



— Strategic Approaches to, and Research Assessment of, Open Science

Invitation to tender

Issued by: **Science Europe**
Launch Date: **28 November 2024**
Submission Deadline: **6 February 2025**

Overview

Science Europe invites qualified consultants to submit proposals to conduct comprehensive desk research on 'Strategic Approaches to, and Research Assessment of, Open Science'. This tender seeks to expand upon and contextualise the findings from a [recent survey of Science Europe's members](#) – public research funding and performing organisations. This should be achieved by performing a Scoping Review of the broader academic research context on open science and its implementation through research assessment and monitoring, connecting it with specific survey results and contextualising the findings with a research culture perspective. The survey results are set to be discussed in-depth with Science Europe members during a series of internal workshops in early 2025. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the evidence base and provide foresight for policy discussions and to enhance mutual learning among members, providing a foundation for the formulation of strategic recommendations on open science, as well as on research culture policies and practices.

Tasks

The selected consultant will be expected to perform the following tasks:

- 1. Review of academic literature on open science, and specifically its contribution to research cultures.** The consultant will be tasked with identifying and reviewing the academic literature and evidence base that explores how open science contributes to (or impacts upon) research cultures (using the 2018 Royal Society definition¹ as reference). The goal is to link this academic understanding with insights from the member survey, which views open science as a means to promote positive research cultures in line with the Science Europe [Values Framework](#) and the UNESCO [Recommendation on Open Science](#). The [survey results](#) section on 'Values and Goals' will be particularly pertinent here.

- **Scoping review of open science literature.** The consultant will conduct a scoping review of the academic literature on open science, following established methodologies such as Arksey & O'Malley (2005). This review should cover all elements of open science identified in the survey, as well as the themes explored, and should serve as the basis for a review of how open science impacts and contributes to research cultures.

The link to research cultures should be made according to the effects and unintended consequences of open science policies and practices on the expectations, behaviours, and attitudes of the research community. The scoping review should be the basis for an exploration of the links between open science in its broadest sense and research culture, based upon the [survey results](#) that demonstrate that the meaning and contribution of open science now goes well beyond open access.

- 2. Analysis of key levers for positive research cultures.** The analysis will synthesise findings from the literature review to identify key mechanisms that can drive change toward more positive research cultures. While research assessment reform is widely discussed as a primary lever for

¹ Research culture encompasses the behaviours, values, expectations, attitudes and norms of our research communities. It influences researchers' career paths and determines the way that research is conducted and communicated. ([Royal Society](#), 2018)

change, this analysis should also explore alternative pathways, particularly those relevant for open science. The consultant should examine how different elements of open science, both traditional and emerging, can contribute to these transformations.

Deliverables

The consultant will be required to produce the following deliverables:

1. Report

- A detailed report to be published in October 2025 connecting the academic literature review to the findings of the member survey, with a focus on the impact of open science on research cultures.
- An analysis that identifies key levers for change, including potential contributions from various elements of open science. The report should be structured to support Science Europe in its follow-up activities towards developing strategic recommendations on open science and research cultures (see timeline for further information).

2. Presentations

- A draft of the report to be presented to the Science Europe Working Groups on Open Science and Research Culture during their joint meeting at the end of June 2025.
- Present the final report at a public webinar in October 2025 to disseminate the findings and foster discussion among Science Europe members and its partners.

Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Expertise and experience

- Demonstrated expertise in open science, research assessment, research culture, and related academic research.
- Previous experience conducting desk research and producing reports in the field of open science or related areas.

2. Approach and methodology

- Clarity and feasibility of the proposed approach to mapping the academic research context and connecting it with survey results.
- Innovative methods to address potential challenges in connecting diverse research sources with nuanced survey findings.

3. Quality of deliverables

- Quality, clarity, and relevance of previous work samples provided.
- Ability to meet deadlines and produce high-quality reports and presentations.

4. Budget and value for money

- Proposed budget and its alignment with the scope of work and deliverables.
- Cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

The proposal receiving the highest mark will be considered for selection. Science Europe reserves the right not to award this contract if no suitable consultant is identified.

Timeline

Tender

- 28 November 2024 Tender launch.
- 6 February 2025 Submission deadline for proposals.
- End of February 2025 Selection and appointment of consultant.
- March–May 2025 Desk research and report drafting.
- June 2025 Presentation (online) of the draft report to the SE Working Groups on Open Science and Research Culture.
- July–September 2025 Revision and finalisation of report based on input from SE Working Groups.
- October 2025 Final report publication and webinar event.

Follow-up Science Europe actions *(not part of the tender)*

- February 2026 Advisory groups workshop and recommendation scoping.
- June 2026 Draft recommendations presented to SE members.
- October 2026 Science Europe Position Statement on Open Science and Research Culture.

Budget and payment

The budget for this tender is estimated at 25,000–30,000 EUR (including any VAT which might be chargeable). The consultant is expected to provide a detailed budget breakdown, including fees, travel (if applicable), and any other expenses.

Payments will be linked to milestones, which will be agreed with the consultant. An indicative payment schedule could be comprised of three separate milestones:

- 10% will be paid upfront at the beginning of the contract.
- Up to 50% of the total amount will be paid upon delivery and presentation of the draft report to the advisory groups.
- The remaining amount will be paid upon delivery of the final report.

Advisory Group

The consultant will work in close collaboration with the Science Europe Office staff and a dedicated task force. The task force will consist of seconded experts from the Science Europe Working Group on Open Science and the Working Group on Research Culture. The Science Europe Office staff and experts from the members will provide guidance and feedback throughout the project, particularly during the joint meeting of the working groups in June 2025.

Consultant Requirements

The successful consultant will meet the following requirements:

- **Academic qualifications:** Advanced degree in a relevant field.
- **Research experience:** Proven track record in conducting research on open science, research assessment, or related fields, including the performance of systematic literature reviews.
- **Communication skills:** Ability to produce clear, concise, and well-structured reports and present findings effectively to both expert and non-expert audiences.
- **Project management:** Demonstrated ability to manage projects, meet deadlines, and collaborate with advisory groups.

Responding to this invitation to tender

Please submit a structured proposal according to the template provided below by **6 February 2025** to office@scienceeurope.org. Late submissions will not be considered.

For any questions regarding this tender, please contact Bregt Saenen & James Morris:

- bregt.saenen@scienceeurope.org
- james.morris@scienceeurope.org

Response Template

Please structure your proposal according to the following headings and content:

1. Consultant information

- Name:
- Organisation:
- Contact Information:

2. Expertise and experience

- Briefly describe your relevant expertise and experience.

3. Proposed approach and methodology

- Summarise your approach to the tasks outlined in this tender.

4. Budget

- Provide a detailed budget breakdown.

5. Timeline

- Confirm your ability and means to meet the timeline outlined in the tender.

6. References

- Provide contact information for at least two references.