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FÓRAM NÁISIÚNTA NA HéIREANN
UM THAIGHDE OSCAILTE
NATIONAL OPEN RESEARCH FORUM

ABOARD

Roadmap to
Embedding Open
Research Practices
in Ireland

Section 1
**Self-Assessment Survey for
Researchers in Ireland**

Section 2
**Survey for Research Funding
Organisations in Ireland**

ABOARD

Section 1

Self-Assessment Survey for Researchers in Ireland

– Summary Report

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the first step of the stakeholder engagement process of the ABOARD project: a self-assessment survey of Irish researchers regarding their openness to and appetite for change in relation to Open Research and Responsible Research Assessment practices.

The overall objective of ABOARD is a roadmap for system-level incentivisation of Open Research and Responsible Research Assessment practices in Ireland with a focus on including the voice of researchers themselves - aiming for effective and coherent alignment of incentives that researchers encounter in all their major fields of activity (including recruitment, promotion, institutional research initiatives and engagement with external funders).

The survey attracted responses from 193 researchers from a total of 18 institutions across Ireland, with relatively even participation from all academic fields and across different career stages, resulting in a data set which can be viewed as representative of the Irish research ecosystem. The results show that awareness levels of Open Research practices among researchers are generally high, but that the implementation of those practices is perceived as low and fragmented: it varies significantly

across, and even within institutions and is generally not well aligned with institutional incentivization practices.

The survey showed that current awareness levels, openness to and appetite for Open Research and Responsible Research Assessment practices - while slightly higher in STEM fields and at advanced career stages - are generally at quite similar levels across disciplines and career stages, with only minor differences within these categories. The results highlight an awareness of the benefits of Open Research and responsible assessment practices, an appetite for more alignment in policy, for support and resources to obtain the skills required for more engagement in these practices and, in the short-term, for addressing difficulties arising from the high cost of Open Access publication.

This survey for researchers was one component of ABOARD's self assessment work package and has been complemented with a similar self assessment survey for funding institutions and consultation engagement with other key stakeholders. Together, these formed the basis of the next step in the engagement process: a series of collective intelligence workshops. Combined, these outcomes will feed into government recommendations and a position paper and will ultimately inform national policy in relation to the incentivization of Open Research practices.

1. Introduction

The ABOARD project is funded by the National Open Research Forum, and it is co-led by University College Cork and Trinity College Dublin. The project’s objective is the production of a roadmap to develop both system-level incentivisation of Open Research and responsible research assessment practices in Ireland; this will mean that the incentives that researchers encounter in all their major fields of activity (including recruitment, promotion, institutional research initiatives and engagement with funders) are aligned effectively.

The ABOARD project brings together a consortium of research performing organisations, funders and researchers and

also undertakes dialogue with key policymakers.

This Self-Assessment Survey was conducted as part of ABOARD’s work package #3 and had the objective of assessing the current state of Open Research incentives and responsible research assessment practices in the Irish research ecosystem and the openness to and appetite for change in relation to these.

The survey ran from November 2024 to January 2025. It was hosted on Qualtrics and disseminated through the ABOARD project partners within their institutions and disciplinary networks and promoted via email, LinkedIn and the ABOARD website. It obtained ethical approval from the Social Research.

2. Institution, Career Stage and Discipline of Respondents

Institution of Respondents:

193 Responses



Fig 1: Institutions of Survey Participants

The survey received 193 valid responses from 18 institutions across Ireland. 61% of participants came from STEM disciplines (Medicine & Health Sciences, Life Sciences, Engineering and Physical Sciences), and 39% from Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The highest number of responses came from senior lecturers/associate professors (23%), followed by professors (20%), lecturers/assistant professors (18%), postdoctoral researchers (14%) and research fellows (10%). 14% were in other research-related careers.

Institution	Count
University College Cork	96
Other (includes 17 responses from Teagasc)	20
Trinity College Dublin	19
Atlantic Technological University	17
University College Dublin	13
University of Galway	6
University of Limerick	5
Dublin City University	4
Technological University Dublin	4
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design & Technology	2
Mary Immaculate College	2
Royal Irish Academy	2
Dundalk Institute of Technology	1
Maynooth University	1
South East Technological University	1
Total	193

Table 1: Institutions of Survey Participants

Career Stage (Optional):

188 Responses

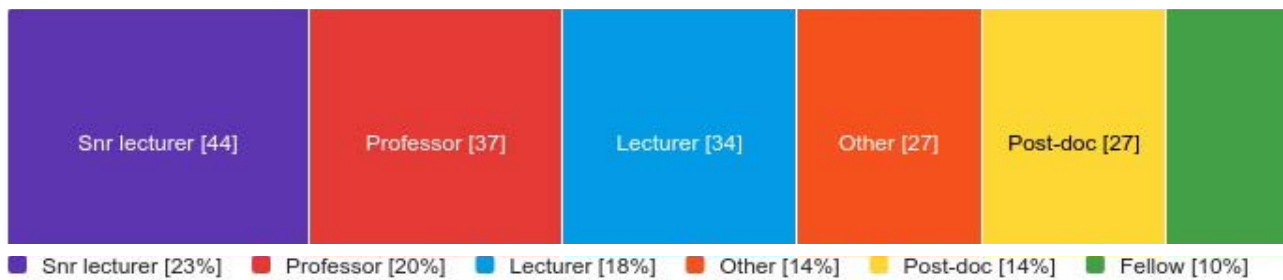


Fig 2: Career stage / academic role of survey participants

Throughout this report, the term early-career researchers refers to post-doctoral researchers and PhD students (these were categorized under “other”). The term mid-career researchers

refers to those who selected ‘research fellow’, ‘lecturer/assistant professor’ or ‘senior lecturer/associate professor’.

Primary Research Field:

193 Responses

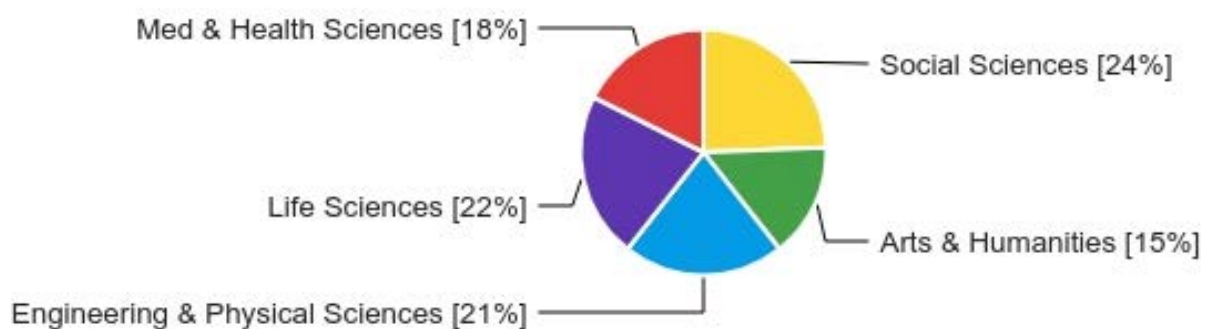


Fig 3: Primary Research field of survey participants

3. Awareness Levels (0-10) of Open Research Practices, Responsible Research Assessment and the Responsible use of Research Metrics

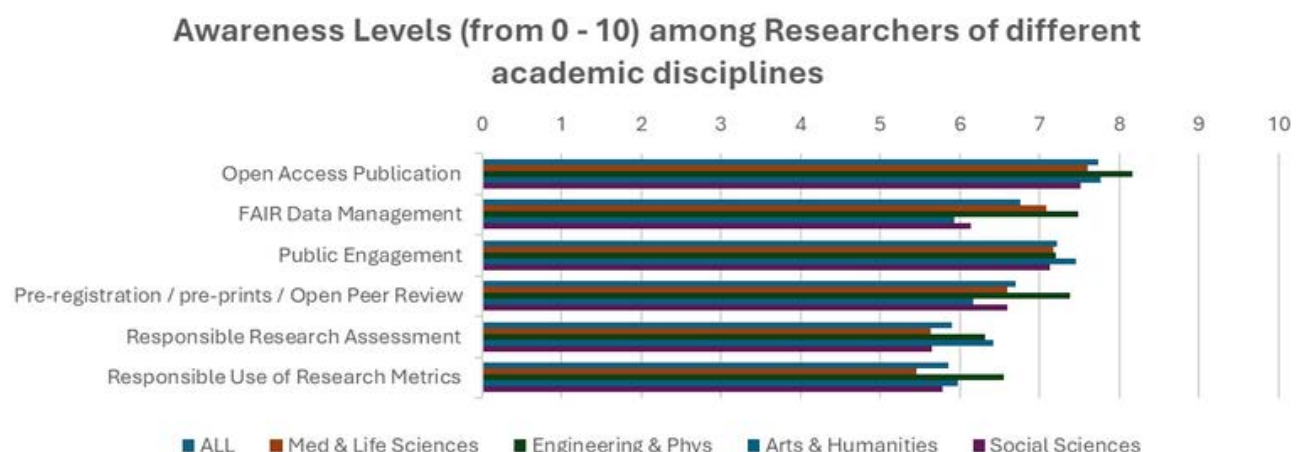


Fig. 4: Awareness Levels of Open Research Practices, Responsible Research Assessment and the Responsible Use of Research Metrics

Key Findings

The Open Access (OA) Publication, Open peer review, pre-prints and pre-registrations as well as FAIR Data Management and Public Engagement are commonly understood as Open Research practices. Engagement in Open Research practices is closely linked to their incentivisation (incentivisation meaning here that such practices are both possible and that they matter with respect to research funding applications, recruitment, promotion and other research assessment processes).

Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) means recognising, in research assessment, a broad range of research practices, activities and outputs and basing assessment principally on qualitative evaluation and avoiding the inappropriate use of metrics. Of these concepts and practices, researchers reported the highest awareness levels for Open Access Publication (mean: 7.73), followed by Public Engagement (mean: 7.21), while awareness of Responsible Research Assessment and the Responsible Use of Research Metrics (RURM) is lowest (mean 5.9 and 5.85 respectively).

Differences by career stage

Awareness levels are highest among professors: with a mean level of 8.41 for OA Publication, 7.58 for FAIR Data principles, 7.76 for Public Engagement, 7.54 for Pre-registration, Pre-prints and Open peer review, and 6.94 and 6.83 for the concepts of RRA and RURM.

Awareness levels of Early and Mid Career Researchers were at a slightly lower level, quite similar to each other (with mean values ranging from 5.53 to 7.61 for early career and from 5.55 to 7.68 for mid-career researchers) showing the same trend as professors: highest awareness levels for OA Publication and lowest for the responsible use of metrics and responsible assessment practices.

Awareness levels by discipline

Awareness levels across all concepts and practices (bar Public Engagement) are highest among Researchers in Engineering and Physical Science disciplines (mean value between 6.31 for responsible research assessment and 8.17 for OA publication), and at slightly lower levels which are very similar across the other categories (ranging from 5.46 for RURM to 7.76 for OA).

Awareness levels for FAIR Data management are significantly higher in STEM fields (7.21) than in Arts, Humanities (5.93) and Social Sciences (6.13), whereas awareness levels for Public Engagement are highest in Arts and Humanities (7.45) compared to mean values between 7.1 and 7.2 in the other fields.

4. Perceived Alignment of Institutional Incentivization with Open Research and Responsible Assessment Practices

4.a) **On a scale from 0 – 10, to what extent do you agree with the following statement:**

“Current incentivization within my institution is well aligned with the Responsible Use of Research Metrics (RURM) and Responsible Research Assessment (RRA).”

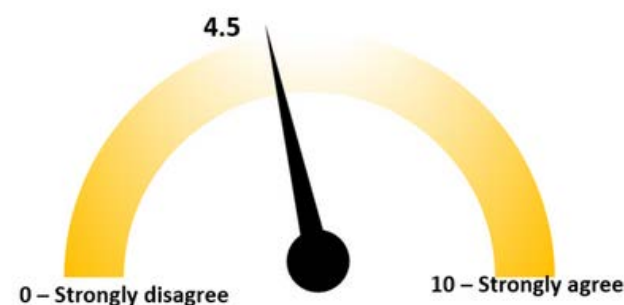


Fig 5: Perceived alignment of current institutional incentivisation with RURM and RRA

Key Findings:

Overall agreement lies at a mean of 4.5 which is below the neutral line, leading to the conclusion that current incentivization within researchers' institutions is not well aligned with the Responsible Use of Research Metrics and Responsible Research Assessment practices. Agreement was strongest among Early Career Researchers with a mean agreement value of 4.9 and lowest among Professors (3.6). There were minor differences between disciplines: agreement was strongest within Engineering and Physical Sciences (5.03) - the only one beyond the neutral line - and lowest among researchers in Social Sciences (4.22).

Themes of researchers' views:

The following themes emerged from comments when researchers were asked how their institution aligns with, and incentivizes, Open Research practices, Responsible Use of Research Metrics and Responsible Research Assessment:

Uneven Adoption:

Open research practices vary widely—some groups follow them rigorously, others not at all. Institutional policies are often vague or inconsistently enforced.

Cultural and Structural Challenges:

Traditional metrics still dominate. While open research is discussed in strategy documents, practical support and incentives are lacking.

Limited Incentives and Support:

Few institutions offer funding or recognition for open access publication. Researchers often bear costs themselves, especially for unfunded work.

External Compliance over Internal Drive:

Funder mandates are currently a key driver of open practices, not institutional encouragement or policy.

Mixed Attitudes:

Some researchers are skeptical or resistant, citing concerns about fairness, cost, and the value of open access publishing.

Selected comments:

“I believe that we are on a way to prioritising responsible research assessment practices, while there is still a culture shift needed, many initiatives are on the way and many researchers are now aware that metrics do not tell the full story.”

“Not very well aligned, in my view. Open access publication costs are quite high, but no financial support is available for it, so if research is unfunded (which most of mine is), then it is very difficult to publish open access.”

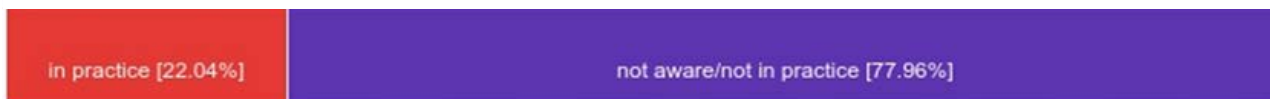
“This should be a personal choice, I complete disagree with forcing people to do this under the cloak of ‘incentivization’. Open access practises are driving a race to the bottom. This ideology has created a huge vanity publishing system. Stop meddling!”

4.b) Perceived alignment between institutional incentivization and Open Research practices:

“To your knowledge, does your institution currently have incentives, rewards or recognition practices to encourage Open Research practices in relation to...”

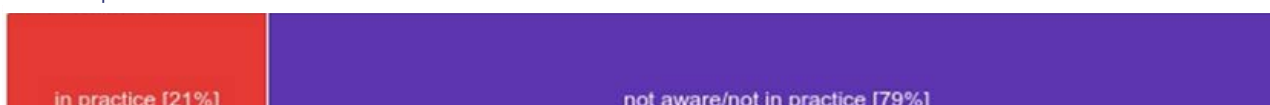
... Promotion and Recruitment

186 Responses



... the allocation of research funds, prizes or other forms of public recognition

185 Responses



... to decisions around research structures or research centres/institutes

185 Responses

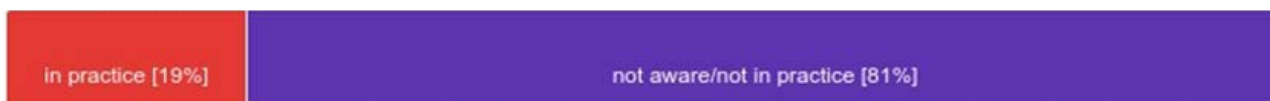


Fig 6: Perceived alignment between institutional incentivization and Open Research practices

On average, just over 20% of researchers agreed that their institutions currently have incentives, rewards or recognition practices to encourage Open Research practices. These are observed strongest in relation to Promotion and Recruitment (22.04%), followed by practices related to the allocation of research funds prizes or other forms of public recognition (21%) and in relation to decisions around research structures, research centres and institutes (19%).

As the highest, 32% of researchers in the Arts and Humanities observed Open Research incentivization practices reflected in the internal allocation of research funds (and 29% in relation to decisions around research structures or research centres / institutes, prizes or other form of public recognition).

Only 15% of researchers in Medical and Life Sciences observed these practices in relation to internal allocation of research funds.

Early Career Researchers were the group that observed these practices in relation to internal allocation of research funds the most (30%), while only 17% of mid-career researchers observed these.

It is important to note that the responses to this question reflected **researchers' observations and awareness** of incentivization practices in relation to Open Research.

5. Alignment with researchers' own priorities (rated on a scale from 0–10):

To what extent do you agree with the following statements...

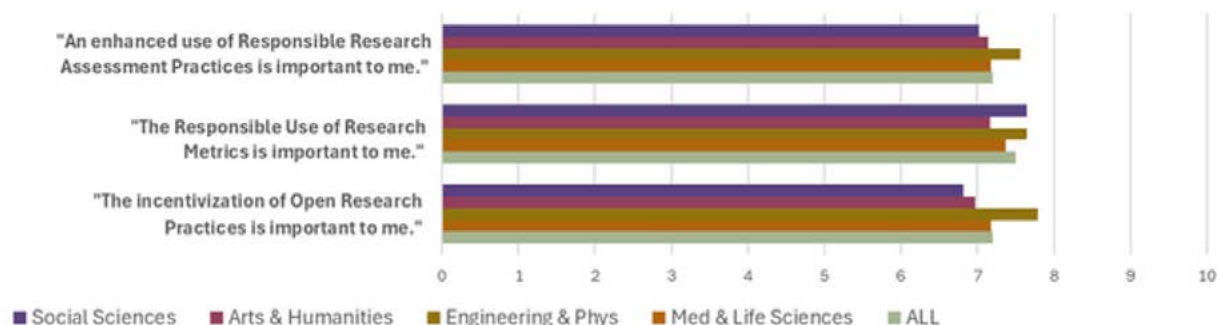


Fig 7: Researchers' level of priority of Open Research practices, Responsible Use of Research Metrics and Responsible Research Assessment practices

Researchers across all disciplines and career stages agreed that the incentivization of Open Research practices, the Responsible Use of Research Metrics and an enhanced use of Responsible Research Assessment practices are important to them (with overall agreement ranging from mean values of 7.2 to 7.5 on a level from 0 - 10), with strongest agreement from researchers in Engineering and Physical Sciences (between 7.6 and 7.8).

Agreement with the importance of Open Research practices was rated 7.2 – highest by Professors (7.8) and by researchers in Engineering and Physical Sciences (7.8) - and 7.5 for the importance of Responsible Use of Research Metrics and 7.2 for an enhanced use of Responsible Research Assessment practices. The differences between disciplines and career stages overall are very small.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements...

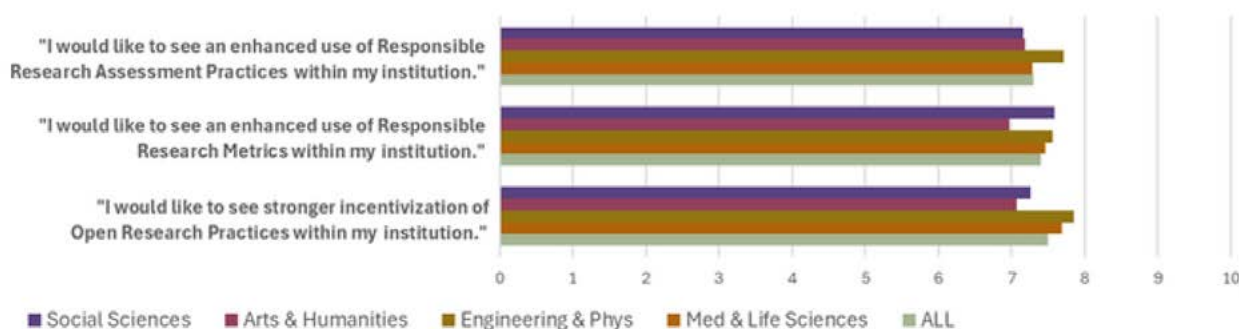


Fig 8: Researchers' appetite for stronger / enhanced Open Research practices, Responsible Use of Research Metrics and Responsible Research Assessment practices

Researchers across all disciplines and career stages would like to see stronger incentivization of Open Research practices (7.5), and an enhanced Use of Responsible Research Metrics (7.4) and Research Assessment practices (7.3). Again, there were small differences between researchers of different disciplines:

this sentiment was strongest among researchers in Engineering and Physical Sciences (between 7.7 and 7.9) and lowest among researchers in Arts and Humanities (between 7.0 and 7.2)

6. Researchers' comments on current research incentivization, Open Research and Responsible Assessment practices:

There was no notable difference in sentiment or view from researchers in different disciplines; these are the **common themes** derived from researchers' comments across disciplines and career stages:

Support for transparency and the promotion of diverse outputs: Open research practices are appreciated for their transparency and accessibility, and there is encouragement for diverse and creative research outputs. However, there are **practical difficulties:** the time required for learning skills, ethics reviews, and data protection assessments is not adequately recognized, leading to frustration among researchers.

Researchers recognize the potential benefits of Open Research practices, such as increased citations, efficiency, cost savings, and showcasing good practices. **Early stages and lack of incentives:** Open research practices are still in early stages with no specific incentives for open research within institutions, making it difficult to prioritize.

There is **increasing awareness that traditional metrics do not fully capture research quality, leading to a movement towards responsible research assessment practices.** Responsible research assessment should ideally be reflected by a fair and ethical allocation of funds and promotions.

A main concern is the **high cost** combined with a **lack of financial support for Open Access publication.**

There are also **ideological concerns:** Some view open research practices as ideologically driven and problematic, particularly regarding funding and the impact on traditional publishing systems.

Disciplinary differences and lack of formal policies and support: Open research practices

often cater more to STEM disciplines, creating challenges for arts and humanities researchers. Institutions often lack formal policies and active encouragement for responsible research practices, leaving researchers to rely on their own initiatives.

Early Career Researchers

Comments from Early Career Researcher reflected similar concerns but also highlighted how precarity of employment can affect the uptake of Open Research practices:

Newly graduated individuals have **lower awareness** of institutional communication and practices, and they are looking for fair and ethical allocation of funds and promotions.

The time required for learning necessary skills and engaging in Open Research practices is **not adequately allocated or recognized**, especially for Early Career Researchers.

Concerns about job security take priority over considerations on open research and assessment practices.

7. Conclusions and Next Steps

The survey findings indicate that there is a generally high awareness of Open research practices among the Irish research base, particularly with respect to Open Access and FAIR data principles. There is less awareness of responsible research assessment and the responsible use of research metrics.

Current research incentivisation practices vary widely across the Irish research landscape and are not perceived as being well aligned with the above principles. **There is, very importantly, appetite for additional incentivisation and alignment of these practices.**

The levels of awareness and appetite for additional incentivisation is particularly high among researchers in STEM disciplines, most notably in Engineering and Physical Sciences. (This may be due to features such as a focus on reproducibility of research results, existing funder mandates regarding Open Access publications and FAIR data management, and frequent involvement in consortia which require openness and collaboration).

Next Steps

Note that, in addition to this self-assessment survey for researchers, ABOARD work package #3 also comprised a (similar) self assessment survey for funding organizations, and the project team will prepare and publish a similar report on these findings in due course.

The results of the self assessment exercises formed the basis for a series of collective intelligence workshops with different stakeholder groups (work package #4), which took place between March and May 2025.

The insights from both work packages will be used to form Declarative Statements, recommendations and a position paper in relation to the incentivisation of Open Research practices, the responsible use of research metrics and responsible research assessment practices.

These will be debated at a capstone event which is expected to be held in early 2026 where policy recommendations and the final position paper will be presented.

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Section 2

Self-Assessment Survey for Irish Research Funding Organizations – Summary Report

Executive Summary

The overall objective of ABOARD is the production of a roadmap for system-level incentivisation of Open Research and Responsible Research Assessment practices in Ireland, aiming for effective and coherent alignment of incentivization practices that researchers encounter in all their fields of activity which - crucially - includes their engagement with external funders.

A recently published ABOARD report on the results of a self-assessment survey of Irish researchers regarding their openness to and appetite for change in relation to Open Research and Responsible Research Assessment practices showed high awareness and support levels for these principles. This report complements those findings by summarizing the next step within the stakeholder engagement process of the ABOARD project: a self-assessment of Irish research funding organizations (RFO). The report is based on a self assessment questionnaire completed by 9 funding organizations in Ireland.

The findings indicate that there is very high awareness of Open research and responsible research assessment practices among Irish funding organizations. Funders are acutely aware of their critical role in driving the

adoption of these concepts, and they see a dual responsibility:

to lead by example through the use of responsible research assessment principles in their own decision making processes and to provide guidelines, resources and infrastructure that encourage and enable researchers to engage in Open Research practices.

Irish RFOs view their funding strategies as highly aligned with Open Research and responsible assessment principles, while still showing an appetite for additional implementation activity in the medium term. There is universal agreement that alignment of this activity is essential, not only with that of other funding organizations but also with research performing organizations and policy makers. Funders would highly welcome a unified approach, such as national guidelines and infrastructure to enable open research practices as well as common solutions to tensions arising from transitional Open Access agreements. Other priorities are the development of effective strategies for a stronger incentivization of public engagement and evidence-based policy making.

The self assessment exercises formed the initial step in ABOARD's stakeholder engagement process. Combined with ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and a series of collective intelligence workshops, the outcomes will feed into government recommendations and a position paper. These will ultimately inform national policy in relation to the incentivization of Open Research practices.

1. Introduction

The ABOARD project is funded by the National Open Research Forum (NORF). It is co-led by University College Cork (UCC) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD). ABOARD brings together a consortium of research performing organisations, funders and researchers in Ireland and also undertakes dialogue with key policymakers.

The project's objective is the production of a roadmap to develop both system-level incentivisation of Open Research and responsible research assessment practices in Ireland; this will mean that the incentives that researchers encounter in all their major fields of activity (including recruitment, promotion, institutional research initiatives and engagement with funders) are aligned effectively.

ABOARD's work package #3 had the objective of assessing the current state of Open Research incentives and responsible research assessment practices in the Irish research ecosystem and the openness to and appetite for change in relation to these. The ABOARD project team has recently published the outcome of a Self Assessment survey among researchers in Ireland. In parallel, the team surveyed Irish funding organizations as another key stakeholder group, and this report summarizes the findings. The survey ran from November 2024 to January 2025. It obtained ethical approval from the Social Research Ethics Committee in UCC and was disseminated to Irish funding institutions via targeted emails through the ABOARD project partners.

2. Participating Institutions

The survey received responses from 9 funding institutions in Ireland:

- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Health Research Board (HRB)
- Health Research Charities Ireland
- Marine Institute
- Research Ireland
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Teagasc

3. Awareness Levels of Funding Institutions

Awareness Levels (0-10) of Open Research and Responsible Practices

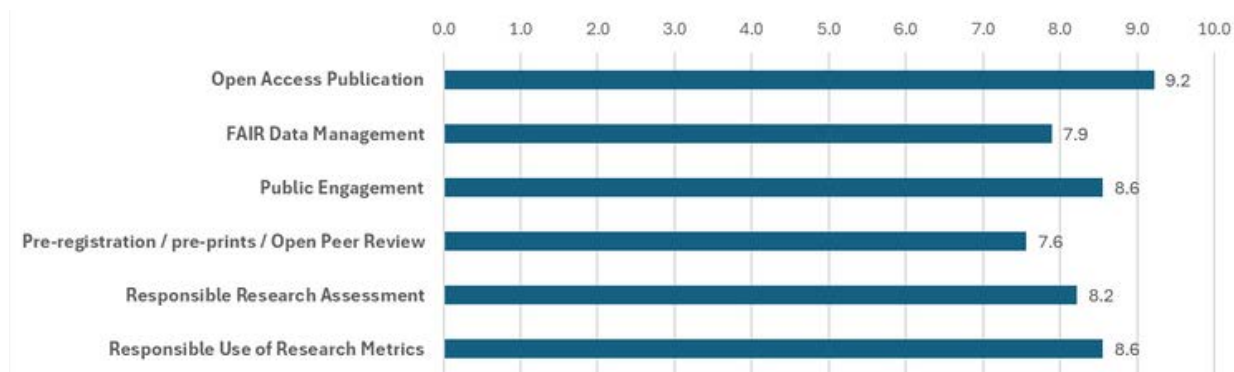


Fig. 1: RFOs' Awareness Levels of Open Research Practices, Responsible Research Assessment and the Responsible Use of Research Metrics

Open Research principles and practices

Open Access (OA) Publication, Open peer review, pre-prints and pre-registrations as well as FAIR Data Management and Public Engagement are commonly understood as Open Research practices.

Engagement in these practices is closely linked to their incentivisation. Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) means recognising, in research assessment, a broad range of research practices, activities and outputs and basing assessment principally on qualitative evaluation and avoiding the inappropriate use of metrics.

Key Findings

Awareness levels of these concepts and practices are very high among funding

organizations, highest for Open Access Publication (mean: 9.2), followed by Public Engagement, the Responsible Use of Research Metrics (both 8.6) and Responsible Research Assessment (8.2). Awareness levels for FAIR data management, pre-registration, pre-prints and open peer review are only slightly lower at 7.9 and 7.6 respectively.

Individual awareness levels ranged from a neutral 5 for RRA and RURM as the lowest value to the maximum awareness level of 10 across all practices and concepts. It is likely that the very high awareness levels of funding institutions - which are also consistently higher than those of researchers who were surveyed during the same timeframe - are due to a very targeted approach for dissemination of the survey with the request for a singular response on behalf of each funding institution.

4. Institutional Alignment and Implementation levels

4.a) Currently, how well aligned would you rate the funding strategy of your organization with the incentivization of the following concepts:

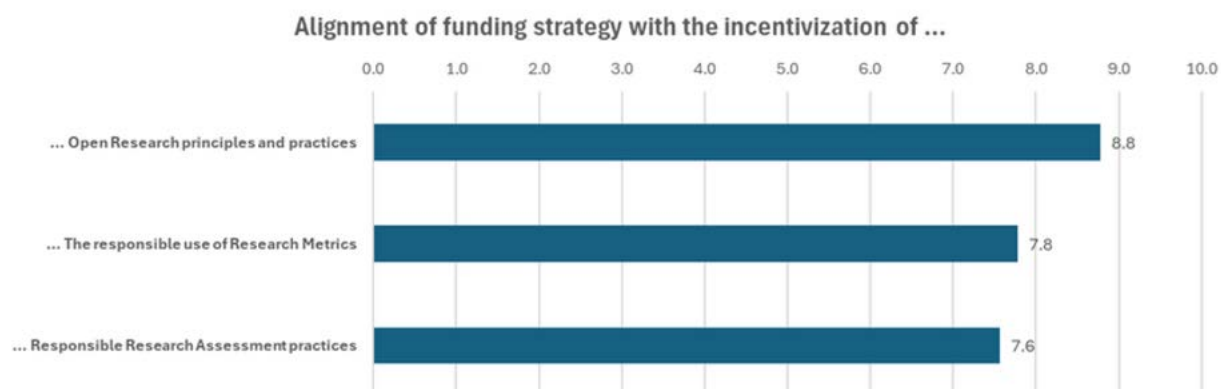


Fig 5: Funding institutions' views on current alignment between funding strategy and incentivization of OR and RRA concepts

4.b) Over the next 3 – 5 years, how much (additional) implementation activity would you like to see in your organization related to the incentivization of...:

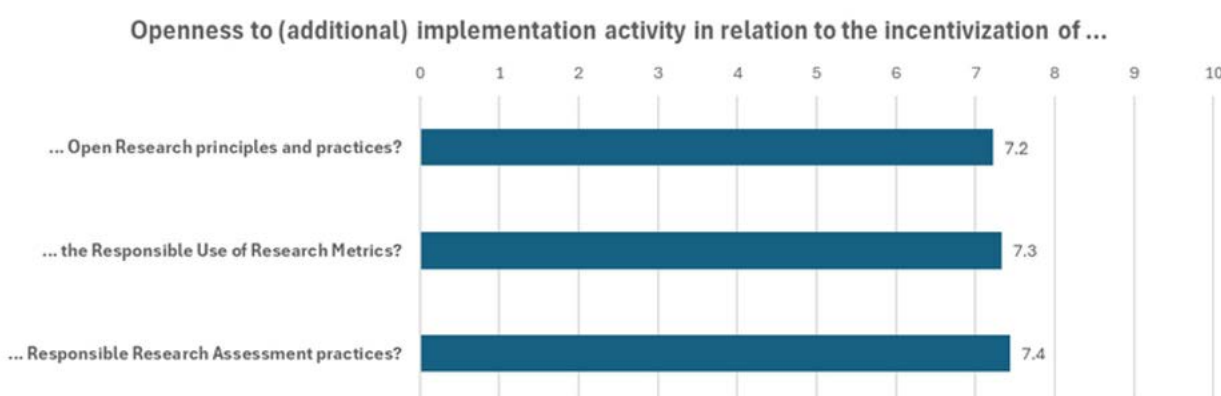


Fig 5: Funding institutions' views on current alignment between funding strategy and incentivization of OR and RRA concepts

Key Findings

Funding institutions view their funding strategies as highly aligned with Open Research principles (on a scale from 0-10, agreement lies at a mean of 8.8). Alignment with the Responsible Use of Research Metrics and with Responsible Research Assessment practices is slightly lower but still viewed as strong (mean values of 7.8 and 7.6 respectively).

Comments provided by funding organizations indicate that the alignment is strongest in the area of Open Access publication, where formal expectations are for example set out in policies and guidelines for applicants.

Even though funding institutions already view their strategies as strongly aligned with Open Research and Responsible Research assessment practices, there is still significant appetite for additional implementation activity within their organizations over the next 3-5 years. On a scale from 0-10, additional activity would be welcome at mean values of 7.4 for Responsible Research Assessment practices, 7.3 for the Responsible Use of Research Metrics and 7.2 for Open Research principles (not surprisingly in reverse order to perceived current alignment with these practices as per 4a).

4.c) **Comments on Institutional Alignment and additional implementation**

The following themes emerged from comments in relation to institutional alignment with and implementation levels of incentivization of Open Research and Responsible Research Assessment practices:

The focus of publicly funded research programs is to **support not-for-profit, public-good research** with a strong emphasis on open access.

There is **tension** between researchers' desire to secure funding for **fee-based publishing models** and the broader objective to shift away from these.

Funding organizations are aware of their **role in driving Open Research practices**, but have **limited capacity to monitor and enforce** open research policies, and this may hinder full implementation.

Some Irish funding organizations mandate open access for all research outputs and are transitioning to immediate open access on dedicated platforms which are also available to support open data, open peer review, and transparent reporting practices.

In addition to Open Access publication, there is a strong focus on **research data management, including planning, budgeting, stewardship**, and recognition for data sharing.

There is a **strong focus on societal impact of research and public engagement** to achieve same. In healthcare and social care research, public and patient involvement (PPI) is a priority in funding policy to **ensure research reflects real-world needs** and achieves impact.

Transparency in funding and evaluation processes is promoted through stakeholder engagement and open decision-making.

Some funding organizations engage in **collaboration with national and international bodies that support the advancement of open and responsible research practices**,

such as the Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), emphasizing qualitative evaluation, recognition of diverse outputs, and consideration of non-linear career paths.

Traditional metrics like h-index and journal impact factor are avoided in favour of fairer, more inclusive assessment methods.

Internal initiatives are underway within some funding organizations to support ongoing reforms and **promote integrity, reproducibility, and fairness** in research.

Selected comments:

"[...]We expect that outputs and findings should be widely disseminated and made publicly available. [...]"

"Researchers are seeking for gold open access fees to be funded by research funding organisations, but we are meant to be moving away from these fee based models. There are tensions here."

"Although we have policies in relation to open research and data, our capacity to monitor and enforce it is limited, hence our effectiveness may not align fully with our ambition."

5. Importance of alignment with other stakeholder groups:

“On a scale from 0-10, to what degree do you think it is important that the research incentives/rewards and research assessment approaches taken by others (i.e. other research funding organizations, research performers and national research policymakers) align with your organization's approach in these areas?”

Alignment with other Funding Agencies



Fig x: Funders' view on alignment with other Funding Agencies

Alignment with Research Performing Organizations



Fig x: Funders' view on alignment with RPOs

Alignment with Policy Makers



Fig x: Funders' view on alignment with other Policy Makers

Key Findings:

Funding Organizations in Ireland view sectoral alignment of research incentives and rewards as well as research assessment approaches by other stakeholders in the research system as extremely important. When asked how important they rate the alignment with the approach of other stakeholder groups, they rated the importance of alignment with other funding bodies the highest (at a mean value of 9). The alignment with Research Performing Organizations was rated similarly important (only marginally lower at a mean value of 8.9). The importance of alignment with policy makers was rated only slightly lower (mean 8.6).

Themes emerging from comments:

Funding organizations are aware of their key role in research assessment and incentivization, and there is willingness to lead by example through innovation of own practices and the promotion of supportive policies, infrastructure, and governance.

RFOs would highly welcome a unified national approach, particularly national research data infrastructure and a common open access policy and funding approach. The incentivization of evidence-based policymaking as well as public engagement, for example in the form of Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in health and social care research, should also be key focus areas for alignment.

Collaborative Engagement at EU and at national level is important, for example through leveraging the CoARA National Chapter.

7. Conclusions and Next Steps

The survey findings indicate that there is very high awareness of Open research and responsible research assessment practices among Irish funding organizations. Funders are aware of their critical role in driving the incentivization of these concepts and have adopted many principles into their own assessment and decision making processes.

As a result most funders view their funding strategies as highly aligned with Open Research and responsible assessment principles, while still showing an appetite for additional implementation activity in the medium term. There is universal support for concerted activities between all funding organizations in close alignment with those of other stakeholder groups.

Funders would welcome national guidelines and infrastructure to enable open research practices and common solutions to the current transitional Open Access agreements. Other priorities are the creation of incentivization strategies that enhance both public engagement and evidence-based policy making.

Next Steps

The results of the self assessment exercises with both researchers and funding organizations formed the basis for a series of collective intelligence workshops with different stakeholder groups (work package #4), which took place between March and May 2025.

The insights from both work packages will be used to form Declarative Statements, recommendations and a position paper in relation to the incentivization of Open Research practices, the responsible use of research metrics and responsible research assessment practices. These will be debated at a capstone event which is expected to be held in early 2026 where policy recommendations and the final position paper will be presented which will ultimately inform national policy in relation to the incentivization of Open Research practices.

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R O A D M A P T O
E M B E D D I N G O P E N
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