

Research Summit 2022



Assuming a greater return to academia, the Research Summit 2022 allowed the research community of the University of Aveiro to enhance awareness on the important theme of Open Science, increasing collaboration, advancing the state of the art and, above all, learning from best practices.

It became clear, throughout the 1st day of the event, that Open Science unveils how science and universities shall become more open, accessible, efficient, democratic and transparent. This principle of openness and transparency in the whole research cycle fostered this Open Science revolution, promoting, as well, an increase in public trust and interest in science and the public's participation in research activities.

Several research units showed how efforts are being made towards Open Science, how the principles, policies and practices are being incorporated in areas as music, chemistry, informatics, languages and cultures, mathematics, etc. It was proved that this new culture of openness provoked changes in the way research is conducted: for scientists themselves, through increasing the use of open access scientific publishing and open data, and for the public, through increasing their understanding of and participation in science.

The event benefitted from the participation of Victoria Tsoukala, Policy Officer-Seconded National Expert- Open Access and European Open Science Cloud at European Commission, DG RESEARCH, with a presentation on "Open Science: Enabling the Science of the Future". The perspective of the European Commission is strongly connected to their efforts: a number of collaborative actions at the regional level to increase up-take for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and the launching of Open Research Europe (ORE), an open access publishing platform for the publication of research stemming from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe funding across all subject areas, making it easy for beneficiaries to comply with the open access terms of their funding.

Sara Bosshart, Head of Open Access Journals, Royal Society of Chemistry, presented the perspective of a publisher regarding "Shaping the future of Open Access & Open Science; a publishers' perspective". On its turn, Eloy Rodrigues, Director of the University of Minho Libraries gave the audience an overview of the "Challenges and Opportunities of Open Science for Universities".

With a magnificent introduction by Gary King, Harvard University, the DunAs, the University of Aveiro Research Data Repository, was publicly presented as the new service that allows the archiving, publication and access to research data generated and collected under the scope of scientific research activities of the University. This recent effort by the University of Aveiro, through the Library, Document Management and Museology Services and the Information Technology and Communication Services, in collaboration with the Research Support Office, aims to implement an open repository for the archive and publication of research data, promoting its visibility, impact and reproducibility.

The program included a roundtable, moderated by the Vice-Rector Artur Silva, discussing the research challenges in open science, gathering contributions from Sara Bosshart, Cristina Cortês, Director of the Library, Document Management and Museology Services, and João Coutinho, José Luís Oliveira, Nelson Zagalo, and Susana Sardo, Coordinators of the Research Centres CICECO, IEETA, DIGIMEDIA and INET-MD, respectively.

Following the plenary session, days 2 and 3 were highly attended, with over 840 intervenients, along the 9 to 10 simultaneous rooms each day, with 49 doctoral programs, more than 590 PhD students and 168 professors and researchers involved in the jury, as all pitches were evaluated by a jury.

Under the scope of PIIC@UA (Scientific Research Incentive Program) around 50 students pitched the activities developed under this initiative to promote their enrolment in science during the 1st and 2nd cycle of training.

The expected outcomes of this Research Summit shall be reflected on the institutional engagement with Open Science, reinforcing the need to work together to deliver a set of goals in a complex and evolving mix of themes and priorities in Open Science, to which all members should commit. Such changes are expected to enable greater transparency, collaboration and research integrity in the short term and improve scientific quality in the long term.