

OSC-W Newsletter July 2025



Hello Open Science Community,

This newsletter features an announcement of funding opportunities at WUR for Open Science and Open Education initiatives, a detailed look into an inspiring Open Science project, and a reflection on our recent event The Open Lab: Hacking and Building Laboratory Instruments for Better Science.

P.S. As always, the newsletter looks much better if you click the orange "Online version" link in the top right.

A green circular graphic with a white border, containing the text 'Open Science & Education at WUR' in white, sans-serif font.

Open
Science &
Education
at WUR

New WUR Open Science and Open Education Grants

New WUR grants for Open Science and Open
Education projects

I am very happy to announce that the WUR Open Science & Education Programme is offering €50,000 of internal funding for pilot projects, activities, materials, or equipment that promote openness, transparency, and accessibility in science or education.

Researchers, teachers, and support staff can apply for up to €10,000 per project. This grant programme supports innovative projects that contribute to:

- **Open Science**, including Open Access publishing, FAIR data practices, Citizen Science, Open Hardware, Open Software;

And/or

- **Open Education**, including development of open educational resources (OER) such as open courses or Open Textbooks, and Open Pedagogy.

The deadline for applications is **12 September 2025**.

More information about the grant and application process can be found on the WUR intranet, click the link below.

[More information](#)

Open Science Story: Developing open classification tools for transposable elements

Last month, I sat down with researchers Like Fokkens, Anna Fensel, and Sibbe Bakker to learn more about their project to make Transposable Element (TE) research more FAIR. We discussed the challenges of working with TE's, as well as the opportunities for a more collaborative, connected and accessible future for TE research.

The conversation is now published as an Open Science Story, so you can read all about their ambitions at the link below.

[Read the story](#)

Event Recap: The Open Lab

Can opening up, literally as well as figuratively, our laboratory instruments help us to produce better science? This question took centre stage at last month's OSC-W event, "The Open Lab".

The session highlighted that many of the machines we work with on a daily basis are essentially "black boxes" of proprietary hardware and software. By opening them up or building our own solutions that can be iterated on by others, we can extend functionality and even develop new research techniques.

Speakers Vincent de Boer and Johannes Hohlbein shared their approaches to hacking and building laboratory instruments to produce better quality, more interoperable research data.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to Vincent and Johannes for their inspiring presentations.

If you are inspired to experiment with opening up hardware in your lab, consider applying for the WUR Open Science grant!

[View the slides](#)

That's all for now

Thank you for reading this issue of the OSC-W newsletter. I hope you found the articles interesting and good starting points for discussion.

I would love to hear your feedback on the OSC-W newsletter and your desires for the OSC-W as a whole. If you would like to share your (anonymous) opinion there is a form [here](#), or you can contact me directly at ben.excell@wur.nl.

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Your Open Science Community Manager

OSC-W
The Open Science Community in Wageningen
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