

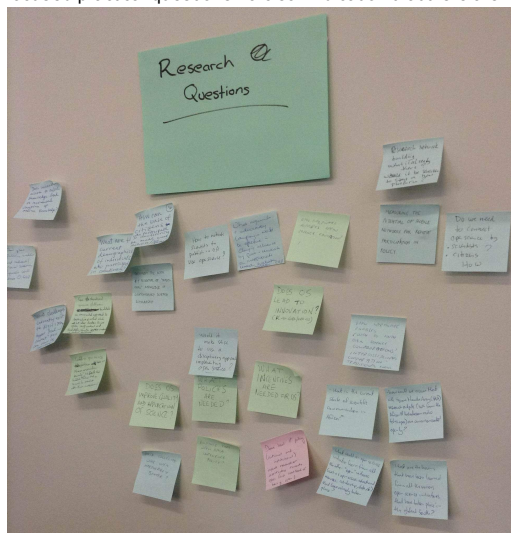
## Open science & development goals: round up & the way forward

This post is cross-posted from the [OKFN Science blog](#)

Open science and development were the two key points that brought together a diverse group of over 20 scientists, methodological experts and researchers last week at the University of Cape Town. From the 12–13 September, these experts in their fields gathered for an [IDRC OKFN-OpenUCT Open Science for Development workshop](#) to scope possible research areas of open science for development. The focus was on research could be undertaken and to strengthen networks around this broad topic across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Day 1** involved discussions around opportunities and challenges for each of the regions represented as well as available resources that could be used and shared. By the end of the day, the group was starting to draw on these potential avenues for exploring open science for development to shape research questions.

Continuing from [day 1's discussions](#), day 2 focussed on framing these research questions around open science for development. These questions were discussed by breakout groups who selected the top four out of the multitude of those suggested. This selection was no easy task in such a mixed bag of broad, conceptual questions and focused practical questions - a clear indication that there are many potential interesting research questions.



Four key questions emerged that were taken forward in further discussion:

- 1) What value framework is a prerequisite for open science?
- 2) How can open science support visibility and communication of science outside formal academic structures?
- 3) How can open science create education?
- 4) How can the economic and social value of open science be measured?

Projects that could help to answer these main questions were conceptualised and expanded upon. Some of the broad areas that the suggested projects could address included education, increased public involvement as well as the implication of open science on cost and building value. A regional focus for the suggested projects was thought to be best, largely due to financial and time limitations as well as co-ordination issues. The overarching IDRC-backed research programme will help to create and develop further synergies between any funded projects.



As part of maintaining the momentum created during over the course of the workshop, staying connected and growing the network by bringing other people with diverse perspectives on board are key actions going forward. All of us walked away from this workshop with a greater appreciation for open science and an understanding that, although diverse, open science is united by many similar practises across regions.

We ended with more questions than answers at the end of the two days – just where you should be when you’re scoping possible research questions. What comes next is an OKFN working paper pulling together all the discussion threads, questions and resources raised over the two days, which will inform a call for research proposals for projects involving and investigating open science. Watch this space as open science spreads across the map!



by SarahG (Pictures by Uvania Naidoo)

[Blog post](#)



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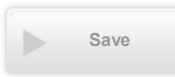
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