Aligning research assessment with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

Why open science ?

Achieving SDGs and overcoming the global challenges require an efficient, equitable, transparent, collaborative and inclusive science.

Need to better connect science to societal needs and to bridge the knowledge and technology gaps between and within countries.

Everyone has the right to freely share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

Article 27 of the Universal declaration on Human Rights

2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

⟶ In 2021, at the UNESCO 41st General Conference, 193 Members States adopted the first international standard-setting instrument on Open Science in the form of a UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Shared definition, values and principles

Role of open science

Benefits of open science

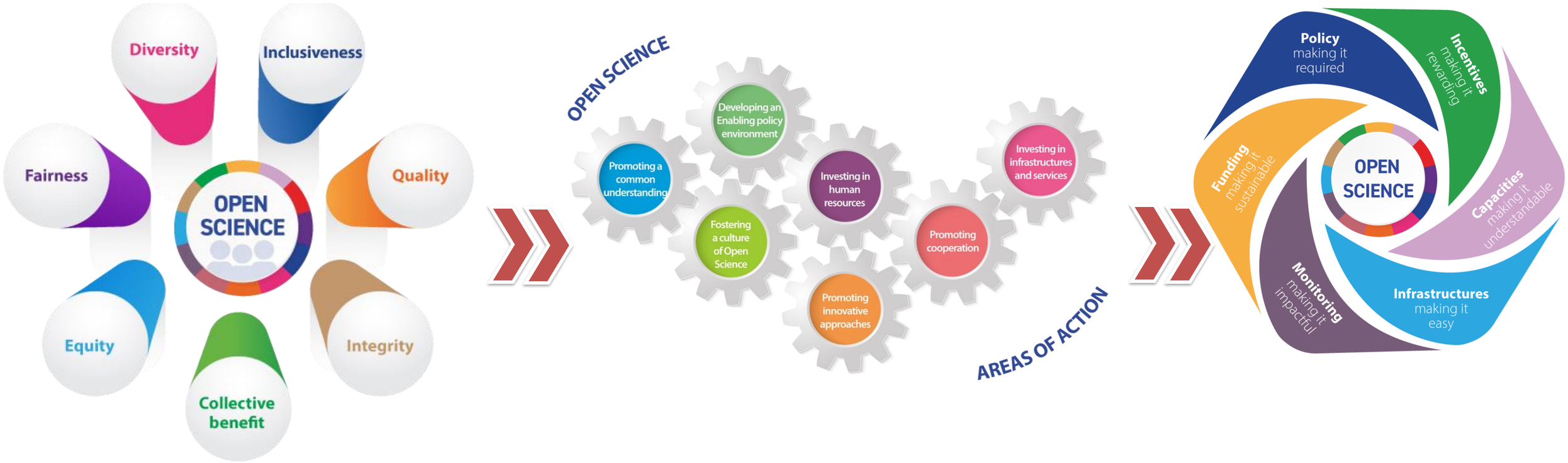
- Innovation & networking
- Efficiency, cost-effectiveness & reproducibility
- Transparency & impact
- Collaboration, visibility, credit & purpose
- Global
- Regional
- National
- Institutional
- Individual
- Quality & integrity
- Human rights & equity
- Economic benefits & access to resources
- Better-informed decision making
- Public engagement & trust
- Global goals & benefits

UNESCO Open Science Outlook 1

Transitioning to Open Science

Changing the Culture of Science

Open science requires a shift in the culture of science guided by the common values

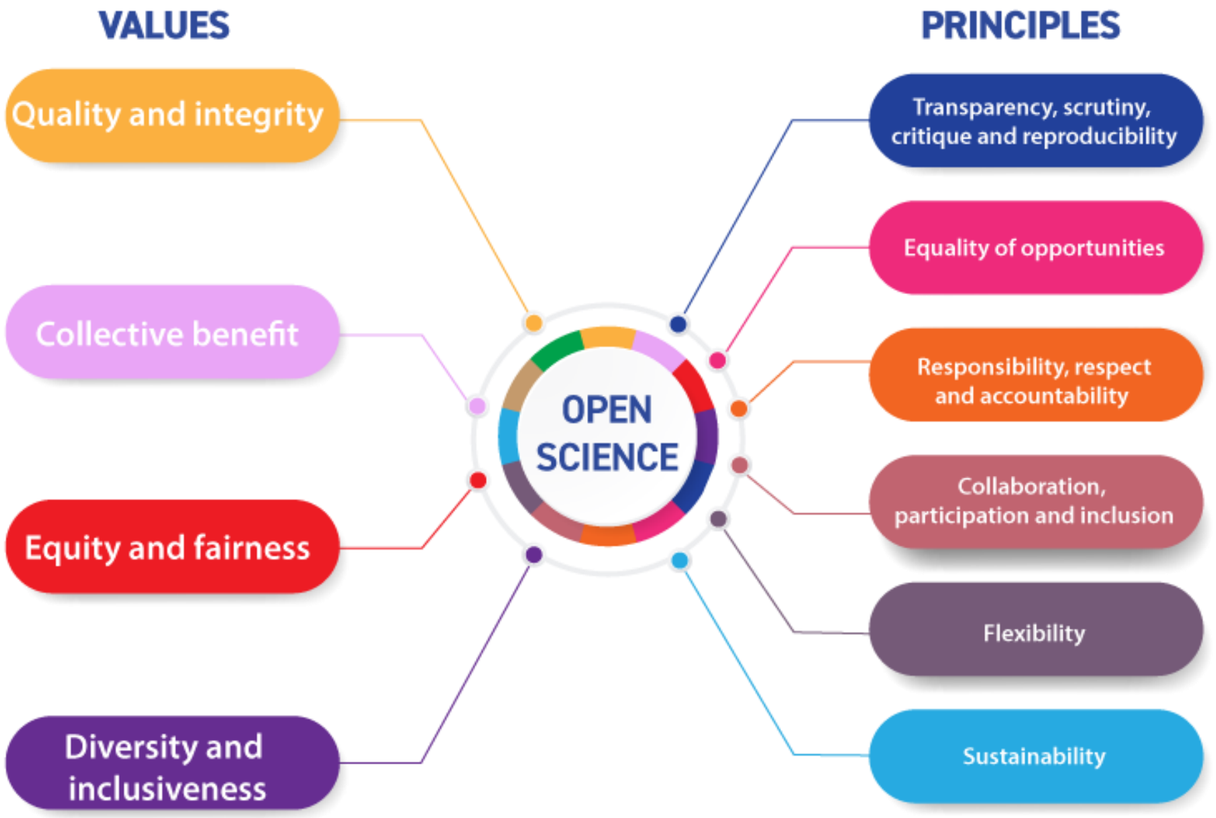


Why is reforming research assessment critical for open science ?

Incentives aligned with open science values and principles lie at the heart of Open Science

Research assessment as a driver and enabler of the shifting culture of science:

- ❖From competition to collaboration
- ❖ From science as a product to science as a process
- ❖ From science for a selected few to science for all



What does the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science call for?

Reviewing research assessment and career evaluation systems in order to align them with the principles of open science

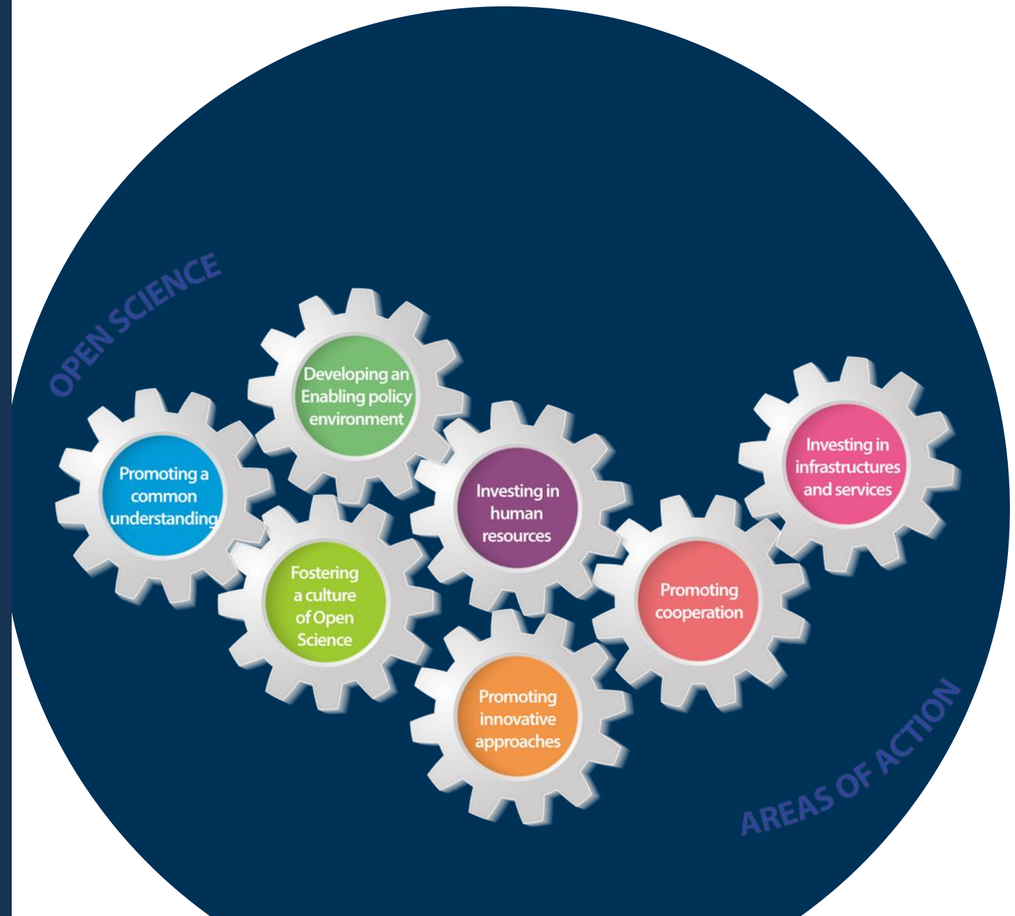
- Considering that a commitment to open science requires time, resources and efforts that cannot be automatically converted into traditional academic output, such as publications, but which can have a significant impact on science and society, **evaluation systems should take into account the wide breadth of missions within the knowledge creation environment**.

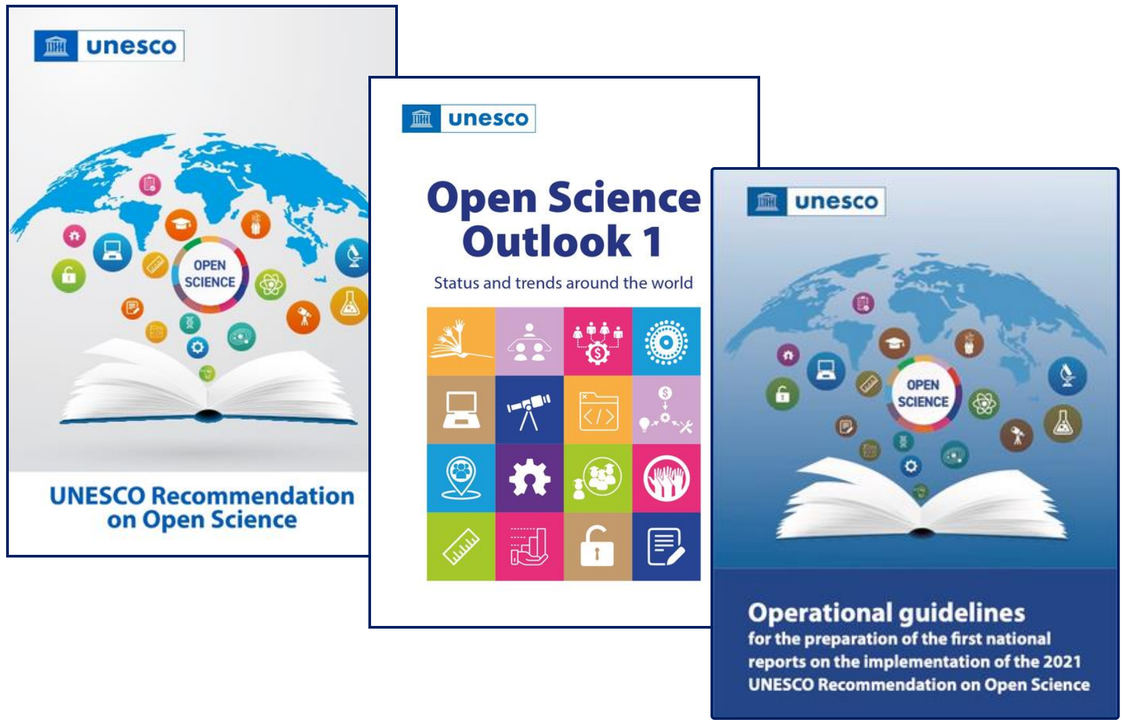
Promoting the development and implementation of evaluation and assessment systems that

- Shift the focus to the **quality of research outputs rather than quantity;**
- give **value to all relevant research activities and scientific outputs**;
- take into account **evidence of research impact and knowledge exchange**;
- take into account the fact that **diversity** of disciplines requires different approaches in open science;
- consider open science criteria fit for different stages of careers, with particular attention to researchers at the beginning of their careers.

2025 First consolidated global monitoring effort

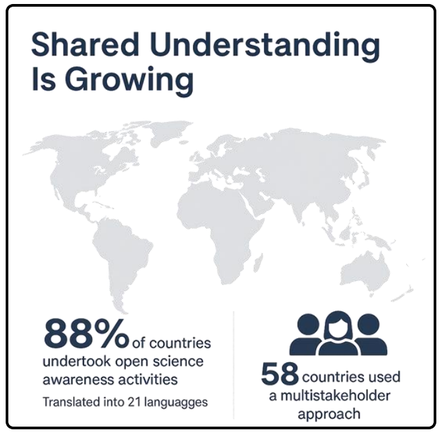
⟶ In 2025, the first official reporting on the implementation of the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

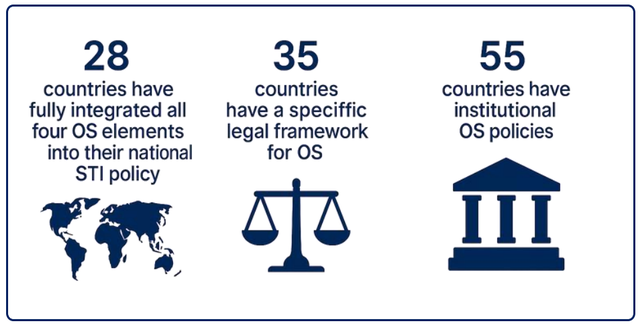


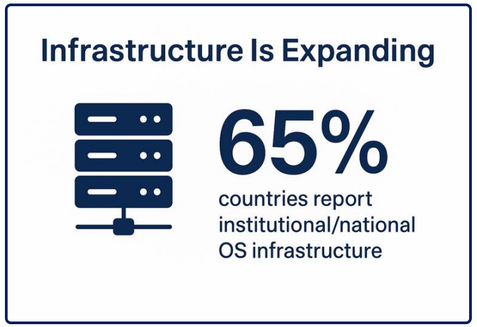


Key findings (77/81 countries)

- Shared understanding is growing
- Policy foundations are strengthening
- Infrastructure is expanding
- Capacity building is advancing
- Innovation in open practices is emerging
- Incentives are beginning to align



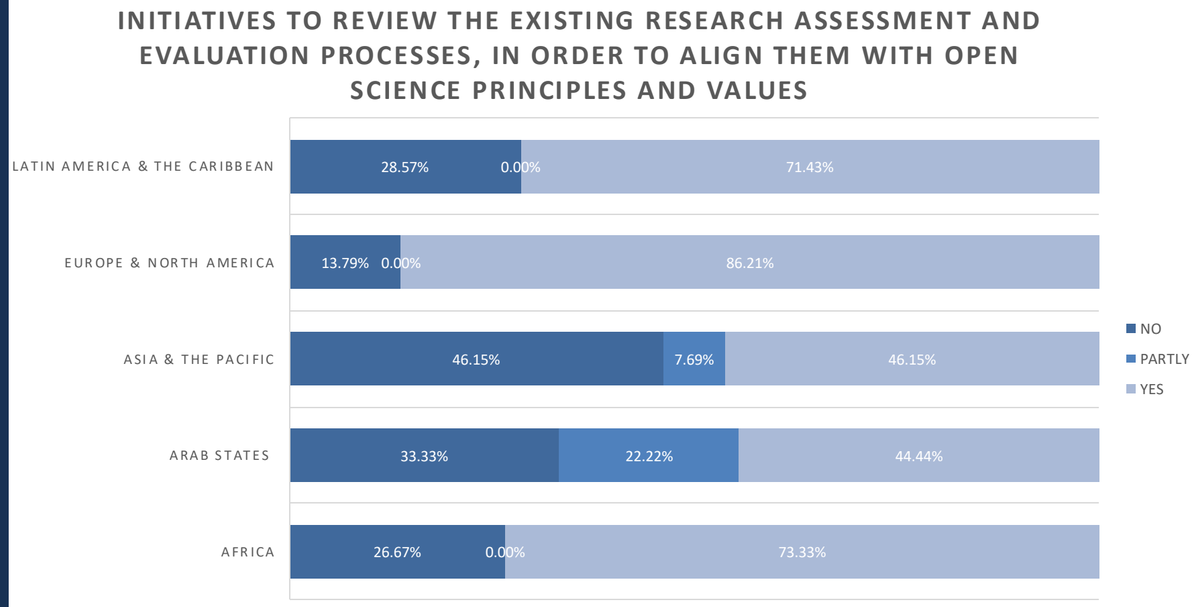




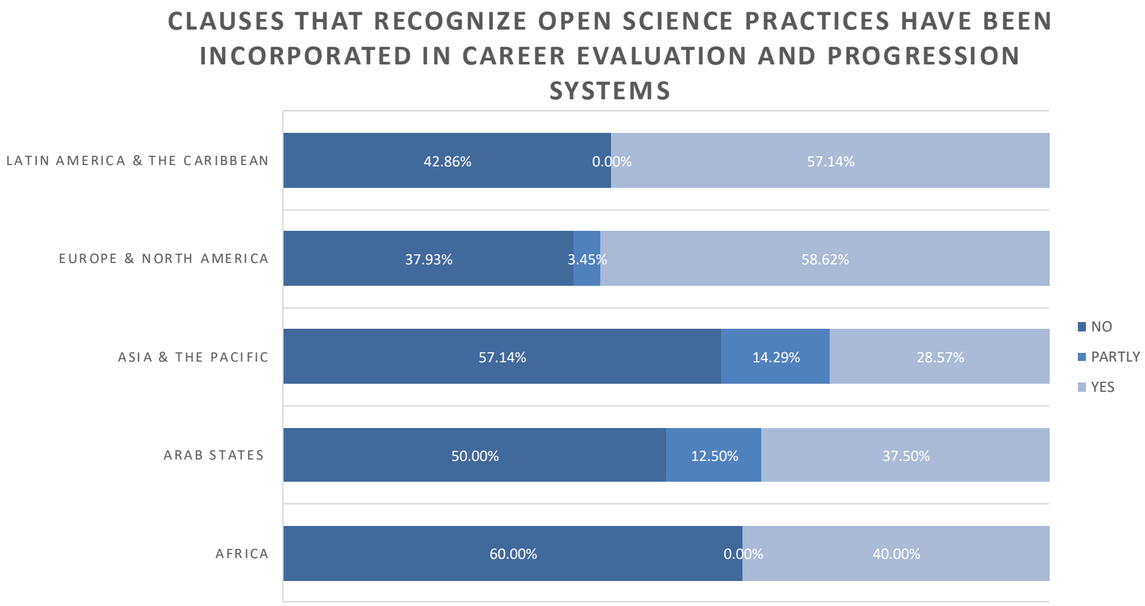
Key findings (77/81 countries)

Incentives are beginning to align

51 Member States reported on initiatives to review existing research assessment and evaluation processes to align them with open science principles



36 Member States reported recognition of open science practices within career evaluation and progression systems remains mixed



43 Member States reported on established rewards and recognitions for open science practices

Key challenges

Persisting inequalities in access to science, technology and innovation further exacerbated by language barriers and digital divides.

Open Science is still not the norm

Funding is Lagging

51
countries fund OS through existing research funding

41
countries have specific OS funding

Equity is an Issue

15%
of Member States do not have national open science infrastructures

50% countries lack cross-border collaboration strategies

- **Insufficient infrastructure**
- **Capacity gaps**
- **Geopolitical constraints**
- **Concerns around intellectual property & research security**
- **Inadequate funding**
- **High costs associated with open access publishing models that rely on article processing charges (APCs)**

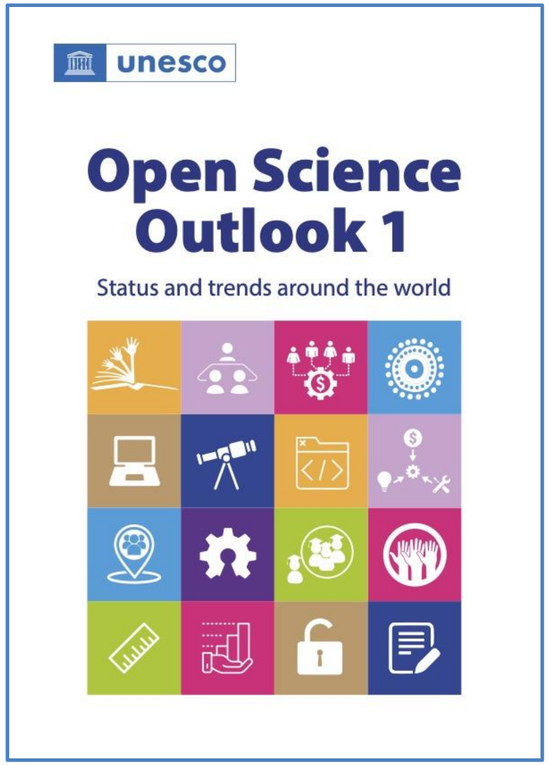
Join the Global Open Science Movement

Join the UNESCO Open Science Working Groups

Contribute to global open science calls

Engage in the global discussions

Be in touch!



Open Science Monitoring Initiative

THANK YOU

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UNESCO Open Science website: https://www.unesco.org/open-science