493007481?
pwd=UHljc2swTnBqdUOrTOtjN3c0aC9SUT09](https://liverpool-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/91493007481?pwd=UHljc2swTnBqdUOrTOtjN3c0aC9SUT09), Passcode: @YEAR2021

Further References:

- [Redesign open science for Asia, Africa and Latin America](#)
- [UNESCO Takes the Lead in Developing a New Global Standard-setting Instrument on Open Science](#)
- [The Turing Way: A guide to reproducible and collaborative data science](#)
- [EC policies and mandates on Open Access to publications and research data, FAIR data](#)

Thank you so much for reaching the end!

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The source code for these the slides is [available on GitHub](https://github.com/batool664/slides)