

Training of Trainers

The Bulgarian Portal for Open Science (BPOS) : Current and Potential Benefits for Data Stewards

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BPOS

**Bulgarian
Portal
for Open
Science**



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Introduction to BPOS

- The Bulgarian Portal for Open Science (BPOS) was established in implementation of the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2018/790 on access to and the preservation of scientific information, as well as in fulfillment of Bulgaria's commitments to European e-infrastructures for open science.
- BPOS was launched in July 2020.
- The Portal is developed and maintained by the Ministry of Education and Science through the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID).
- In the *Law on the Promotion of Scientific Research and Innovation* (State Gazette No. 39 of May 1, 2024), BPOS is defined as “a national repository of scientific information resulting from research funded wholly or partly by public funds, as well as a single point of access to such information” (Article 78.2).
- The procedure for publishing and storing data and publications in BPOS is governed by an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science.

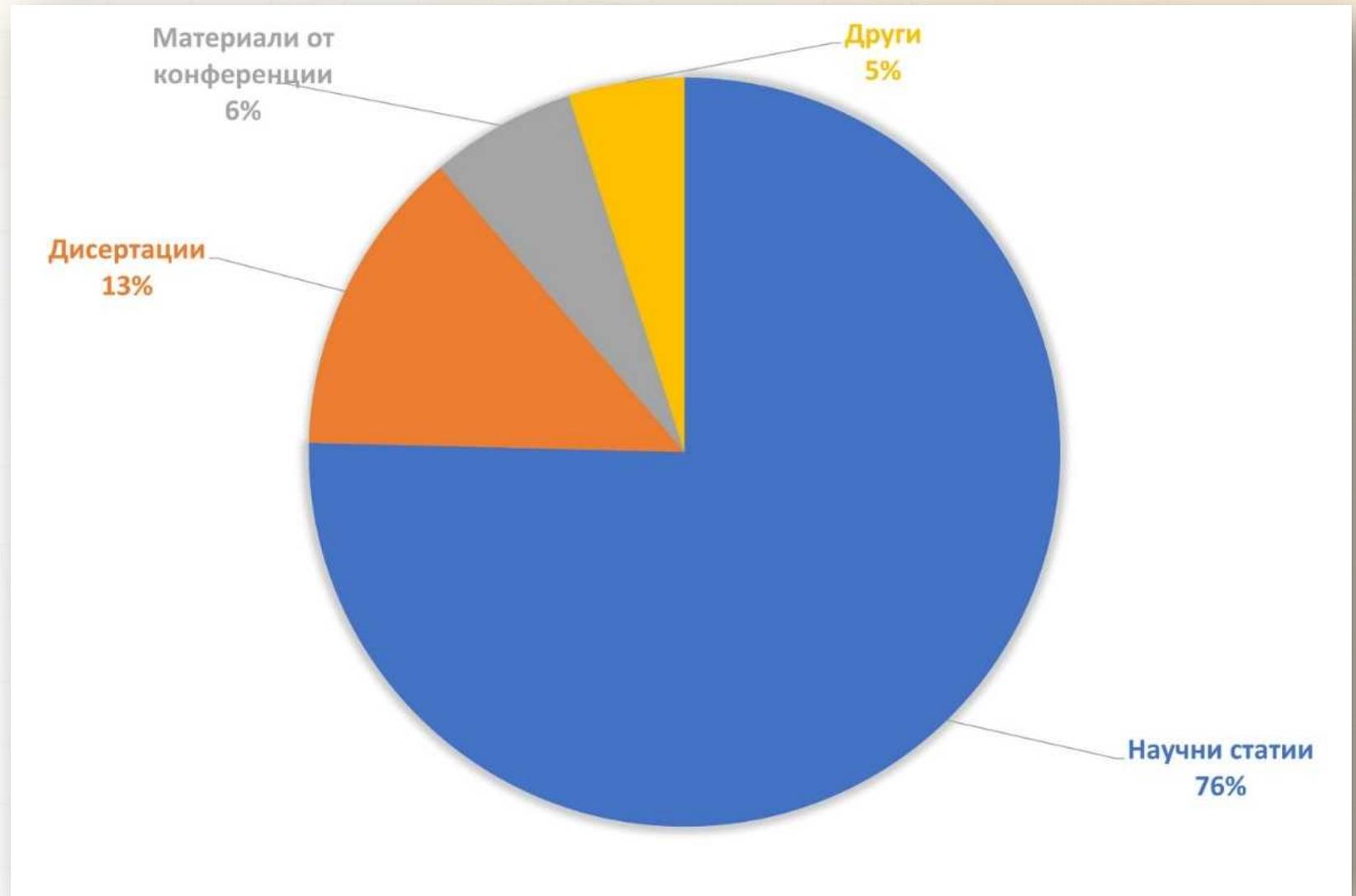
Some Statistical Data on BPOS

- The Portal has 119 registered organizations serving as content providers: 44 higher education institutions; 60 research organizations (including institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Bulgarian Academy of Agriculture, and accredited hospitals); and 11 scientific literature publishers. Freelance researchers, the Bulgarian National Science Fund, the Bulgarian OpenAIRE repository, and NACID are registered as separate categories;
- There are more than 5,500 registered users (researchers);
- The Portal currently contains nearly 117,000 publications, over 91% of which are open access;

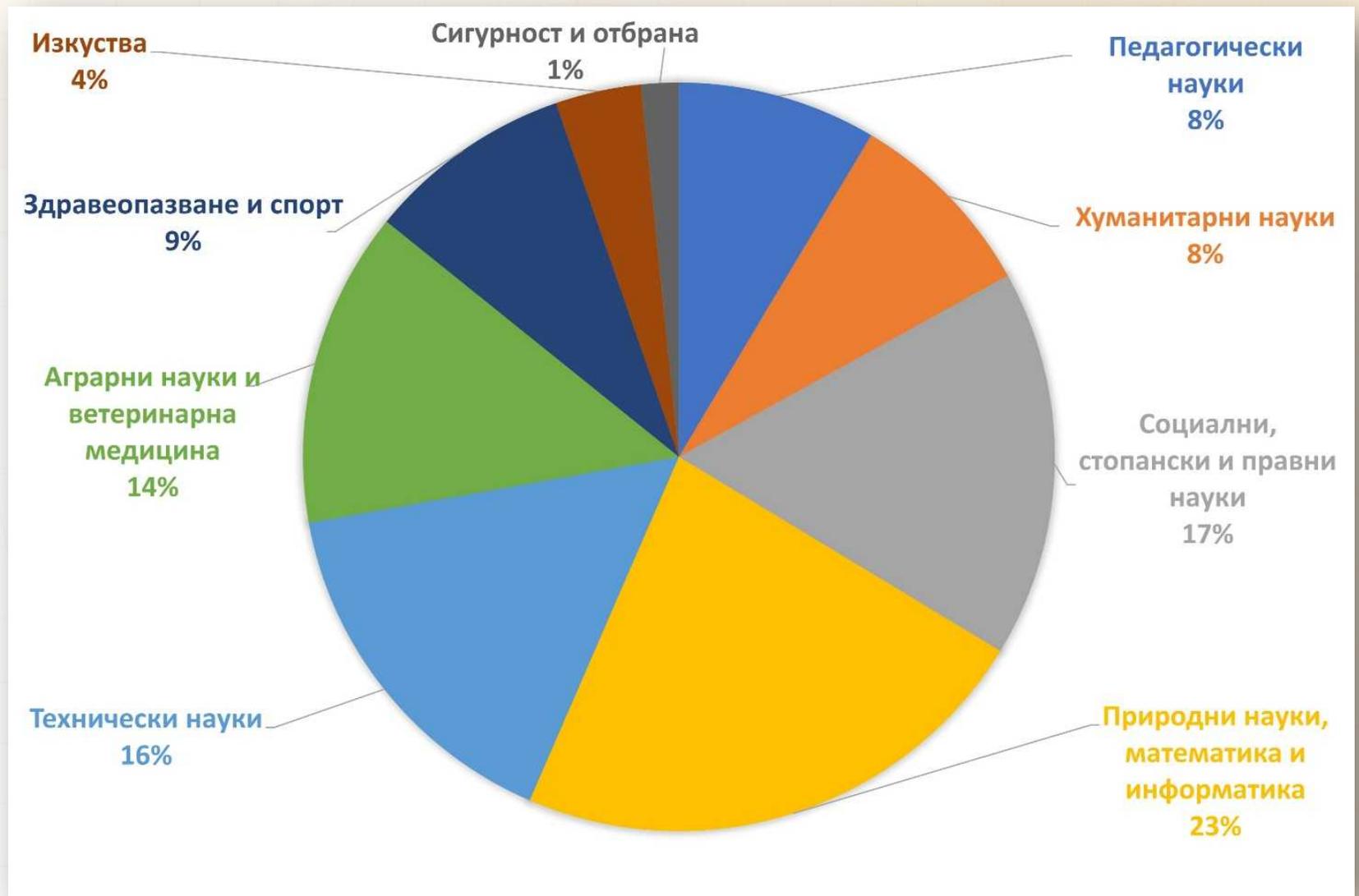
The screenshot shows the BPOS search page. At the top left is the logo 'BP OS' with the text 'Bulgarian Portal for Open Science' and a hamburger menu icon. The main heading is 'SEARCH IN PUBLICATIONS' with 'ADVANCED SEARCH' below it. There is a search input field with the placeholder text 'Search by author, title, keywords...' and an orange 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar is a link for 'Search guidelines'. A section titled 'CONTENT PROVIDER' lists the following:

Content Provider	Count
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"	28 833
„St. Cyril and St. Methodius“ Univers...	11 976
National Centre for Information and D...	8 460

- The largest share of resources consists of scientific articles (76% of all documents), followed by dissertations (13% – automatically harvested from the Academic Staff Register), conference materials (6%), and other types of publications (5%); **the number of published data sets and data papers remains extremely low;**



- The highest number of publications falls within the professional field of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics (23% of the total).



Types of Users in BPOS (Internal System)

MODERATOR

Has all the rights of a researcher and may also approve, edit, or return for correction publications submitted by other researchers within the organization.

Receives notifications of materials submitted for publication.

May be responsible for specific categories of publications and data.

RESEARCHER

Creates records for publications and data of which they are the author or co-author; enters metadata; selects access rights and licenses; attaches files; and submits records for approval by a moderator.

ADMINISTRATOR

Manages all activities of the organization within BPOS, including:

- holding all the rights of a researcher and moderator;
- approving registration requests;
- modifying user roles;
- creating classifications, etc.



Standard Publishing Procedure

1

CREATE A RECORD,
ENTER METADATA,
AND ATTACH
ONE OR MORE
FILES

PUBLICATIONS
AND DATA

2

REVIEW AND
APPROVAL BY A
MODERATOR (FROM
YOUR
ORGANIZATION)

SUBMIT FOR
REVIEW

3

PUBLICATION IN
BPOS



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Metadata in BPOS

🏠 > Публикации > Нова публикация

Нова публикация

🔗 Инструкция за публикуване

Изтегли статии от Web of Science

1. Основна информация (Basic information)
2. Допълнителна информация (Additional information)
3. Лиценз (License condition)
4. Прикачени файлове (Attached files)
5. Публикуване (Publish)

Тип публикация (Resource type) задължително ^

Тип *

Metadata is entered for every record in BPOS. The metadata entry process is organized into five steps:

- ▶ **Basic information** (resource type, title, authors, description, language);
- ▶ **Additional information** (keywords, related resources, identifiers);
- ▶ **License** (access rights, deposit agreement, license),
- ▶ **Attachments** (file or files)
- ▶ **Publication details** (professional field, etc.).

Some Notes on Research Data

- The publication of research data is mandatory when the data have been obtained, in whole or in part, through public funding.
- The upgrade of BPOS to include full research data processing capabilities has not yet been fully implemented; currently, it only supports the publication of data sets and data papers.
- As noted earlier, very few such resources have been published, and even fewer correspond to what they are described as being.
- One possible explanation is the relatively new regulatory framework on research data, which is also fragmented across several legislative acts, including: the *Access to Public Information Act (2023)*; the *Law on the Promotion of Scientific Research and Innovation (2024)*; and the *Regulation on the Activities of the National Science Fund (2025)*.
- Certain gaps are also evident, such as the absence of an explicit requirement to comply with **the FAIR principles**; such a requirement has only been introduced in the *Ordinance on the Procedure for Publishing and Storing Data and Publications in BPOS*.

“Research data”

refers to information in digital form, other than scientific publications, that is collected or generated in the course of scientific research and used as evidence in the research process, or that is generally accepted within the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings and results.

(Access to Public Information Act, Additional Provisions, §1, 19).



Image source: Scriberia – Navoica/CNC (2026). Research Data Management – An Introductory Course.



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On the Research Data Management Plans

- The *Regulations on the Monitoring and Evaluation of Research Activities Conducted by Higher Education Institutions and Research Organizations, as well as the Activities of the National Science Fund* (published in the State Gazette, No. 106 of 17 December 2024) provides that, by the end of March each year, **organizations are required to submit to the Ministry of Education and Science a research data management plan**, together with other documents.
- “The research data management plan describes how data will be collected, organized, stored, and shared during a project or scientific research and includes a description of the data, data collection methods, data organization and structure, **data storage and archiving, data sharing and dissemination**, personal data management and protection, and procedures for their processing, and defines responsibilities for data management.” (Article 13.2).



Image source:
Scriberia – Navoica/CNC (2026). Research Data Management – An Introductory Course.

- The *Regulation on the Activities of the Bulgarian National Science Fund* establishes specific requirements concerning research data management. These include: a mandatory requirement for each project to include a research data management plan (Article 76.1.6); the designation of the research data management plan as an integral part of the project funding agreement (Article 76.2); and, for each funded project, the creation of a dedicated project webpage, which must include, where applicable, **a link to publicly available research data** (Article 90.2.2.b).
- Since mid-2025, BNSF have included funder-level requirements mandating “an irrevocable commitment to the wide dissemination of the results of fundamental scientific research under non-exclusive and non-discriminatory conditions, through teaching, open access databases, open publications, open-source software, or other means, and **adherence to the principles of open science**, in accordance with Article 5.2 of the *Law on the Promotion of Research and Innovation*”.

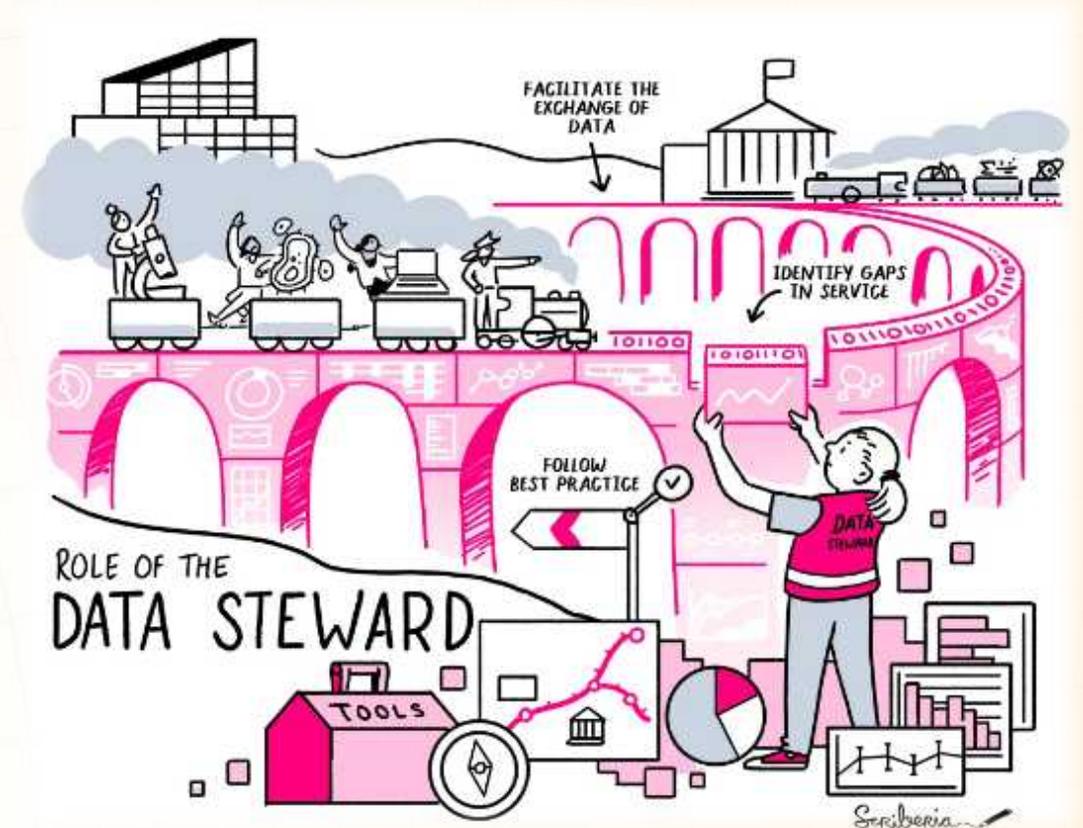


Image source:
Scriberia – Navoica/CNC (2026). Research Data Management – An Introductory Course.

Benefits and Opportunities of using BPOS

- **For researchers (authors):** greater visibility; increased citation potential; long-term preservation of research outputs; enhanced academic reputation.
- **For the scientific community:** time savings; easy access to publications and data; faster exchange of knowledge and ideas; improved reproducibility of research results; avoidance of duplication of effort.
- **For society:** promotion of citizen science; access to reliable scientific information; increased public trust in research; stronger interaction between science and business.

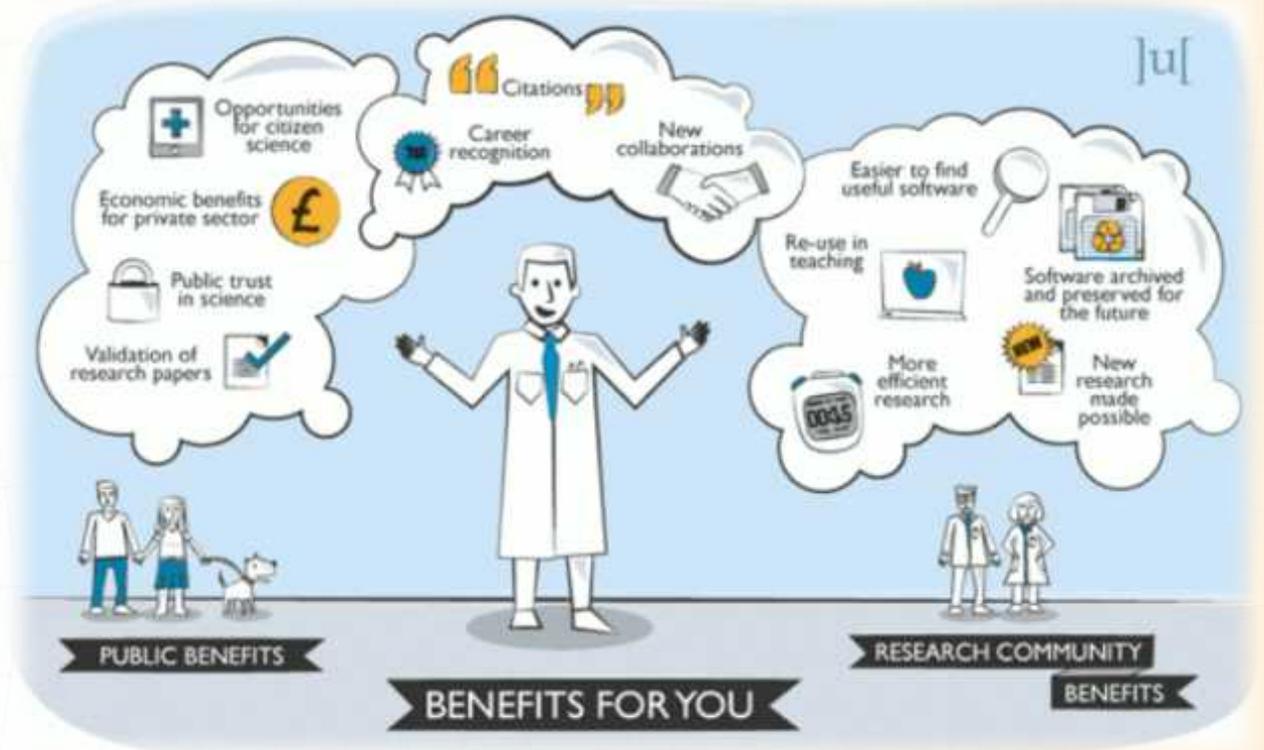


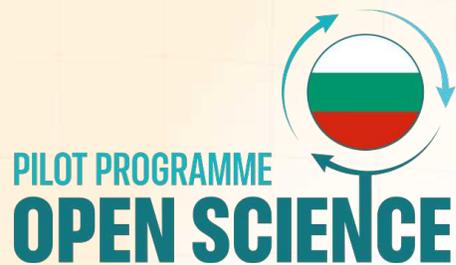
Image source:

Hole, B. (2015). Open Science: A New publisher Perspective. Ubiquity press. (CC BY 4.0 International).



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Thank you very much
for your attention!

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SAVE THE DATE

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ROUND TABLE „POLICIES IN
THE FIELD OF OPEN AND
RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE “

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INFORMATION
AND DOCUMENTATION

