

'Importance and benefits' in short

To access the resource: https://doranum.fr/enjeux-benefices/la-minute-enjeux-et-benefices_10_13143_8jfc-we32/

Publication date: 27/09/2024

Last update date: 27/09/2024

French national and European open science policies encourage researchers to make all useful research materials for understanding a scientific result available to the community. This includes research data and software source codes which should both be shared following principles designed to make them findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. These are known as the FAIR principles.

But in practical terms, why should you share your data? What's at stake and what are the benefits? Here's a few examples.

- If researchers share their data, this promotes them and adds value and also enhances their visibility and citability. In certain cases, this can even be a prerequisite for obtaining research funding. Sharing data also requires good data management practices to be adopted which improves the overall quality of research.
- Managing and sharing data opens up new perspectives for science because it makes it easier to combine crossed data from different disciplines and can lead to new research themes and investigation methods emerging. It is also very helpful for reviewing research results. Increasingly, review committees ask for data to be deposited for their easier access which enhances the reviewing process. It also needs to be noted that more and more publishers require researchers to make available all data underpinning the results reported in the submitted papers.

- For society as a whole, making data available offers a better guarantee against scientific fraud as it makes research more transparent. Also, reusing existing data rather than recreating new data is a better use of public money. In this way, savings can be made on data collection or processing costs for example.

Finally, sharing and opening up research data and source codes helps optimise research and speed up innovation.