

MUNI

Open
Science

UPDATE TO
THE STRATEGIC
GOALS OF
OPEN SCIENCE
AT MU FOR
2026 – 2028

Brno, June 2026

**MASARYKOVA
UNIVERZITA**

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
MAIN TOPICS	4
(A) Open Science Principles	4
(A1) Research Data Management and Sharing Policy	4
(A2) Support for Diamond Open Access	4
(A3) Development and Support of Citizen Science	4
(A4) Mapping the Potential of the Open Source Agenda	5
(B) Collaboration	5
(B1) Open Science and Research Assessment	5
(B2) Open Science and Knowledge Security Protection	6
(B3) National and International Collaboration in Open Science	6
(C) Infrastructure	7
(C1) Compliance of Internal Regulations and Procedures with Legislation	7
(C2) Opening and Licensing of MU Electronic Resources	7
(C3) Human Resources for Open Science Support	7
(C4) Maintenance and Development of Existing Systems and Support	8
SUSPENDED TOPICS	9
(A) MU Open Access Fund	9
(B) Open Science and Technology Transfer	9

INTRODUCTION

This document serves as an update to the original Open Science Strategy of Masaryk University for the period 2022–2028¹ (MU OS Strategy). It responds to current developments in the field of open science – legislative changes, funding agency requirements, and new topics related to research evaluation, research resilience, research security, and research data sovereignty.

The document is strategic in nature – it does not contain standalone indicators or a detailed action plan. It is divided into thematic areas, and the main topics are formulated to integrate both direction and expected outputs, thereby enabling flexible management. The goal is to continue building a modern, independent ecosystem that strengthens the academic community's control over scientific knowledge and the societal impact of research.

Emphasis is placed on professionalisation and stability, including the systemic anchoring of human resources whose availability must not depend on time-limited project funding. Priority is given to investments in systemic infrastructure, Diamond Open Access, and Citizen Science rather than costly ad-hoc solutions. Through an active role in international initiatives such as EOSC² and CoARA³, and thanks to coordination with national partners, MU will consolidate its position as a progressive leader not only in open research, but also in its sustainability and security.

This update aligns with the Masaryk University Strategic Plan⁴ in the areas of research quality, international competitiveness, responsible knowledge and data management, digitalisation, and risk management. Open science represents the standard of excellent research, and its implementation takes security and intellectual property protection into account to the maximum possible extent.

The document is structured into three thematic areas:

- A. Open Science principles
- B. Collaboration
- C. Infrastructure

For each topic, the relevant goals from the MU OS Strategy to which it relates are specified.

The conclusion outlines suspended topics of the MU OS Strategy, including the rationale for their suspension.

¹ <https://openscience.muni.cz/en/about-us/mu-os-strategy>

² European Open Science Cloud, www.eosc.cz

³ The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment, www.coara.org

⁴ https://www.muni.cz/media/3326734/strategic_plan_mu_2021_2028.pdf

MAIN TOPICS

(A) Open Science Principles

(A1) Research Data Management and Sharing Policy

Builds on goals FD1, FD5

The implementation of a policy for research data management and sharing is a core topic – rigorous data management in accordance with FAIR principles ensures the reusability of research results, which strengthens the university's prestige and its opportunities for integration into international research networks. This approach not only facilitates collaboration and enhances the impact of researchers' work, but also provides the necessary framework for meeting modern ethical and legislative standards as well as funder requirements.

(A2) Support for Diamond Open Access

Builds on goals OA4 and OA5

Support for Diamond Open Access represents a strategic step towards a fair and financially sustainable system of scholarly publishing. The diamond model is free for both authors and readers, thereby removing economic publishing barriers and ensuring equal opportunities for all researchers regardless of the availability of funds to cover article processing charges (APCs). The National Centre for Diamond Open Access (National DOA Centre)⁵, which MU is building through the Munipress publishing house and the Institute of Computer Science, is part of a broader European network established within the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH)⁶ and actively collaborates with similar initiatives in other European countries.

(A3) Development and Support of Citizen Science

New topic

MU systematically develops Citizen Science as a tool to strengthen its third role and deepen the ties between the academic environment and society. Involving the public in research activities across all phases of research contributes to increasing the credibility, transparency, and societal relevance of research. At the same time, Citizen Science represents an important element in strengthening societal resilience against disinformation, as it enables the public to experience direct contact with the scientific process,

⁵ www.diamantove.cz

⁶ edch.eu

fosters an understanding of the principles of scientific work, and develops the ability to critically evaluate information.

The goal is to create an institutional background for Citizen Science, which includes methodological support, training in ethics and participatory data management, and the development of digital tools for public collaboration. This approach enables the emergence of innovative research projects with high societal impact while maintaining appropriate ethical, legal, and security standards.

(A4) Mapping the Potential of the Open Source Agenda

New topic

Mapping the potential of the Open Source agenda is a new topic in the MU Open Science strategy, as software, scripts, and configurations are nowadays just as important research outputs as publications. Gaining an overview of current usage and the development of software tools across individual workplaces will allow for more efficient management of license costs and support the transition to sustainable, freely available alternatives. The goal is the professionalisation of university code management – from proper licensing and public sharing on platforms such as GitHub to the rigorous reporting of software as a full-fledged research output (category R) into the RIV (Register of Information on Results). Through this, MU will increase the transparency and reproducibility of its research and ensure that the creative work of programming researchers is properly recognized in evaluation processes. At the same time, the necessary technical and methodological background for modern, digitally oriented science will be established, supported by a new Open Source Coordinator position.

(B) Collaboration

(B1) Open Science and Research Assessment

Builds on goals OS6 and OS7

There is a broad consensus on the need to change the evaluation culture to promote quality and openness over quantity. Excessive publication pressure can distract from other markers of quality, and overly narrow evaluation criteria may ignore activities such as data management or science communication, among others. The goal of MU is to integrate open science principles into evaluation so that the diversity of research outputs is reflected in accordance with the needs and nature of the given research. Responsible Research Assessment based on peer review takes into account substantive content, transparency and the ethical aspect of the research process, research integrity, and societal impact, while using quantitative data as supplementary information. This approach

naturally minimises risks associated with undesirable phenomena such as publication inflation or predatory publishing.

Recognising open practices in research should become a natural part of researchers' career development at MU – the evaluation method has a fundamental impact on scientists' willingness to engage in open science. If the evaluation system does not reward or even penalises open practices, scientists have less motivation to perform them, and their implementation remains a matter of individual personal motivation.

(B2) Open Science and Knowledge Security Protection

Builds on goals OS3 and OS5

Research and innovation are strategic tools in international competition, and attempts at illegitimate influence over research organizations are increasingly frequent. Building institutional resilience against adverse influences that could threaten academic freedom, independence, and MU's integrity, as well as protecting knowledge security, thus become a strategic priority. The academic environment is rooted in values of openness, collaboration, and trust. The implementation of risk management processes that reduce the vulnerability of the research environment is not in contradiction with these values, but rather serves as their necessary guarantee. Harmonising the principles of Open Science and knowledge security protection, which at MU are governed by MU Directive No. 1/2025⁷, will enable “access to results as open as possible” and create a secure environment for research and the sovereignty of research infrastructure.

(B3) National and International Collaboration in Open Science

Builds on goals OS12 and OS13

Active involvement in national and international networks and strategic partnerships remains a prerequisite for MU to successfully promote open science principles and harmonise them with global standards. In the national environment, cooperation will be deepened with key partners such as the Czech Association of University Libraries (AKVŠ)⁸, the National Library of Technology (NTK)⁹, the Czech Association of Research Managers and Administrators (CZARMA)¹⁰, and e-INFRA CZ¹¹, particularly in the areas of sharing good practices, joint negotiation of licensing terms, and coordination of the development of the research environment in the Czech Republic.

⁷ https://is.muni.cz/do/mu/Uredni_deska/Predpisy_MU/Masarykova_univerzita/Smernice_MU/SM01-25/175269908/MU_Directive_No._1_2025_-_Knowledge_security__19.5.2025_.pdf

⁸ www.akvs.cz/en/working-groups

⁹ www.techlib.cz/en

¹⁰ www.czarma.cz/en

¹¹ www.e-infra.cz/en

At the international level, MU's active role in the EOSC initiative via the national implementation of EOSC CZ and cooperation in international initiatives such as CoARA, DORA¹², etc., remains a priority. This cooperation ensures the compatibility of MU's infrastructure and services with the pan-European ecosystem, makes it possible to draw on the latest foreign insights, and allows MU to actively shape the future form of scholarly communication. Through this, MU consolidates its position as a respected and progressive leader in Open Science in the Central European region.

(C) Infrastructure

(C1) Compliance of Internal Regulations and Procedures with Legislation

Builds on goals OA1, OA2, and OA3

Ensuring the compliance of MU's internal regulations and processes with the current legislative framework is a key prerequisite for the systematic development of open science. The priority is the implementation of requirements arising from Act No. 328/2025 Coll., which newly regulates the obligations of research organisations in making research results accessible and working with research data. However, attention will also be paid to other legislative documents concerning cyber security, research resilience, or the processing of personal data for research purposes. The goal is to reflect these requirements into internal regulations and ensure their uniform application across the university.

(C2) Opening and Licensing of MU Electronic Resources

Builds on goals OA2, OA4, and OS10

The goal of MU is the opening and transparent licensing of its own electronic resources, thereby ensuring greater availability and legal certainty across a wide spectrum of materials – from the extensive archive of theses to digitized historical collections and other university collections. By implementing standard public licences (especially Creative Commons¹³), the university defines clear rules for the legal reuse of these resources, which fundamentally facilitates the work of researchers, students, and the general public. MU thus transforms its digital repositories from passive archives into an active, internationally accessible ecosystem of knowledge, fulfilling its role as a modern educational institution that actively shares its cultural and scientific heritage with the global community.

(C3) Human Resources for Open Science Support

Builds on goal OS2

¹² sfdora.org

¹³ creativecommons.org

The stabilization and institutional anchoring of human resources in the field of open science are a necessary prerequisite for the long-term sustainability and development of this agenda at MU. Currently, the expert capacities of the main OS team and OS support at individual workplaces depend on time-limited project funding, and the question of their continued funding after 2028 remains unresolved. Consequently, there is a risk of losing unique expert know-how and disrupting the continuity of provided services. The strategic goal of the university must therefore be a timely and gradual transition from project funding to systemic, institutionally guaranteed funding for these key expert positions. Ensuring the financial stability of human resources for OS is a direct investment in the competitiveness and resilience of MU's research ecosystem.

(C4) Maintenance and Development of Existing Systems and Support

Builds on goals OA6, FD4, FD5, OS1, OS4, OS8, and OS9

Continuous development of university infrastructure and support is a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of open science principles within MU. The goal is the continuous improvement of established services – the MU institutional repository, the specialized SensitiveCloud environment for secure work with sensitive data, persistent identifier management tools (DOI, ORCID), data management planning via the Data Stewardship Wizard (DSW), efficient administration of APC tokens – and the introduction of new services based on feedback from the research community. Investments in the stability and interoperability of these systems minimize the risk of service fragmentation and increase the efficiency of scientific work.

Part of the professionalization of support for research teams in open science is the creation of a comprehensive Open Science service catalog that integrates a wide spectrum of available agendas. The goal is to ensure that every employee has easy access to comprehensive support throughout the entire life cycle of a research project, which will significantly reduce the administrative burden on researchers and ensure the full compliance of their outputs with modern open science standards.

SUSPENDED TOPICS

(A) MU Open Access Fund

Goal OA5

The intention to establish a central MU Open Access Fund, which would serve as a financial mechanism to cover article processing charges (APCs), is suspended. Publication fees are now an eligible cost in projects of all major national funders, and establishing an additional source of funding for these purposes appears redundant at a time of limited financial resources for science and research. Furthermore, MU prefers long-term sustainable and systemic solutions and focuses on supporting the diamond approach (goal A2).

(B) Open Science and Technology Transfer

Goal OS11

Although connecting open science principles with technology transfer and the commercialisation of intellectual property offers significant potential for the effective valorisation of university research, this goal is currently suspended. Identifying and practically utilizing synergies between opening and protecting scientific results requires a high degree of methodological connectivity and specific personnel capacities.

For MU, the main priority is now the stabilization of the basic pillars and personnel background of open science – once key services are anchored and corresponding expert and financial resources can be secured, it will be possible to return to this goal.