

## **LBTU Open Science Policy**

### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1.1. The aim of Open Science Policy (hereinafter – the Policy) is to define the fundamental principles of action for the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (hereinafter – LBTU) in implementing open science, which includes broad public accessibility to research results, promoting public participation in research, strengthening understanding of open science principles, as well as active integration of LBTU into European and global science infrastructures and initiatives, such as the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the activities of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), etc.
- 1.2. The content of the Policy is developed based on the mission, vision, and values defined in the LBTU Constitution and LBTU Development Strategy (hereinafter – the Strategy), as well as in accordance with the Latvian Open Science Strategy, the regulatory framework of the Republic of Latvia, sectoral policy planning documents, European Union requirements, and recommendations of international organisations.
- 1.3. Openness, as one of the core values of LBTU, defined in the Strategy, determines the university's commitment to supporting sustainable innovation, promoting partnerships and developing science-based approaches aimed at promoting research excellence, societal impact, and development. In the context of this value, LBTU purposefully implements the principles of open science in its activities.
- 1.4. The implementation of open science enhances research quality and integrity, promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, public participation, knowledge circulation, and innovation development, as well as improves the accessibility and reuse of research results. At the same time, this approach is introduced with respect for academic freedom, honesty, and ethical principles, as well as observing intellectual property protection, personal data security, and the protection of confidential information.

### **2. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1. The results of research conducted by LBTU and funded from public resources – including scientific publications, research data, and software, as well as their metadata and accompanying documentation – must be made publicly accessible, observing the following principles:
  - 2.1.1. they must be assigned a permanent identifier;
  - 2.1.2. an appropriate open license must be applied, allowing free use without violating regulatory restrictions;
  - 2.1.3. information must comply with the FAIR principles – findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable;
  - 2.1.4. the approach “*as open as possible, as closed as necessary*” must be observed.
- 2.2. The implementation of the Policy takes place in the following main directions:
  - 2.2.1. providing open access to scientific publications;
  - 2.2.2. promoting open access to research data;

- 2.2.3. publishing open-source software created during the research process;
  - 2.2.4. encouraging research staff to use and develop open-source tools, methods, and algorithms;
  - 2.2.5. supporting the participation of society, non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs and local governments in scientific activities (citizen science);
  - 2.2.6. supporting international initiatives for the evaluation and implementation of responsible scientific activities, such as the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), etc.
- 2.3. The provisions of the Policy are binding on all LBTU structural and administrative units whose activities are related to the implementation or support of research.
  - 2.4. The Policy applies in all cases where research is conducted using public resources. If a specific funder sets different accessibility conditions, those prevail over those set in this Policy. If funding comes from a private source, the application of the Policy is coordinated with the funder.

### **3. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

- 3.1. Staff involved in research are responsible for adhering to the principles of open science in their work.
- 3.2. LBTU develops an internal motivation and support system in scientific activities to promote the implementation of open science principles and contribute to strengthening this approach in the formation and implementation of Latvian science policy.
- 3.3. In cooperation with partner organizations, LBTU creates and maintains an open science infrastructure that serves as the basis for the implementation of this Policy and ensures the long-term accessibility and preservation of research results, including in international information resources. This infrastructure includes:
  - 3.3.1. an institutional repository for storing research publications;
  - 3.3.2. a research data repository;
  - 3.3.3. a platform for publishing open-access scientific journals within LBTU.
- 3.4. LBTU encourages researchers to use the university's open science infrastructure to publish publications, research data, and open-source software, unless another repository is more appropriate for the specific field or type of research.
- 3.5. To support researchers in implementing open science principles, LBTU provides the development of guidelines, professional development activities, consultations, and other practical support solutions.
- 3.6. LBTU develops and implements regulations governing publication, data management, and the implementation of citizen science, as well as adheres to the goals and principles set out in this Policy when developing other areas related to open science.
- 3.7. LBTU regularly evaluates the progress of the implementation of the Policy and, if necessary, reviews its content and implementation mechanisms.
- 3.8. LBTU is committed to sustainably developing an open science approach and ensuring that open access principles are applied to all future research. The university supports resource investment in an open science infrastructure which will ensure the continued accessibility of research results even after the completion of research.

- 3.9. LBTU emphasises the need to support early-career researchers by providing them with information, training, and resources on open science principles to help them build their careers in accordance with these principles.
- 3.10. LBTU emphasises the reproducibility and quality of research results as one of the fundamental principles of open science. Researchers must ensure the availability not only of data but also of detailed methodological descriptions and tools that allow other researchers to repeat and verify the obtained results.
- 3.11. LBTU supports active public involvement in science, promoting citizen science aimed at addressing current societal issues and fostering the development of scientific education. The university cooperates with various social groups and promotes the accessibility of science to a wider audience.
- 3.12. The implementation of this Policy is the responsibility of the LBTU Science and Project Development Centre in cooperation with other university units.