

On the training track – European project sets out to facilitate Open Science

Guimarães, Portugal, 26 February 2014

FOSTER (Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research, www.fosteropenscience.eu), a European Commission-funded project, started its work at a kick-off meeting held on 20-21 February in Guimarães, Portugal.

Digital learning and research are emerging activities across all research areas – often sitting alongside more traditional methods. FOSTER's primary aim is to combine open access to publications, data, software tools and educational materials in order to accelerate and enhance collaborative and international research. This corresponds to the European Commission's explicit goal for Horizon 2020, the framework program for research and innovation that started earlier this year: namely, to make open access the general principle for EU-funded research and strengthen the European Research Area and economy.

FOSTER sets out to facilitate these aims through engaging with multiple stakeholders. It brings together thirteen partners from eight countries across Europe and will collect and organize training materials, promoting events that enable young researchers and other stakeholders to learn more about the vision and practices of Open Science.

FOSTER is currently inviting (<http://www.fosteropenscience.eu/training-call-2014/>) volunteers to host training sessions, workshops and summer schools targeting graduate schools at European universities, research communities, research administrators, librarians, and other interested parties. Co-funding will be made available to a range of events with the aim of reaching out to different regions, disciplines and stakeholders. FOSTER will collect these presentations and resources for later online use. These events are expected to be held from June to December 2014. A second call will be issued in October 2014 for events in 2015.

The FOSTER training strategy embraces face-to-face training, blended and self-learning, as well as the dissemination of materials, contents and curricula. FOSTER will not originate all of these materials, but rather will leverage the European and international communities in academia and beyond to share existing resources.

To this end, FOSTER will map and collect existing training materials, will issue a community call for content to be used in the FOSTER context, and will build up a platform that will offer access to a range of training resources, providing assistance and opportunities to engage with the content and the learning community. New materials will evolve from training sessions and in addition, the certification of training units for postgraduate curricula will be explored.

Contact

Eloy Rodrigues, eloy@sdum.uminho.pt

www.fosteropenscience.eu

Please visit our call for training events at www.fosteropenscience.eu/training-call-2014