

# SDU OPEN SCIENCE POLICY

## 1. Preamble

The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) is known and respected globally as a university producing excellent research meeting the highest quality standards. This implies that all research associated with SDU must strive for trustworthiness and high integrity; this includes honesty, transparency, and accountability.

SDU commits to the advancement of science and the wide dissemination of knowledge to the benefit of society by adopting practices on open, reliable, reproducible, accountable, and responsible research following the basic principles of the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*<sup>1</sup>.

As part of its commitment to the highest standards of research excellence, SDU recognizes Open Science<sup>2</sup> as one of its guiding principles that have the potential to magnify the influence of its research to the world. SDU commits to promote Open Science by encouraging and supporting research processes and tools that spur collaboration, enabling new working models and new social relationships, stimulating the dissemination of knowledge and the accessibility and re-usability of research outputs, encouraging open access to publications and data, and building the necessary infrastructure, skills, and incentives to support Open Science. SDU supports and empowers the transition to Open Science through education, training, and awareness-raising actions, along with the provision of the necessary infrastructure, services, and resources to support this transition.

## 2. Applicability of Policy

The Policy applies to all staff (including research support staff), Ph.D. students, visiting and affiliated researchers, and honorary and adjunct appointees undertaking or supporting research activities at SDU (in the following referred to as *researchers*). In cases where research is funded by a third party, any agreement with that party concerning access rights and storage takes precedence over this Policy.

The Policy applies to research data and metadata that are collected, generated or used during SDU research activities (in the following referred to as *research data*). The Policy uses the term research data as defined in the *National strategy for data management based on the FAIR principles*<sup>3</sup>. It does not cover data collected and used solely for teaching or administrative activities. The Policy applies to research publications that are written while the author(s) are affiliated with SDU. The Policy recognizes that no unintended transfer of data or information should take place if this is at variance

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<sup>1</sup> The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, <https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949>

<sup>3</sup> DeIC (2021): National strategy for data management based on the FAIR principles, <https://doi.org/10.48715/ea59-tp35>

with national security interests<sup>4</sup>, commitments to partners<sup>5</sup>, need to safeguard commercialisation possibilities or optimal development and dissemination of research.

SDU owns all software created by employees of SDU. However, software without any commercial potential, which is developed exclusively by SDU-employees without the use of third-party components or -dependencies, which is not developed as part of a collaboration agreement or subject to other terms, such as license terms, and is in accordance with *Danish Act on Inventions at Public Research Institutions*<sup>6</sup>, are relevant to the Policy and can be made available as Open Source.

The Policy was approved by the Executive Board on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2024 and should be considered for review every five years (next revision in 2028).

### 3. Purpose

The intention of the Policy is to support departments, researchers, and research support staff by providing guidance regarding the implementation of Open Science practices. The fundamental purpose of the policy consists of the following key statements:

1. Research data is recognised as a valuable resource and a Data Management Plan (DMP) is considered as an essential part of any major research project. The management of research data should reflect best practices, code of conduct, security considerations, ethical protocols (including confidentiality and privacy) in the respective field of research. It should follow the *FAIR*<sup>7</sup> (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles, comply to the *National strategy for data management based on the FAIR principles*, and adhere to the *Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*<sup>8</sup>.
2. Publications and relevant research data are made as open<sup>9</sup> as it is sensible, to contribute to the advancement of science, to accelerate breakthroughs, to pave the way for new innovations that improve society, and to support research findings and transparency.
3. Information and research data are kept as closed as it is necessary, i.e. to respect copyrights, confidentiality agreements, contractual, legal (including GDPR<sup>10</sup>), and ethical obligations or regulations, to protect future commercialization possibilities, and ensure that unwanted knowledge transfer affecting national security does not take place.
4. Appropriate formats are selected, and appropriate arrangements are made for the long-term preservation of scholarly output including research data adhering to project agreements.
5. SDU requires researchers to deposit the research data needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications in trusted repositories with information on how access can be gained. Research data should be provided with persistent identifiers and must be linked with publications where possible.

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<sup>4</sup> URIS' retningslinjer, <https://ufm.dk/publikationer/2022/filer/uris-retningslinjer.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> For instance, information shared in confidence and covered by NDA or results that in accordance with collaboration agreement should be kept secret to protect commercial interest of collaborating company, which provides basis for the research.

<sup>6</sup> SDU has the right to acquire researchers' inventions and to ask researchers to postpone publication of such inventions for a short time period.

<sup>7</sup> Wilkinson, Mark et al., 2016, 'The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship, doi:10.1038/sdata.2016.18

<sup>8</sup> Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2014), <http://ufm.dk/publikationer/2014/the-danish-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity>

<sup>9</sup> Open research data must be FAIR, but not all FAIR research data must be open.

<sup>10</sup> General Data Protection Regulation, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

6. Research Data Management is recognized as a vital component of good scientific practice enabling trust in research.
7. All researchers are urged to create an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) as well as to claim and update their appropriate researcher IDs and to connect them to Pure to increase the visibility, and recognition of their work<sup>11</sup>.
8. The engagement of citizens in research (Citizen Science) for a more inclusive and participatory society better equipped to handle the profound transformations of the coming years is encouraged whenever this is feasible or makes sense for the project.
9. To assess quality of research and evaluate performance of researchers, SDU will compliment journal-based metrics with consideration of Open Science and additional relevant research activities as stated in the *(CoARA) Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment*<sup>12</sup>.

## 4. Implementation

The faculties (Deans) or the departments (Heads of Department) are responsible for the implementation of this policy at the faculties and departments, respectively. The Deans and Heads of Departments will ensure that plans and timelines, for implementation of this policy, are developed. They acknowledge the costs<sup>13</sup> and legal obligations associated with Open Science and Research Data Management as well as of possible consequences in case of security and confidentiality breaches and unintended dissemination of data. Where necessary, faculties, departments, or research groups, may introduce more specific requirements, procedures, or guidelines for the implementation of the policy according to local practice.

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<sup>11</sup> The University Library has created guides on how to ensure that there are correct registrations, <https://sdunet.dk/en/research/research-analysis-and-identifiers>

<sup>12</sup> The COARA Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment, <https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>

<sup>13</sup> SDU RDM costing tool, [https://www.sdu.dk/Flexpaper/aspnet/Flex\\_document.aspx?doc=/sitecore/media%20library/Files/epage/Bibliotek/SDU%20Data%20Management%20Costing%20Toolpdf?sc\\_database=web](https://www.sdu.dk/Flexpaper/aspnet/Flex_document.aspx?doc=/sitecore/media%20library/Files/epage/Bibliotek/SDU%20Data%20Management%20Costing%20Toolpdf?sc_database=web)