



Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija

Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia

Valņu iela 2, Rīga, LV - 1050, Latvia, phone +371 67226209, e-mail [pasts@izm.gov.lv](mailto:pasts@izm.gov.lv), [www.izm.gov.lv](http://www.izm.gov.lv)

***Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle***

*Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences Sector*

[openscience@unesco.org](mailto:openscience@unesco.org)

Copy:

*Delegation of Latvia to the UNESCO*

[dl.latvia@unesco-delegations.org](mailto:dl.latvia@unesco-delegations.org)

*Latvia's National Commission to the UNESCO*

[office@unesco.lv](mailto:office@unesco.lv)

Riga,

17. 12. 2020

No.

4-5.1/20/4396

## **Comments and Observations on the First draft of the Recommendation on Open Science**

Dear Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle,

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2020 we received a letter from Director-General Audrey Azoulay (Ref. CL/4333) requesting comments and observations on the First draft of the Recommendation on Open Science and we are hereby providing Latvia's comments.

**Latvia would like to express its general support to the first draft text of the UNESCO Recommendation.** We commend the organization of regional consultations which succeeded in advancing the discussion from a regional perspective on the meaning, scope and opportunities of Open Science and successfully involving policy makers, experts from academia, private sector and civic society.

With regard to the Preamble of the text Latvia suggests **limiting the number of explicit references to COVID-19**. There is no question that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the Open Science movement, however, with the deployment of the vaccine the COVID-19 references will become less relevant over time.

Latvia highly appreciates the inclusion of the principle of “as open as possible, as closed as necessary” in the Recommendation, which is also a cornerstone of the forthcoming Latvian Open Science Strategy. However, **it is not sufficient to refer to the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) in the text as “for example”**. Instead, the FAIR principles should be explicitly included as core to the Recommendation, thereby ensuring that the Recommendation remains relevant as advances are made in research data management and that global reuse of research data can be operationalized.

In section 9 (vii), Latvia would welcome an emphasis on and reference to co-creation for Citizen and Participatory Science, which we believe is integral to a meaningful engagement of a broader set of stakeholders in the scientific process.

Latvia would like to assert the high value of the UNESCO work to foster a global Open Science movement which is key for the world’s recovery from the pandemic and sustainable development through science.

Yours sincerely,

Jānis Volberts  
State Secretary

