

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.



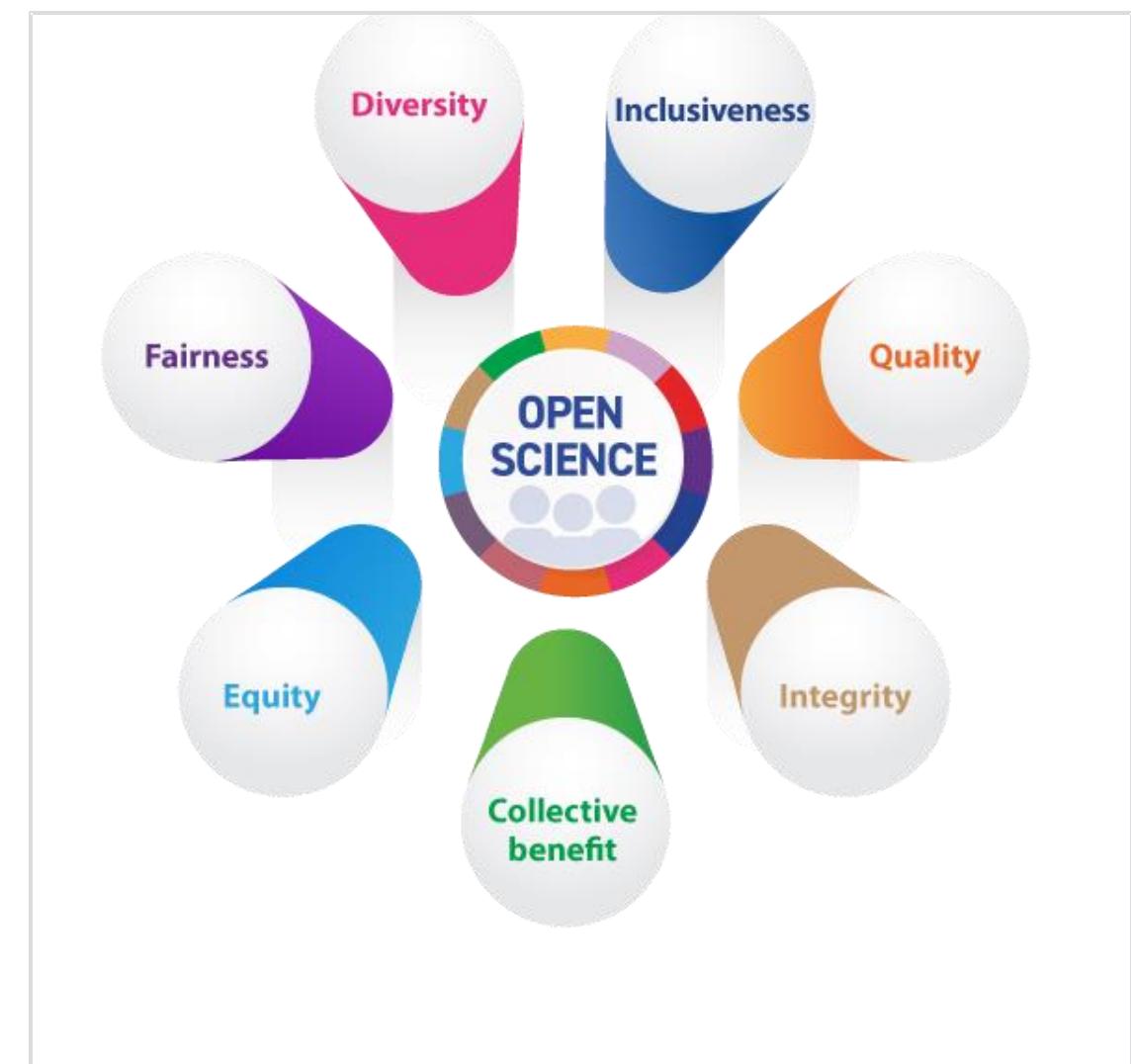
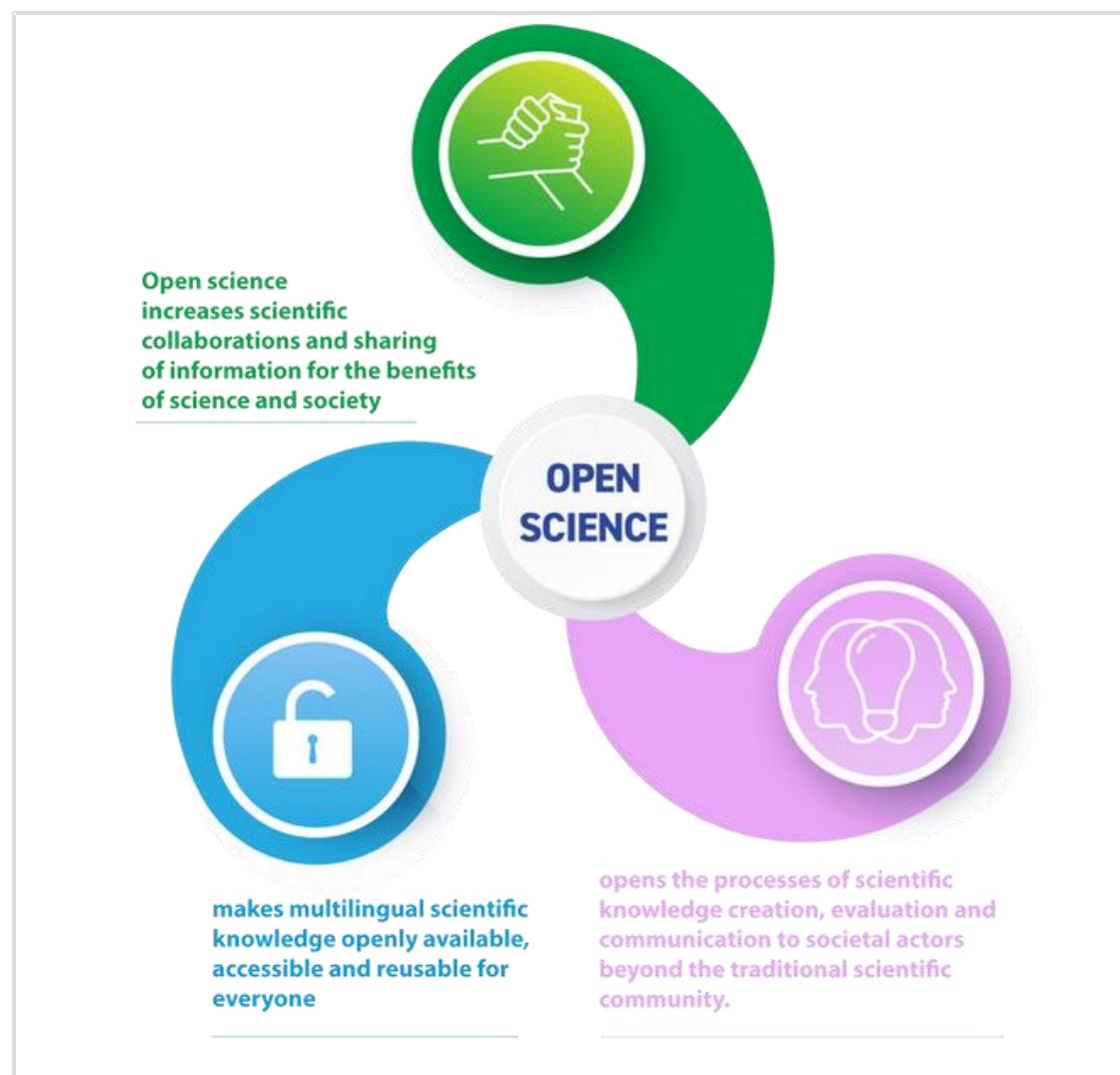
Everyone has the right to freely share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

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



United Nations

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE OUTCOME DOCUMENTS
September 2024

Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations

STATEMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD ON OPEN SCIENCE
15 September 2025

The practices of open science produce better results and faster responses to emerging risks. They accelerate scientific breakthroughs, use resources more effectively, and have helped many countries against climate change. All countries can advance their national interests by supporting open science. Open science is also one of the necessary steps to uphold the [Global Goals](#) commitment that all people have the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

When deployed for the common good, science can help us address our most pressing global challenges, from biodiversity decline to pandemic responses to food insecurity to the impacts of rapid technological change. Science can be a vital linchpin for effective decision-making and action and has unique potential to foster international cooperation under even the harshest political conditions.

For example, open science is critical for education, innovation, and public understanding. It encourages critical thinking and stronger evidence-based decision-making, at individual, institutional, and international levels. It can transform the way we communicate science, enabling action and collaborative responses to global challenges. It can transform the way we communicate science, enabling action and collaborative responses to global challenges. It can transform the way we communicate science, enabling action and collaborative responses to global challenges. It can transform the way we communicate science, enabling action and collaborative responses to global challenges.

As the Scientific Advisory Board to the UN Secretary-General, we stress the importance of open science for the UN's pillars of the UN, including:

- Ensuring the human right to participate in science, as stated in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- Facilitating peaceful international cooperation through science and technology
- Supporting much-needed progress towards the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) while remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda

Sevilla Commitment
Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development
Sevilla, Spain
30 June - 3 July 2025



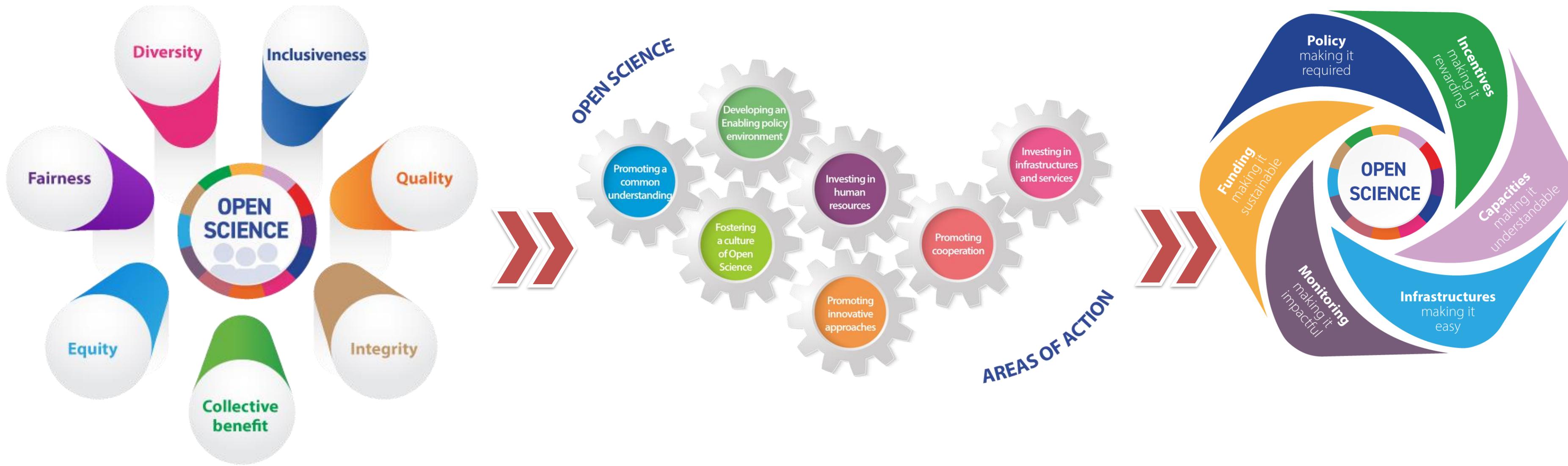
Benefits of open science



Transitioning to Open Science

Changing the Culture of Science

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

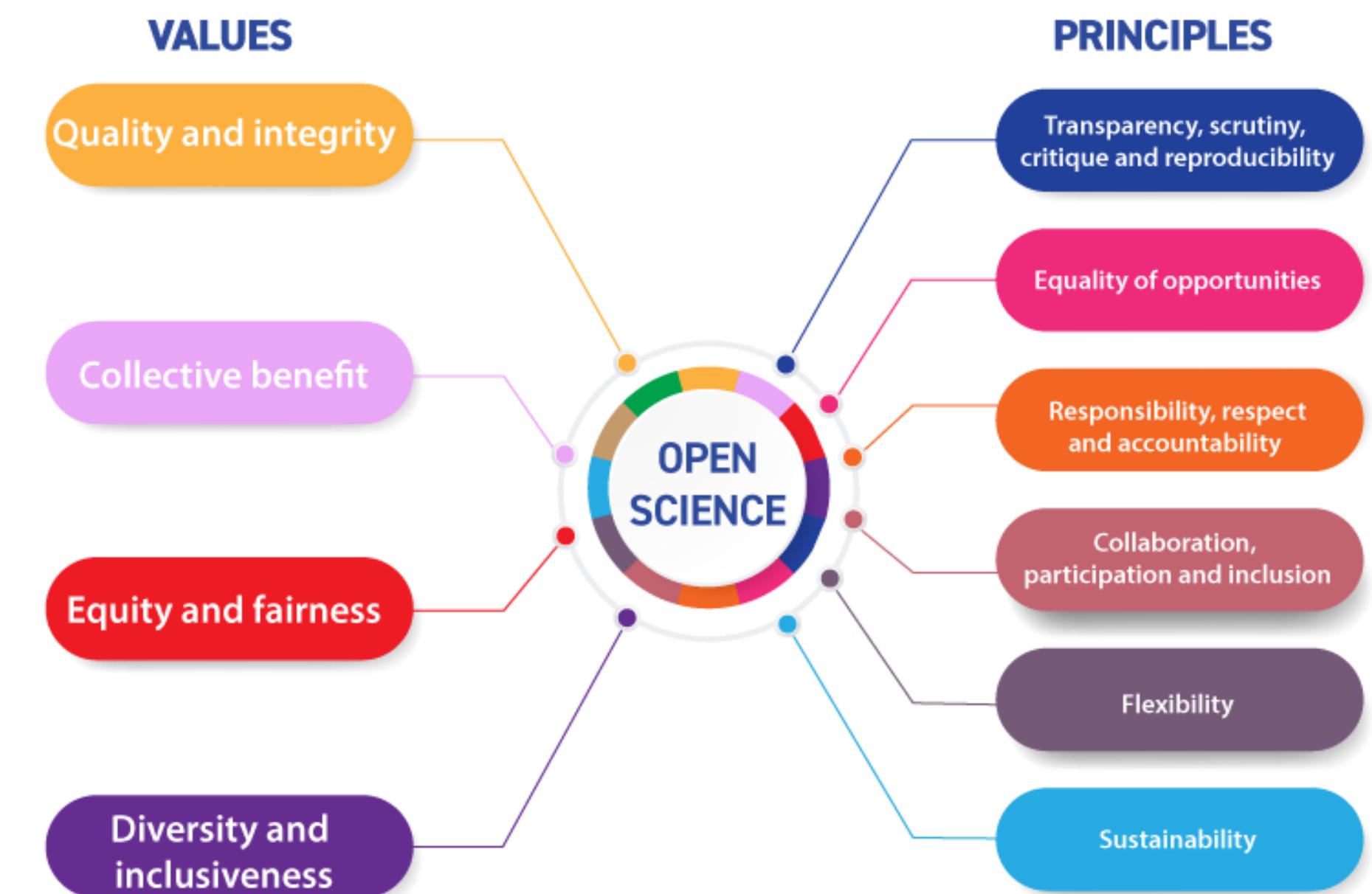


Why is reforming research assessment critical for open science ?

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

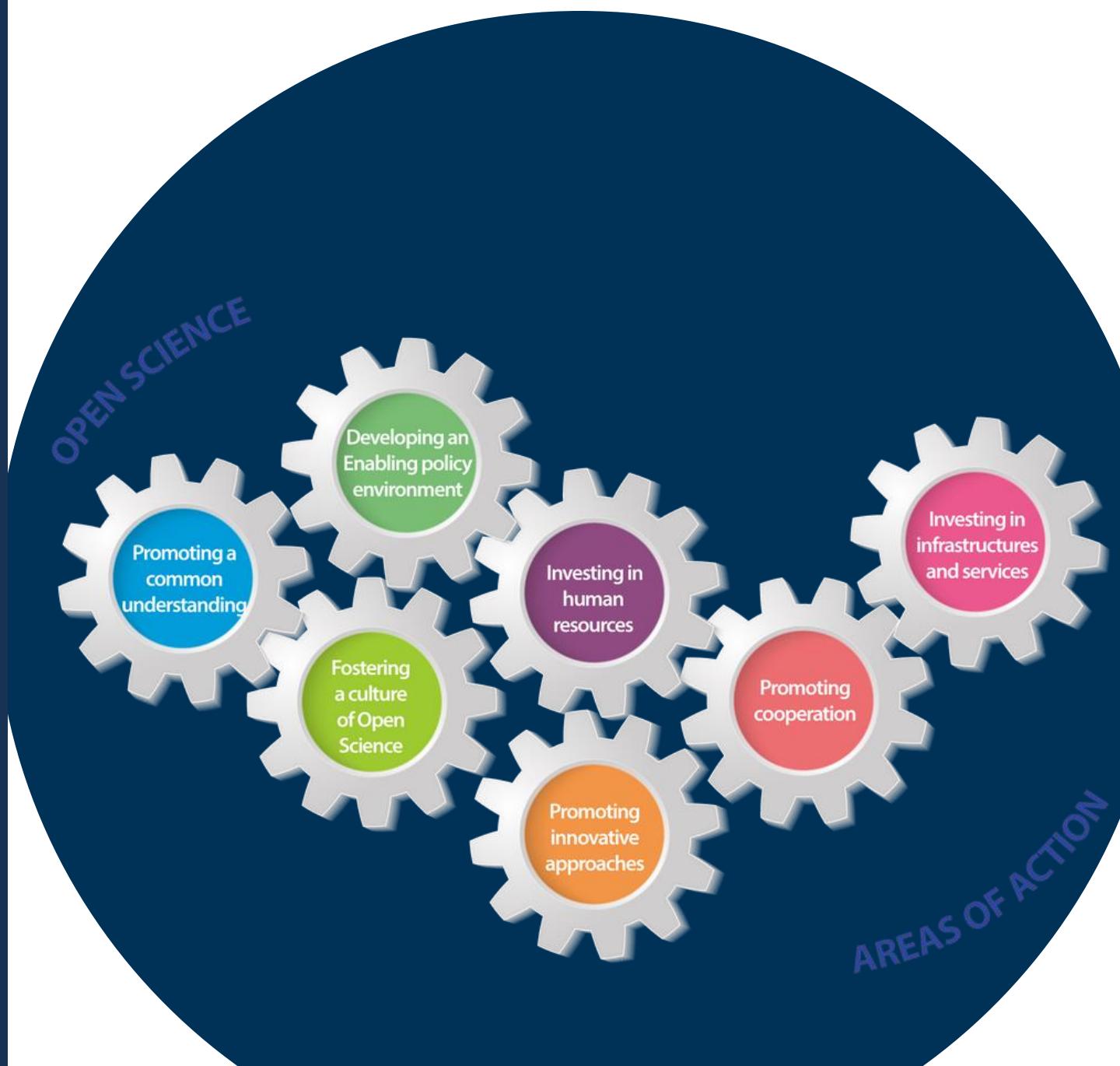
- Considering that a commitment to open science requires time, resources and efforts that cannot be automatically converted into traditional academic output, such as publications, but which can have a significant impact on science and society, **evaluation systems should take into account the wide breadth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

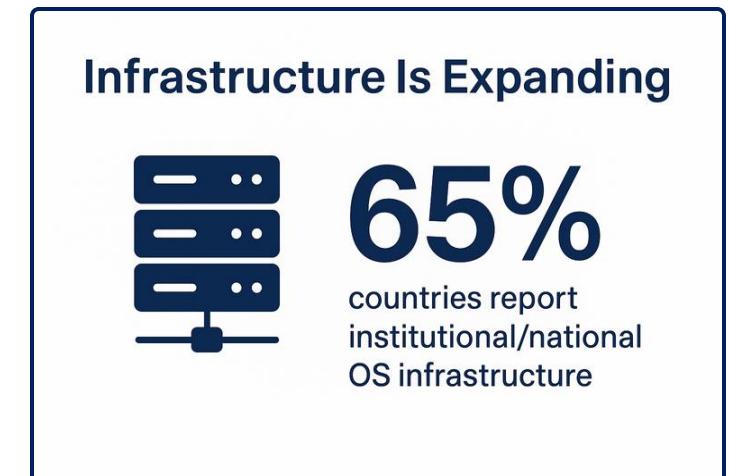
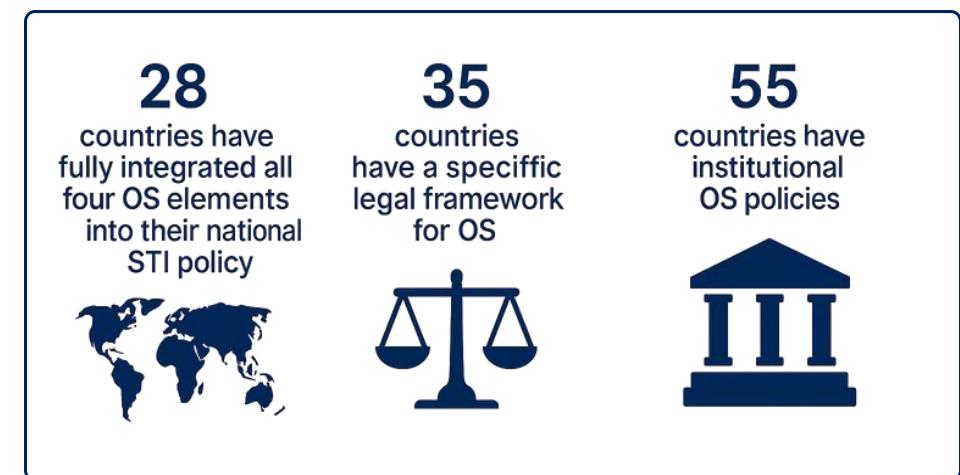
2025 First consolidated global monitoring effort

→ 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



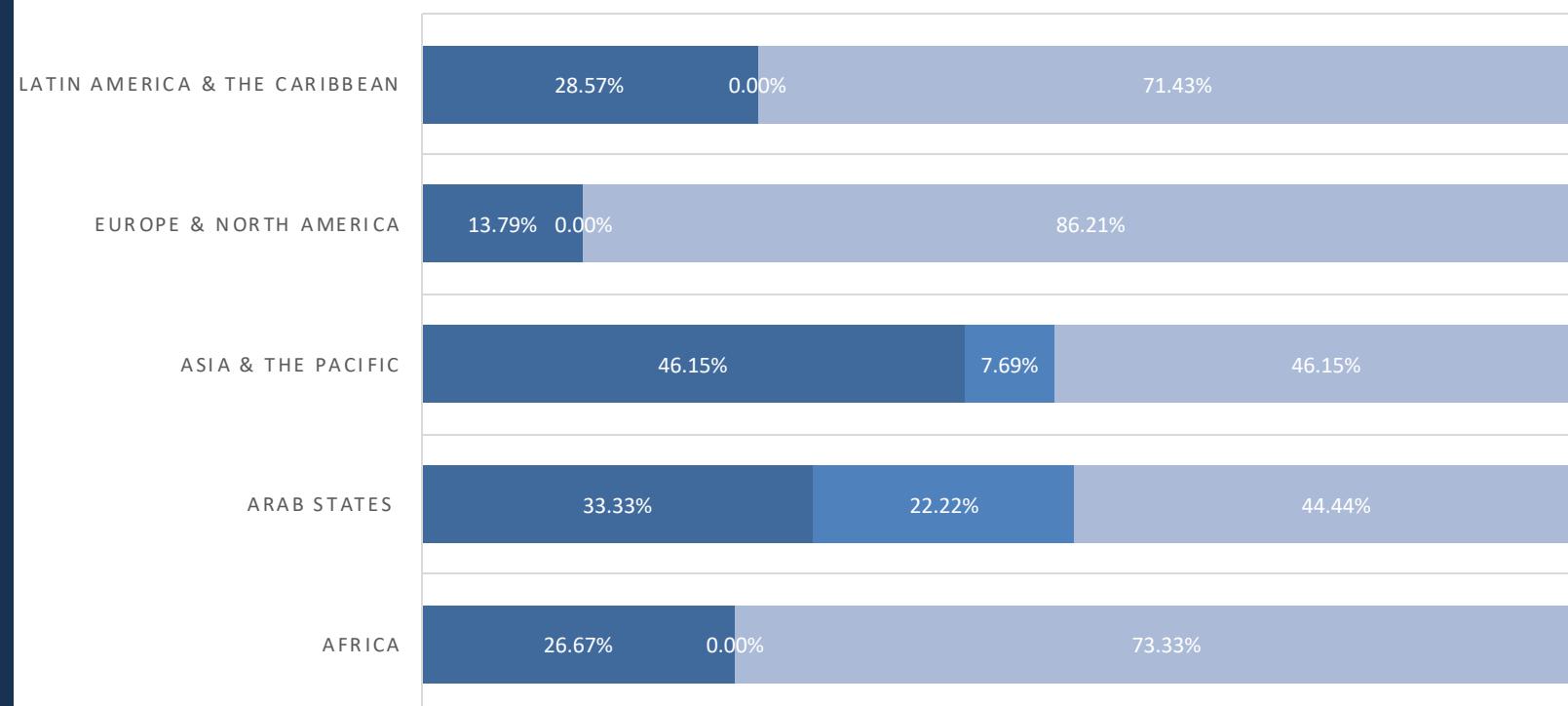
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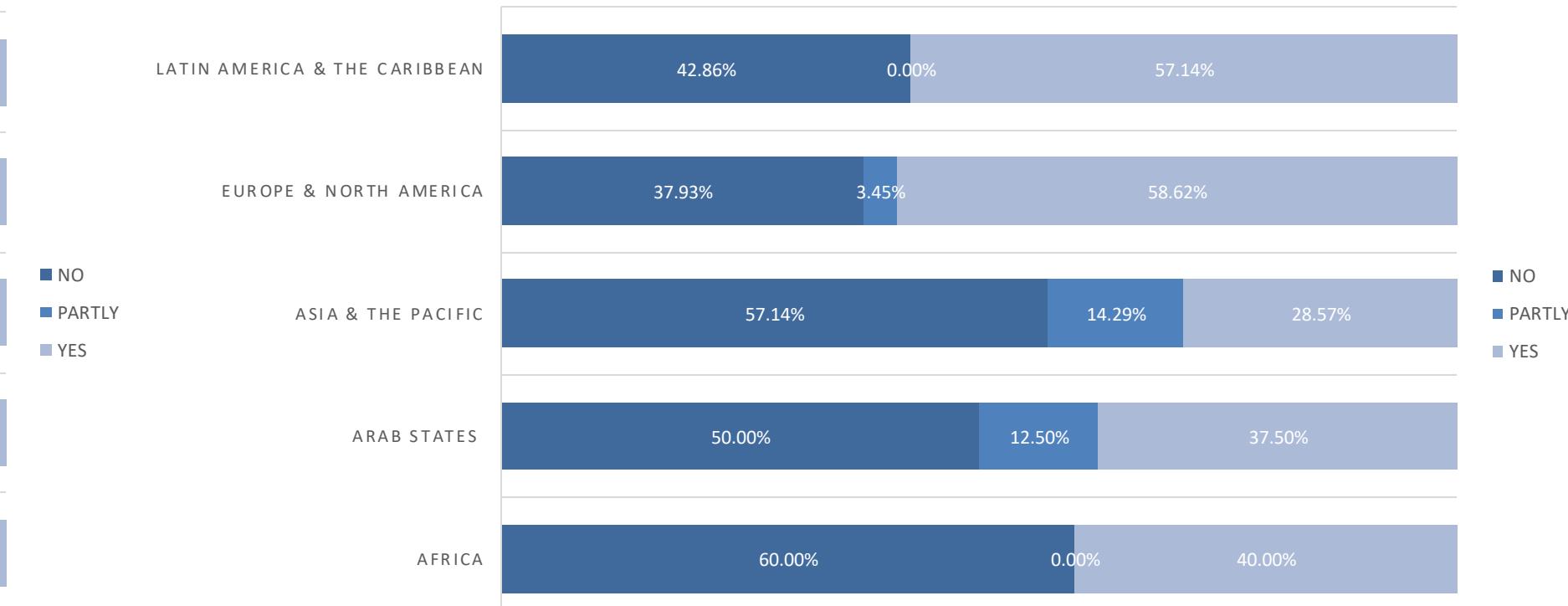
51 Member States reported on initiatives to review existing research assessment and evaluation processes to align them with open science principles

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

INITIATIVES TO REVIEW THE EXISTING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION PROCESSES, IN ORDER TO ALIGN THEM WITH OPEN SCIENCE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES



CLAUSES THAT RECOGNIZE OPEN SCIENCE PRACTICES HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED IN CAREER EVALUATION AND PROGRESSION SYSTEMS

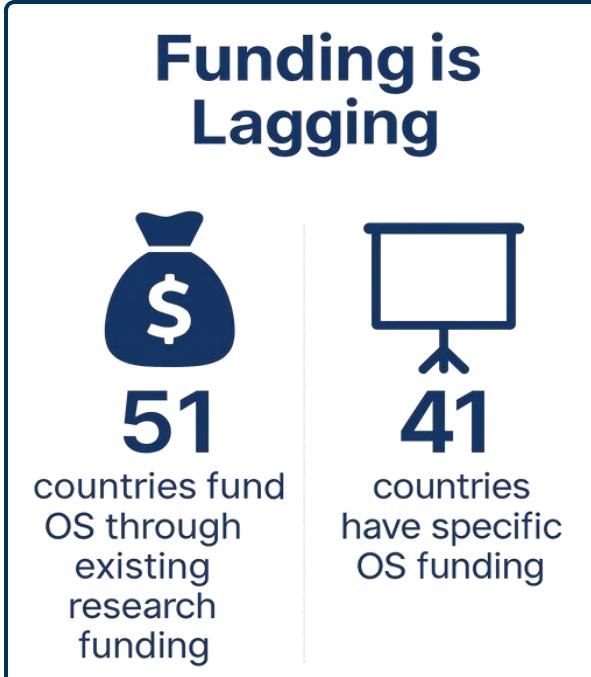


43 Member States reported on established rewards and recognitions for open science practices

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



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!



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Open Science Outlook 1

Status and trends around the world



Open Science
Monitoring
Initiative

THANK YOU

UNESCO Open Science Team

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