ERSA-workshop

Why this workshop?

Did you ever:

- want to use your text both for papers and websites or blogs;
- feel constrained by Microsoft's `Word` (but hesitate to adopt `LaTeX`);
- want to go back to a previous version of the text but accidentally deleted it or argue with co-authors which document version was the latest;
- think that it would be nice (and very efficient) if you could easily share and access background material of papers?

But did not know how to start with this, then this workshop might be of interest to you.

Aim of the workshop

To get regional scientists familiar with `Markdown`, the versioning system `Git` and using open repositories, in particular `GitHub`.

From a wider perspective, these type of tools serve brilliantly to make your research as reproducable as possible, because (*i*) `Markdown` can be read by anyone because it is just plain text, (*ii*) `Git` allows you to go back in time for your research so that you can always trace back what the **past you** have done and (*iii*) `Github` provides easy access for others to see what both **you** and the **past you** have done.

What?

It focuses on using a very simple markup language (`Markdown`) and its interaction with one of the major open repositories `GitHub`. Typically, `Markdown` is used for blogging but can as well be used for writing papers, as the `Markdown` syntax can very easily be transformed in `HTML` or `LaTeX` files (or to the open office format if needed). To do so, we use the `RStudio` application, which is probably one of the applications easiest to use *out of the box* and where the conversion between formats is done automatically *under the hood*. Note that this workshop does not deal with using `R` or literate programming (weaving text and code with, e.g., `R`'s `Knitr` package).

Moreover, we will deal with the versioning system `Git` in combination with the `GitHub` open repository platform. We do not aim to give all details of `Git` or using `Git` from the command line, instead we will use a desktop application with a graphical user interface with serves best as a first gentle introduction of both `Git` and `Github`.

Contents?

This workshop includes a hands-on overview of specific tools that have been designed with open science and reproducibility principles in mind. This is delivered alternating presentation time with demo time, allowing participants to get a real taste of what using the tools implies and see live their advantages.

In more detail, the workshop is structured as follows:

1. Introduction to reproducibility and open science workflow principles (20 mins.)
2. `Markdown` language (45 mins.)
3. Principles behind `Git` and workflow examples (60 mins.)
4. Publication of your material on the open repository `GitHub` (45. mins).

Target group

Scientists in the social sciences (e.g., economics, geography, planning)

Previous knowledge

No previous knowledge required