

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We are writing on behalf of the [Open Science MOOC](#), a platform we are building for students and researchers to learn the skills they need to thrive in a modern, Web-based research environment. Our vision is to create a modular educational resource that can be fully integrated into graduate schools around Europe, and further.

We are writing to you to express a statement of interest, inspired by the publication of two recent reports by the EU Commission: [Evaluation of Research Careers fully acknowledging Open Science Practices](#) and [Providing researchers with the skills and competencies they need to practise Open Science](#). In these reports, the European Commission recognises the urgency to make open science part of standard research excellence training<sup>1</sup> and taking into account Open Science track record in the tenure and research evaluation for individuals<sup>2</sup> and institutions. In the case of R1 and R2 researchers, it should be mandatory for universities and research organisations to offer these as part of their training.

The Open Science MOOC represents an international, grassroots effort that mirrors these key recommendations. At the present, the MOOC is purely volunteer-led, with expressions of interest from more than 100 researchers from around the world to help build it. Although at an early stage in development, we believe that support of the Open Science MOOC aligns itself with the European Commission's ongoing recommendations for Open Science. We are aware of the current attention at the policy level to Open Science, and expect that implementation level changes will begin occurring soon. The Open Science MOOC could help to alleviate individual and institutional pressure in terms of advice, expertise, and best practice, and form the interface between policy and practice at a large-scale.

We are aware that Research Evaluation Framework models are under pressure to include Open Science track record of researchers and institutions, and that research into such indicators is already funded by the EC<sup>3</sup> and likely to deliver solutions in less than 3 years.

Our aspiration is to equip graduates with the Open Science knowledge they need to meet these new research evaluation criteria, and we would like to be closely involved as grassroots stakeholder in future horizon scanning initiatives. We would like to be more closely involved as stakeholders in future activities, in particular through offering our practical services as trainers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Tennant, Dr. Paola Masuzzo, Dr. Ivo Grigorov (on behalf of the [Open Science MOOC team](#))

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<sup>1</sup> EC Working Group on Education & Skills Report, June 2017: "In the case of R1 and R2 researchers, it should be mandatory for universities and research organisations to offer these as part of their training."

<sup>2</sup> German universities LMU and U Goettingen recruiting based on Open Science track record  
[http://jobs.zeit.de/jobs/muenchen\\_professur\\_w3\\_fuer\\_sozialpsychologie\\_121431.html](http://jobs.zeit.de/jobs/muenchen_professur_w3_fuer_sozialpsychologie_121431.html)

<sup>3</sup> EU-RITO Project, coordinated by NESTA (UK)  
<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/co-creation-08-2016-2017.html>