KU Leuven Open Science Day

Open Science at KU Leuven

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We are proud that Open Science is active and thriving at our university. A very diverse and motivated community of researchers has presented their research and their experience with various aspects of Open Science at our first Open Science day. Just look at the themes of the various parallel sessions: reproducibility, citizen science, power analysis, statistics and Open Science methods for high-quality research, responsible Open Science and sharing, bibliometrics, analyzing, combining and reusing data; as well as lightening talks about preregistration and the practices of academic publishing.

In October 2020, the EU declared:

“Open Science aims at transforming science through digital tools and networks, to make research more open, global, collaborative, creative and closer to society. By providing unlimited, barrier free, open access to research outputs, Open Science makes scientific processes more efficient, transparent and responsive to societal challenges. It offers new tools for scientific collaboration, experiments and analysis and makes scientific knowledge more easily accessible.”^[1]

Open Science is moreover [one of the twenty key accomplishments](#) highlighted by the Rector of KU Leuven, Luc Sels, and his team in the past four years. In line with the LERU Open Science Roadmap of eight pillars, an [Open Science Task Force](#) is responsible for coordinating all Open Science efforts and helping to enlarge the support base for this transition. The updated [website](#) tries to maximally involve KU Leuven researchers and to share their experiences and expertise. Furthermore, the newly reelected Rector has committed to a KU Leuven

*“that embraces Open Science as the ‘new normal’,
that is an Open Science pioneer in the international academic community,
that takes precautions against the risks of lock-in created by the major digital players and publishers,
that resolutely opts for green and diamond open access,
that applies the FAIR principles in its research data management,
that calls for greater appreciation of replication research, open peer review, preregistration, and citizen science.”^[2]*

KU Leuven thus wants to lead the transition to more Open Science in all its aspects, with full respect for the different characteristics of research disciplines and in full conviction that the real open research happens on the work floor and in the minds of the researchers and research workplaces and communities. We hope that this study day may inspire more researchers for Open Science.

Author biographies

[Joos Vandewalle](#) (KU Leuven) is an electrical engineer and was until October 2013 full professor at the Department Electrical Engineering (ESAT) and head of a division with more than 150 researchers. He supervised 43 PhD students in mathematical engineering topics. His research interests are in mathematical system theory and its applications in circuit theory, control, signal processing, cryptography, and neural networks. His present tasks include chairing the positioning test for engineering in Flanders and promoting the role of mathematics and STEM in society and high schools. He is a fellow of IEEE, IET, and EURASIP and member of the Academia Europaea. In 2017 and 2018, he was president of KVAB (the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts). He is currently chairman of the permanent reflection group of KVAB on Responsible Research & Innovation and Science Ethics. He is also a member of the board of Euro-CASE (the European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies, and Engineering). Joos is currently ambassador for Open Science at KU Leuven and chairperson of the LERU Open Science ambassadors group.

[Reine Meylaerts](#) (KU Leuven) is full professor and currently (2017-2021) vice-rector of research policy. Her research interests concern translation policy for minorities, migrants, and refugees in past and present societies. She has written or edited about 150 articles, book chapters, and books on these topics. She was keynote speaker/invited expert at some 40 international conferences/expert workshops and has been lecturing at, amongst others, Harvard University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beihang University, Copenhagen University, Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (Brazil), and Abu Dis University. She has been coordinating national and international research projects and supervising more than 20 doctoral students. She was director of [CETRA](#) (Centre for Translation Studies) from 2006-2014 and is now board member. She is also former secretary general (2004-2010) of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST).

Citations

1. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/open-science> ↵
2. <https://doendromen2025.be/en/engagement/our-openness/> ↵