



State of Play in Croatia

News from the MSEY

Croatian National Tripartite Event 2026
Zagreb

April 29th 2026

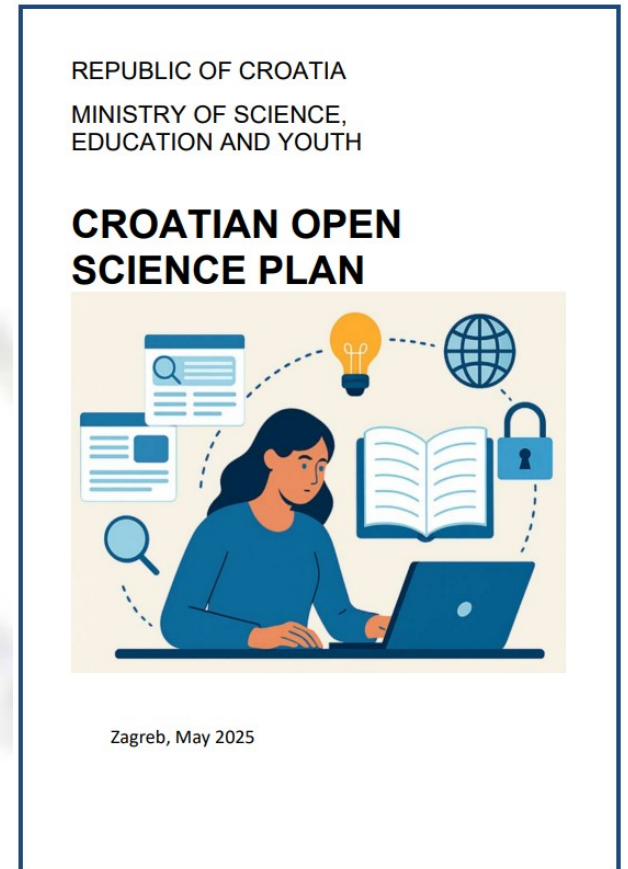
**THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION
AND YOUTH**

Hrvoje Meštrić, Ph.D.

Director General for Science and Technology

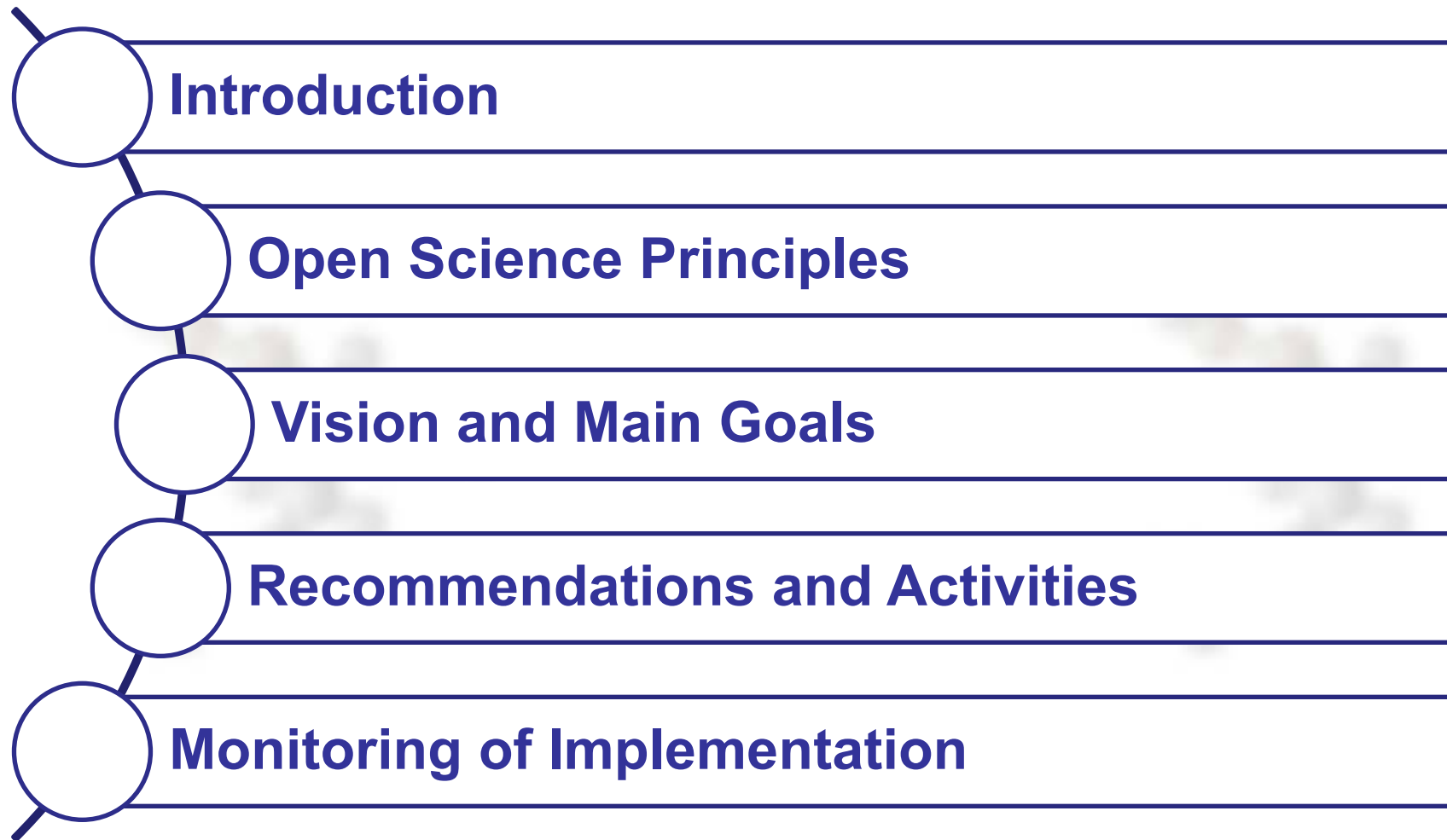


- The biggest news from the last event is that on **May 19th 2025**, the Minister **adopted** the Decision approving the Croatian Open Science Plan.
- The Plan was then **published on June 6th** both in Croatian and in English.
- It was based on the proposal prepared by the Working group operating under the Croatian Open Science Cloud Initiative.
- The Plan was developed with a clear goal: **to align European and international open science principles with the needs and development priorities of Croatia's scientific system.**





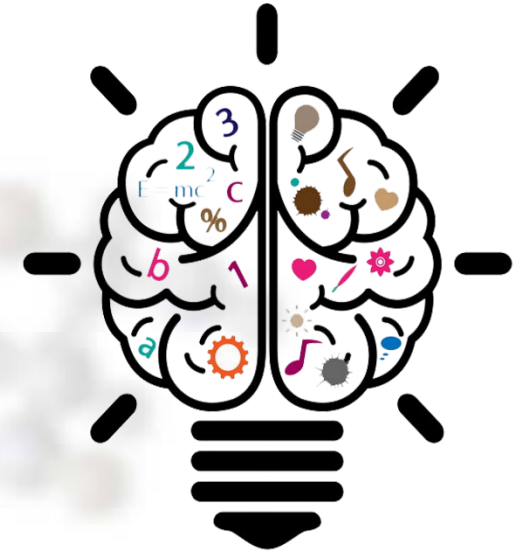
Content of the Plan





1 Introduction

- Provides a definition of open science:
Open science is a set of principles and practices designed to make scientific research across all fields and languages accessible, reusable, and shareable for the benefit of both scientists and society as a whole.
- Open science promotes:
 - ✓ open access to publications and research data,
 - ✓ Open peer review and evaluation
 - ✓ scientific communication, open dialogue
 - ✓ popularisation of science
 - ✓ open formats, data and tools, standards, open-source software
 - ✓ open scientific infrastructures
 - ✓ open education and citizen science.



1 Introduction

Open Science in Croatia



Croatian National Open Access Initiatives

- „Who’s Who in Science in Croatia”
- HRČAK
- ŠESTAR – database of scientific research instruments
- DABAR – national infrastructure for institutional and thematic repositories
- PUH – system for storing and exchanging research data
- POIROT – database of projects
- CroRIS – Croatian Research Information System
- CROSSDA – Croatian Social Science Data Archive

Source: HR-OOZ Initiative Council (2023)

2 Open Science Principles

The European Commission, OECD and UNESCO set out the key principles of open science, which include:

1. **Open access and early sharing of all scientific research results**
2. **Open science infrastructure**
3. **Monitoring the implementation of open science**
4. **Responsible evaluation and the necessity of scientific integrity**
5. **Open education, competencies and citizen science**





3 Vision and Main Goals

The main goals:

1. Increase the availability of research results
2. Increase the use and visibility of publicly funded research results.
3. Apply the principles of open science and open education.
4. Include open science as a criterion in the evaluation of researchers, research projects, and institutions.
5. Facilitate cooperation between the academic community and the public.
6. Encourage the production of open educational content.

Vision:

Science, research, and higher education rely on the principles, values, and practices of open science and, as a result, effectively contribute to faster progress, sustainable development, and the international relevance of Croatian science.



4 Recommendations and Activities



1 Open Access to Publications:

Recommendations:

- Results and procedures of research should be made available in open access.
- Public higher education institutions and public research institutes are encouraged to adopt institutional open science policies.
- Researchers should have the freedom to choose the publishers.

Activities:

- Publish research results in publications that provide open access.
- Adopt institutional policies and action plans for open science.
- Authors are encouraged to permanently store publications, theses, and other materials containing scientific information.



4 Recommendations and Activities



2 Open Research Data:

Recommendations:

- Create a research data management plan.
- Research data, software and software code are stored in appropriate digital repositories .
- The FAIR and CARE principles must be applied in the data storage process.

Activities:

- Public higher education institutions and public research institutes should provide support in managing and depositing research data.
- Scientists should manage research data from the earliest stages.
- Scientists store data in open formats.
- Scientists define data usage rights by assigning appropriate licences.



4 Recommendations and Activities

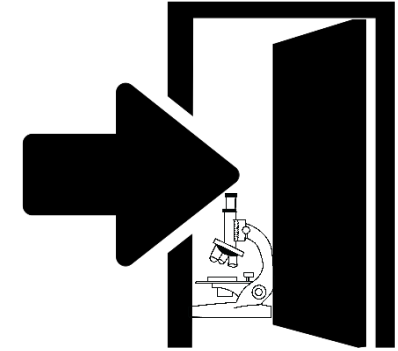
3 Open Science Infrastructure:

Recommendations:

- Ensure the availability and continuous enhancement of the capacities and capabilities of research infrastructures, e-infrastructure, and digital services for conducting research.
- Plan, fund, and develop open research infrastructures in a coordinated manner.

Activities:

- Ensure the functionality of Croatia's research infrastructures and promote their integration with ERA.
- Stakeholders together with MSEY, coordinate and plan the development and use of open research infrastructures and services.
- Srce provides institutions in the science and higher education system with support.





4 Recommendations and Activities



4 Open Science Evaluation System:

Recommendations:

- Decision-makers in organisations and institutions are familiar with the principles of open science and promote and support them.
- A new generation of metrics are being developed to complement traditional measures of research quality and impact.

Activities:

- Provide support to scientists in implementing open science.
- Develop and adopt internal documents and policies that encourage and reward scientists who apply the principles of open science in their work.



4 Recommendations and Activities

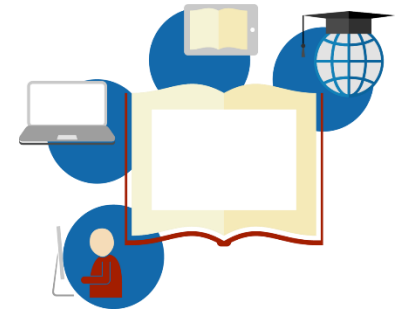
5 Support, Education, Competencies and Citizen Science:

Recommendations:

- Ensure high-quality and sustainable support for implementing open science principles
- Development of informal open educational materials.
- Citizen science is conducted with the aim of strengthening cooperation between academia and society.

Activities:

- Stakeholders should regularly organise training and activities for researchers and other staff.
- Encourage the creation and use of open educational resources in teaching.
- Researchers should strengthen cooperation with society through citizen science.





5 Monitoring of Implementation

- The Ministry will appoint a body responsible for monitoring the implementation and the development of the Croatian Open Science Plan.
- It shall regularly evaluate the implementation of the recommendations and activities, together with proposals for revising the Plan, at least every five years.
- The evaluation will include an analysis of data on:
 - ✓ the number of open access publications,
 - ✓ the establishment of repositories, and the number of papers stored in them,
 - ✓ the openness and storage of scientific data.





Thank you!