SPACE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

ITC’S 2021 RESEARCH STRATEGY EVALUATION

READY FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE

ANNEX T

SUMMARY OF OPEN SCIENCE PLAN
Open Science (OS) comprises a set of practices to increase the transparency of research. These practices go beyond well-known principles, such as Open Access and Open Data. Just as important are the publication and use of open-source software and infrastructure, public access to reusable educational resources, and society’s engagement in the research process (UNESCO, 2021).

There is an intrinsic and extrinsic motivation for ITC to do OS. The intrinsic motivation comes from ITC’s strategic goals, e.g., tackling the knowledge divide among countries and global challenges. These goals are interconnected with the aims of OS, e.g., improving research quality and counteracting society’s tendency to deny scientific findings (Haslinger, 2019). Consequently, OS valorises research output to society’s benefit and is a key requirement to achieve the ambitions set by ITC. Besides, ITC also has an extrinsic motivation. OS is driven by high-level organisations (e.g., GEO), funding programmes (e.g., Horizon Europe), projects (e.g., European Open Science Cloud), and initiatives (e.g., OS Communities). Also, the University of Twente (UT) considered OS practices in Shaping2030 – UT’s mission, vision, and strategy to increase the societal impact of research. ITC can play a leading role by promoting and realising OS in the geosciences.

The first step is ITC’s Strategic Plan for Open Science 2021-2025 - Towards an Open Future. It aims to help ITC realise the transition to OS and create a research environment that values sharing instead of competition. The plan consists of five initiatives (see figure): OS at ITC, ITC Knowledge Hub, Open Educational Resources, OS Community Twente, and Research & Funding. Each initiative will result in deliverables for researchers, lecturers, PhD candidates, students, and the public, including software, training, and policies. The initiatives address the Rewards & Recognition system, increase the value of Sharing & Collaboration, develop OS Knowledge & Skills, and foster Cultural change & Societal impact.
Moving towards open science is a process in which we will have to pay attention to legitimate reasons to restrict data access. These amongst others could include privacy concerns, national security, confidentiality, and intellectual property. By requiring Open Data, people might become mere suppliers of raw data which are then analysed by others to produce new knowledge. Our partner institutes in the majority world may have more restrictive laws, or more open laws, that affect openness in science. As such we will have to balance our ideas and aspirations against restrictions and opportunities as they occur, setting up a framework using situated openness, “a way of doing research that assumes knowledge production and dissemination is situated within particular historical, political, socio-cultural, and legal relations” (Traynoretal., 2019).