



Delft University of Technology

## Just science

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## Just science

Posted on December 17, 2016 by Wilma van Wezenbeek

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So here I am, starting to write the national plan on open science for The Netherlands. This seems to be a heavy task, with a deadline of early February 2017. And nothing on paper yet. Why do I have confidence that we will succeed?

1. I am, because we are. The full quote is: “I am because WE are and, since we are, therefore I am.” A quote by [John Mbiti](#), of which the short version was used at a “tile painting” workshop at [Royal Delft](#) (De Porceleynse Fles) we recently organized during our “Day out of the Library with all our personnel”. The assignment was to paint a quote that had a relation with the benefits of working together. I succeed, because we succeed. Not only is the writing process a team effort (with [Hester Touwen](#), [Anke Versteeg](#) and [Astrid van Wesenbeeck](#)), we are not making up our own ideas. We read, listen, view, talk, get together, and – though our time is limited – aim to put the actions that The Netherlands is undertaking in relation to open science together. We do this in close connection with and under supervision of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences.
2. “Beware of that demon called ‘Changing The World’.” A quote by Marty Rubin. We know the [Council Conclusions](#) on the transition towards an open science system, and of course the [Amsterdam Call for Action](#) (see here the [blog](#) I wrote about the Congress). Open science means that we open up the scientific process, as much as possible. This will further science and society. Economy and innovation may flourish by opening up the scientific process. For our plan we restrict ourselves to three lines, based on the goals as laid down in the Council conclusions, i.e., 100% open access for scientific publications (that were created via public funding) per 2020; optimal reuse of research data; and perhaps the most important of all, implementing a broader view on the way research and researchers are assessed and rewarded. We are aware that a lot is going on, both in and outside our country. It is impossible to mention everything, though we will incorporate a few initiatives in relation with these three lines, and we will be listening to the users from science and society. No we will not be changing the world by writing this plan, but we will be adding our practice, ideas and actions to reach our result: meaningful access to science and scientific processes.
3. A plan is not the end; it is a beginning. In February we will have a national plan open science, and at the same time our Ministry will launch the national platform open science. In this way continuity is guaranteed, actions can be followed, new ones can be added, and changes can be made.

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## Intermezzo

**Let us support our researchers so that it is clear for them, on their bumpy road, what they can and cannot do, what tools they should be using (in what way), and how they can reach a destination that seems to be blocked. Making open science the default road. Making open science just science.**



It should be clear what you cannot or should not be doing.



It should be clear who is allowed to do what, and what tools are useful.



Indications which road is closed (“afgesloten”), or still available (“bereikbaar”) should be given

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*“Go as far as you can see. When you get there  
You’ll be able to see farther”*

*Thomas Carlyle*

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