

Science and Knowledge Openness: Developing Open Science Skills and Competencies in the Academic World

Call for Proposals

ADBU, the French Association of directors and management staff at academic libraries and documentation centres, and LIBER, – the Association of European Research Libraries (*Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche*), launch a call for proposals to carry out a study titled:

[‘Science and Knowledge Openness - Developing Open Science Skills and Competencies in the Academic World’.](#)

LIBER is the voice of Europe’s research library community. Its mission is to provide an information infrastructure enabling world class research at LIBER Institutions. The organisation promotes and advocates for European libraries in all European and national fora where the voice of LIBER needs to be heard.

ADBU is the French association of directors and management staff of university libraries and documentation centres. In the changing ecosystem of knowledge and information, ADBU promotes the vision of an academic library with a strong societal role. ADBU is interested in the strategy and evolution of scientific and technical information and is constantly questioning, with openness and audacity, the place of academic libraries in society.

1. Objectives and context

In the context of dynamic and complex change in open research practices and scholarly communication, it is of primary importance to gather intelligence on **current and future competencies and skills**. This is crucial in order to endorse and support the open science movement, and to help improve the way scientific research is conducted and results disseminated. In recent years, a better understanding of the competencies that are necessary for open science has featured high on the agenda of many professional groups and universities. This study is a follow-up to this preliminary work.

The main objectives of the study are to:

- **Map the necessary competencies and skills** for the concerted development of open science¹ in Europe, and highlight **key stakeholders**;
- **Benchmark current strategies** in developing the competencies and skills needed to implement effective open science practices in higher education, research institutions, and within scientific networks in Europe;
- **Suggest prospective recommendations** in terms of **methods, actors, and, content** for the development of open science skills and competencies in the academic and research professions;
- **Suggest forward-looking recommendations** in terms of **human capital and talent management** to accelerate the implementation of open science policies and practices in higher education, research institutions and within scientific networks in Europe;
- **Highlight the added-value** of open science skills, competencies, and practices for academic, staff, and student career development.

The context of this study follows programmes and initiatives such as the:

- Strategic priorities of the [Horizon Europe](#) programme;
- [Universities 2030](#) strategy;
- [Open Education Initiative](#) launched by SPARC-Europe;
- [UNESCO Recommendation](#) on open science;
- [LIBER Open Science Training Methods and Practices](#) study;
- [LIBER Open Science Roadmap](#);
- [European Open Science Cloud \(EOSC\)](#);
- [LERU Roadmap for Open Science](#), and;
- European strategies related to the circulation and economy of knowledge and data.

2. Description of the Assignment

The result of the study should contribute to the following goals:

- **Make open science happen effectively** (strategic vision, method, daily practice) within higher education, research institutions and within scientific networks in Europe;
- Demonstrate **libraries' roles and capacities**;
- Help spread a **commonly shared vision, culture, and practice** when it comes to the competencies and skills needed for open science within higher education, research institutions and within scientific networks in Europe;

¹ We consider that open science includes open access, open data, open peer reviewing, citizen science and also open education, as the competences overlap. However, for this study, we exclude the open education part and open educational resources, since it is unrealistic to cover this inside the study's time limit and budget.

- **Advocate** and focus on library expertise.

3. Deliverables

1. A study

A once-off, possibly reproducible comparative study with a scientific communication pack and with a focus on the role and impact on research libraries.

2. A survey

The survey should possibly be focused on the 27 countries of the European Union as well as Iceland, Norway, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Northern Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia with a degree of flexibility regarding which countries are most relevant in the given context.

Regarding this geographical perimeter of the survey, candidates should explain in their proposal in what way they aim to cover this scope. In particular, they should argue for the choice of relevant and high-value stakeholders within countries/regions, in and outside libraries' ecosystems. The proposals should thus include the number of countries targeted, the number of institutions surveyed, the number of topics addressed, and if possible the number of questions to be answered.

Furthermore, methodology design, core indicators, data collection, GDPR, copyright, data analysis method, evaluation, reporting, and dissemination have to be clearly stated.

More generally, special attention should be paid to all topics listed in section 2 of this document as they provide an essential basis of the study and information on which to build and address additional issues.

Note that this study is subject to the limits and precautions related to the General Data Protection Regulation and the personal data protection.

3. Recommendations

The study should draw up an **inventory of the competencies and skills** required for the concerted development of open science in Europe, based on a comparative assessment of countries, presenting the major current trends, together with recommendations (as per the following main sections):

- the **mapping** of competencies and skills needed for the concerted development of open science in Europe, highlighting the main players;
- a **comparative review of current strategies, leadership, and progress in the development of the skills** needed to effectively implement open science in higher education, research institutions, and within scientific networks in Europe, as well as highlighting the main trends.
- **prospective recommendations in terms of methods, actors, and content for the development of open science skills** in the academic and research professions based on best practices across European institutions.
- **forward-looking and substantive recommendations in terms of service development, HR and talent management, training and upskilling methods** to accelerate the implementation of open science policies and practices in higher education, research institutions, and within scientific networks in Europe.

It should be noted that the study will not focus on performance indicators.

4. Additional Requirements regarding the content of the study

The expected deliverable will:

- Consist of a complete bilingual English-French study with detailed annexes;
- Include a bilingual English-French executive summary;
- Include scientific communication in the form of presentations, posters, and taglines;
- Apply a CC-BY licence for all deliverables, data and analysis;
- Provide a handover of all the datasets collected with an explanation of the statistical instruments used;
- Ensure the reproducibility of data processing for possible updates by LIBER and ADBU, who have full access to the data, processing, and analyses conducted.

The deliverable should emphasise the following definitions:

- Competencies;
- Skills;
- Types of competencies and skills covered in the survey;
- Types of concrete skills per competency.

Complementary approaches or suggestions for innovative approaches are welcome, such as:

- Analysis of a set of job advertisements/descriptions;
- Focus on librarian roles such as instructor, administrator, reference librarian, entrepreneur, data librarian etc..

5. Candidates selection

The winner of the Call for Proposals will be chosen on the basis of:

- The evaluation of a note and a set of documents in response to the above specifications.
- A pre-selection process (see below).

Proposals submission process:

- The notes have to be deposited through a form to be found on this web page: <https://adbu.fr/adbu-liber-study>
- It will be possible for the candidates to ask questions directly on the same web page.
- Answers will be displayed on the web page and candidates will also be notified by email.

The note should combine the following:

- Rewriting of the problematization of the study, as the candidate would have understood it;
- A proposed deliverable, compatible with the requirements specified;
- A work methodology to be as detailed as possible with quantitative and qualitative elements;
- A timeline for carrying out the study, compatible with the requirements specified;
- A detailed financial proposal in euros, at a fixed price, and all taxes and charges included;
- A list of recent references justifying the candidate's expertise with respect to the field and subject of this study;
- A statement of alignment with the General Data Protection Regulation.

The candidates are free to provide any other document they deem necessary. Applications must be written in English.

Pre-selection process:

A pre-selection will be made by the study advisory committee on the basis of the note submitted.

Mandatory, individual interviews will be held with the pre-selected candidates (10 minutes for the candidate to present their main ideas, 20 minutes for questions/answers). This will be organised online.

These meetings will cover both the content and methodology of the survey as well as its scope and timeline. If necessary, these meetings will allow the candidates to adapt their proposal, both in terms of content, and of budget, and each party to clarify any useful point.

Selection process:

Both the note (adapted after the pre-selection meetings) and the pre-selection interview are of value to select the winner of the call. This may then lead to adapting the specifications, if necessary, and by mutual agreement.

Evaluation criteria:

The successful proposal will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the proposal;
- Value for money;
- Proven track record of research in the libraries/research/higher education sectors;
- Knowledge of the field in which we operate.

6. Confidentiality

It is up to ADBU and LIBER to determine whether and, if so, how they wish to disseminate all or part of the contents of the study.

To this end, both the candidates and the selected service provider undertake to keep the documents relating to this study confidential, and guarantee that ADBU and LIBER will have exclusive access to them.

This confidentiality concerns the present specifications, the application file, and the deliverables of the study, whether they are final documents or working documents.

This commitment is valid for an unlimited period of time, during or after the completion of the study.

If any documents are to be released to third parties, both the applicants, and the successful contractor must obtain the explicit written agreement of ADBU and LIBER.

This confidentiality setting will be included in the contract to be signed by both parties.

7. Time schedule for the study and the duration of the assignment

The consultant's assignment will begin in May 2021 and end in December 2021. The consultant is requested to commit to this planning. The month by which the study must be completed is December 2021.

8. Other Conditions Attached to this Request for Proposals

1. The consultant cannot derive any rights to reimbursement of quotation costs or to obtaining the order from this Request for Proposals.
2. ADBU and LIBER may (temporarily) suspend and/or revoke this Request for Proposals. In such a situation, you are not entitled to reimbursement of the costs incurred for this Request for Proposals.
3. By submitting a Proposal, you declare that you meet all the requirements set out in this Request for Proposals and that you agree to the terms and conditions set.
4. General conditions of sale, sector conditions, or other conditions of the Tenderer are expressly excluded and do not apply to this agreement.

Activity	Date
Send Request for Proposals	12-04-2021
Deadline for asking questions	22-04-2021
Publishing answers to questions Note of Information	12-04-2021 - 22-04-2021
Deadline for submission proposals (offer)	02-05-2021 Midnight

Reviews of the consultancy firms' proposals	week of 3 May
Notification to the shortlisted bidders	12 May
Pre-selection meetings	17 May to 21 May
Possibility to modify the proposal	21 May
Communication of the decision	week of 24 May
Meeting with chosen consultant / Commencement date of agreement	week of 31 May

ADBU and LIBER reserve the right to change the above proposed schedule. In the event that ADBU and LIBER proceed to change the intended schedule, this will be communicated to all parties concerned. Tenderers cannot derive any rights from this intended schedule. The dates mentioned in this (or the amended) schedule for the submission of questions and the submission of proposals are regarded as deadlines.