VELEUČILIŠTE VELIKA GORICA
UNIVERSITY of APPLIED SCIENCES VELIKA GORICA

OPEN SCIENCE POLICY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES VELIKA GORICA

The University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica (University) recognizes open science as the foundation of modern, responsible and transparent scientific work. In accordance with the European and international guidelines, the University undertakes to promote the culture of openness in research, education, and sharing of scientific knowledge with the academic and wider community. The open science policy is based on the following documents:

- **Conclusion of the Council of the European Union on the high quality, transparent, open, trustworthy and equitable scholarly publishing (2023)**
- **Conclusion of the Council of the European Union on the research assessment and implementation of Open Science (2022)**
- **Guidelines of international organizations, such as the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science**
- **National legislation, including the Act on Scientific Activity and Higher Education (NN 119/22)**
- **The Croatian Plan for Open Science, 2025**
- **The Smart Specialization Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2029**

Open science is in line with the University's mission and vision, and relies on the encouragement of innovation, transparency and public interest, while open access to knowledge contributes to the quality of education, relevance of research and collaboration with community.

Open science principles are contained in the following elements:

1. Open access to scientific publications and research data
Open access allows free, unlimited, and permanently available sharing of scientific results via the Internet. This includes scientific articles, peer-reviewed papers, conference papers, as well as research data. The University promotes a bilateral approach: publishing in open-access journals and storage in open repositories. Open access to data is based on the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and allows other scientists to verify, re-analyze and use data in new research.

2. Open methodology, transparency in research procedures and tools
Transparent research implies that all aspects of the scientific process, from the setting of hypotheses, methods, tools, and software used, to data analysis, are available, documented and reproducible. Open methodology increases the credibility and reproducibility of results, which is crucial for scientific integrity.

3. Collaborative knowledge creation with the encouragement of interdisciplinarity and public participation
Open science encourages models in which knowledge is created in collaboration among scientists of different disciplines, but also in a dialogue with the citizens, communities and other stakeholders. The forms of citizen science are particularly promoted, where the citizens actively participate in data collection, observation and analysis. Such an approach enables better understanding of the social needs and the strengthening of the relationship between science and society.

4. Open education, sharing of educational resources

Open science also entails open education – free access to educational content, tools, and practices where this may be applicable. Open educational resources include digital teaching materials, coursebooks, e-learning courses and video content which are shared by teachers and institutions with the aim of improving the availability and quality of education. The University encourages the creation and use of such resources in order to make education more available, modernized and adapted to the wide array of users through various activities.

5. Responsible data management in compliance with ethics, privacy rules and legal framework

Open science does not mean indiscriminate sharing of all data, but rather responsible data management. Particular attention is given to the protection of personal information, copyright, confidential information and ethical elements of research.

In accordance with the principles of open science and policies defined at the EU and the national level, the University encourages its researchers, teachers, associates and students to:

- **Publish their work in open-access outlets wherever that may be possible.**
- **Publish open access papers in the Annals of Disaster Risk Sciences (ADRS) journal.**
- **Publish their papers in the Proceedings of the Crisis Management Days conference.**
- **Store research data in open repositories – HRČAK, DABAR, PUH, CRORIS.**
- **Apply FAIR principles to data (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).**
- **Use open-source tools, software and platforms when applicable.**
- **Include the principles of open science in the planning of projects.**

The scientific results that stem from the University's activities are actively encouraged to be associated with open-access scientific journals, open thematic repositories and hybrid models, provided that public availability to those results is ensured. When creating data for research, storage and sharing of the University's achievements, the University is guided by ethical standards and the GDPR.
In accordance with the increasing popularization of open access, the University provides training courses and technical support to researchers, teachers, and students through the following: workshops and courses on open science, guidelines and examples of good practice, as well as counseling in the planning of open-access projects and data management.

This policy represents the foundation for the development of open science in all segments of the scientific and educational work at the University, bearing in mind the needs of researchers and students.
The policy will be periodically reviewed and updated in accordance with the development of national and international frameworks.

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Dean

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