

Based on Articles 42 and 79, paragraph 5 of the Statute of the University of Applied Sciences "Marko Marulic" of Knin, the University of Applied Sciences Council, at its 39th, held on June 2, 2025, adopts

THE OPEN SCIENCE POLICY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES "MARKO MARULIC" OF KNIN

When defining its Open Science Policy, the University of Applied Sciences "Marko Marulic" of Knin (hereinafter: the UAS) is committed to developing and implementing the policies and principles of the European Union (EU Open Science Policies, Council Conclusions on High-Quality, Transparent, Open, Reliable, and Equitable Scientific Publishing, 2023, and Council Conclusions on Research Assessment and Open Science Implementation, 2022), international organizations such as UNESCO Recommendations on Open Science, the Act on Higher Education and Scientific Activity (Official Gazette 119/22), and the proposed Croatian Open Science Plan.

The UAS's Open Science Policy aims to improve the quality of scientific and professional work, increase the visibility of research results, and contribute to the global scientific community. Implementing this policy is a key step toward a more open, fair, and innovative scientific system.

Open science means that the entire scientific process is public and accessible for participation, collaboration, and contribution by all interested parties. This includes freely sharing research results, methodologies, all collected and processed data, and other parts of the research process, as well as scientific publications, under conditions that allow their reuse, further dissemination, and reproducibility. Open science covers all scientific disciplines and all aspects of scientific work.

The UAS adopts and implements an open science policy that ensures free and public access to research outputs, including scientific and professional articles, data, and other sources. It also promotes responsible research through transparent sharing of methodologies, guarantees open science accessibility to all researchers and the general public without discrimination, and encourages collaboration through open platforms, interdisciplinary projects, and joint initiatives.

Besides open access to scientific information and publications, the UAS recognizes the importance of other open science elements defined by the Croatian Open Science Plan. These include free access to and reuse of research data, transparency of the research process, open peer review procedures, emphasis on responsibility and ethics in research and publishing, and scientific integrity of researchers. The UAS also supports retaining copyrights to enable open access (Open Access – OA) and reuse without delay. It encourages creating and using open educational resources to facilitate faster and easier knowledge acquisition for a broader audience.

The UAS strongly supports UNESCO's recommendations on open science:

- Quality and integrity, including respect for academic freedom and human rights and support for high-value research
- The common good of humanity through inclusive, sustainable, and equitable science
- Ensuring equality and fairness among researchers from developing and developed countries
- Diversity and inclusiveness in open science: diversity of knowledge, practices, ways of working, languages, research results, and research goals

Through its open science policy, the UAS seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure free access to publications, data, and tools to increase the visibility and impact of scientific work.
- Improve research quality using open tools, standards, and methods for greater transparency and reproducibility.
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and participation in international open science initiatives.
- Support innovation by freely sharing scientific findings to accelerate their practical application.
- Provide education and support through training programs for academic and non-academic staff and students on open science.

In line with open science values and EU policies, the UAS encourages authors to deposit papers, data, and educational materials in institutional or national repositories (e.g., HRČAK, DABAR, PUH, CroRIS) that comply with FAIR principles. Depositing should follow the European Commission's principle of "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" and employ green, gold, or diamond open-access models. The use of Creative Commons licenses with minimal restrictions while retaining copyrights is recommended.

Following the basic principles of open science, systematic monitoring of legislation and policies related to open science at the national and EU levels will be ensured, as well as alignment of the UAS's Open Science Policy with potential changes. The UAS guarantees that open science practices will comply with ethical standards, data protection, privacy, and legal regulations at both the national and European levels.

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Knin, June 2, 2025

Council of the UAS "Marko Marulić" of Knin
Dean
Marijana Đinović Topalović, PhD, College Prof.

