

Is Knowledge Exchange the Silver Bullet for Fostering Open and Responsible Research and Innovation? A Case Study on Bulgaria

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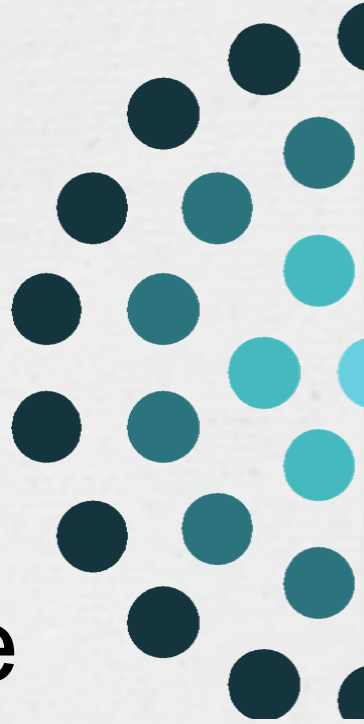
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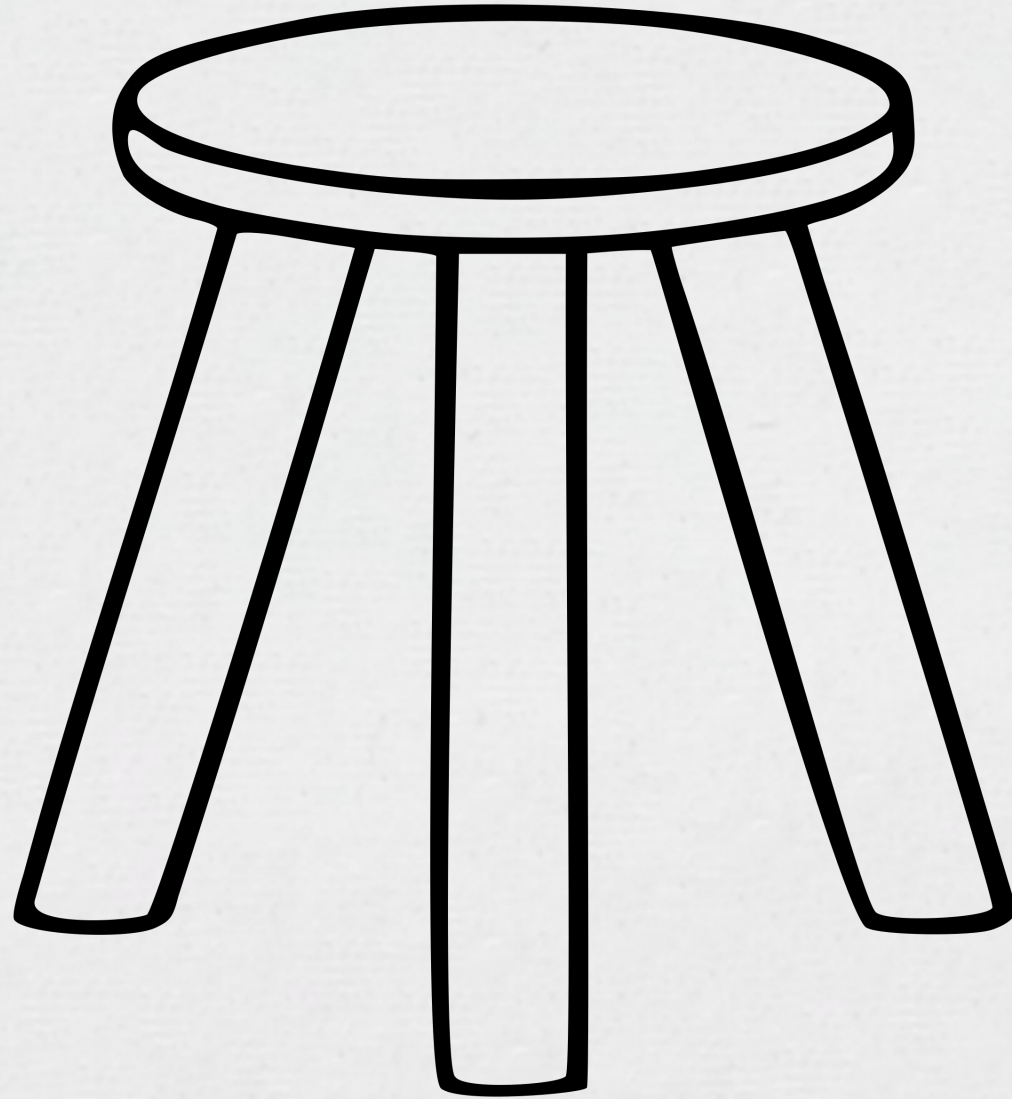
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Why this topic?

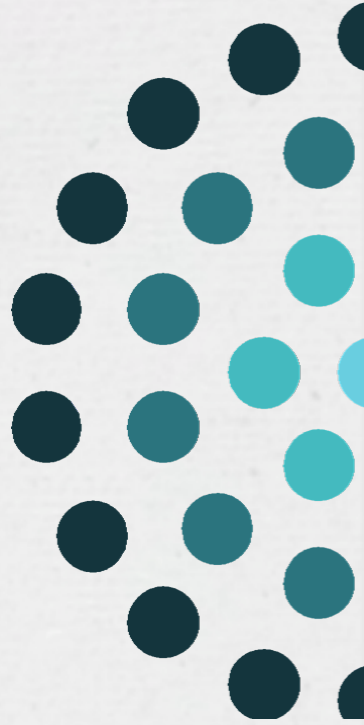
- Different countries are at different levels of embracing open science
- This contributes to a new dimension of the digital divide
- This talk will present an effort to boost open science in Bulgaria (ORBIT project)



The big challenge

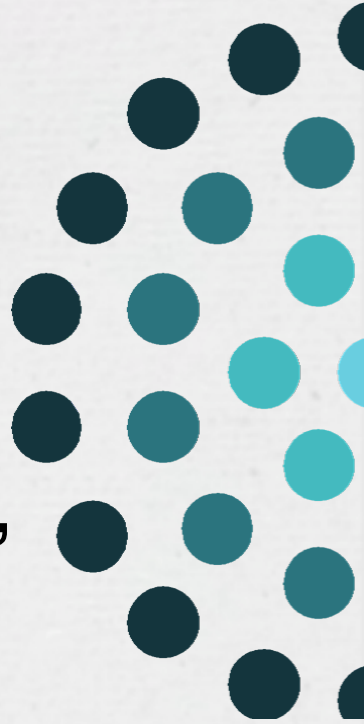


National policies/infrastructures Institutional level Researchers' behaviours



Summary of the activities of ORBIT

- Three co-creation workshops (December 2024) – first study of attitudes of different stakeholders (administration, researcher, citizens)
- Two workshops for experienced researchers
- Winter school for PhD students delivered in February 2025 with a mentorship programme under way
- ORRI tool – self-assessment of ORRI competences/skills tried
- Final conference on 1 July





WINTER SCHOOL
4-7 FEBRUARY 2025



Self assessment



MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME
MARCH – MAY 2025



Self assessment




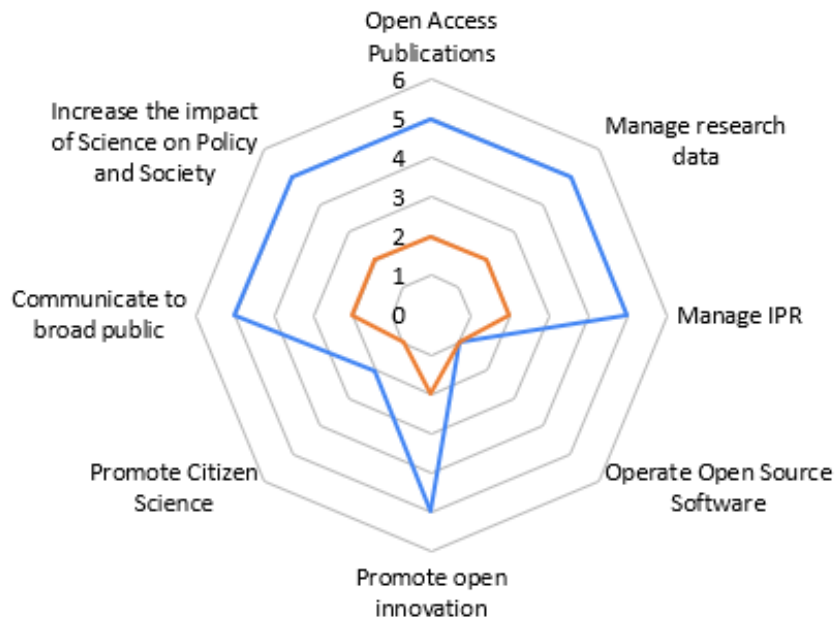
FINAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 2025



Early researchers ORRI pathway

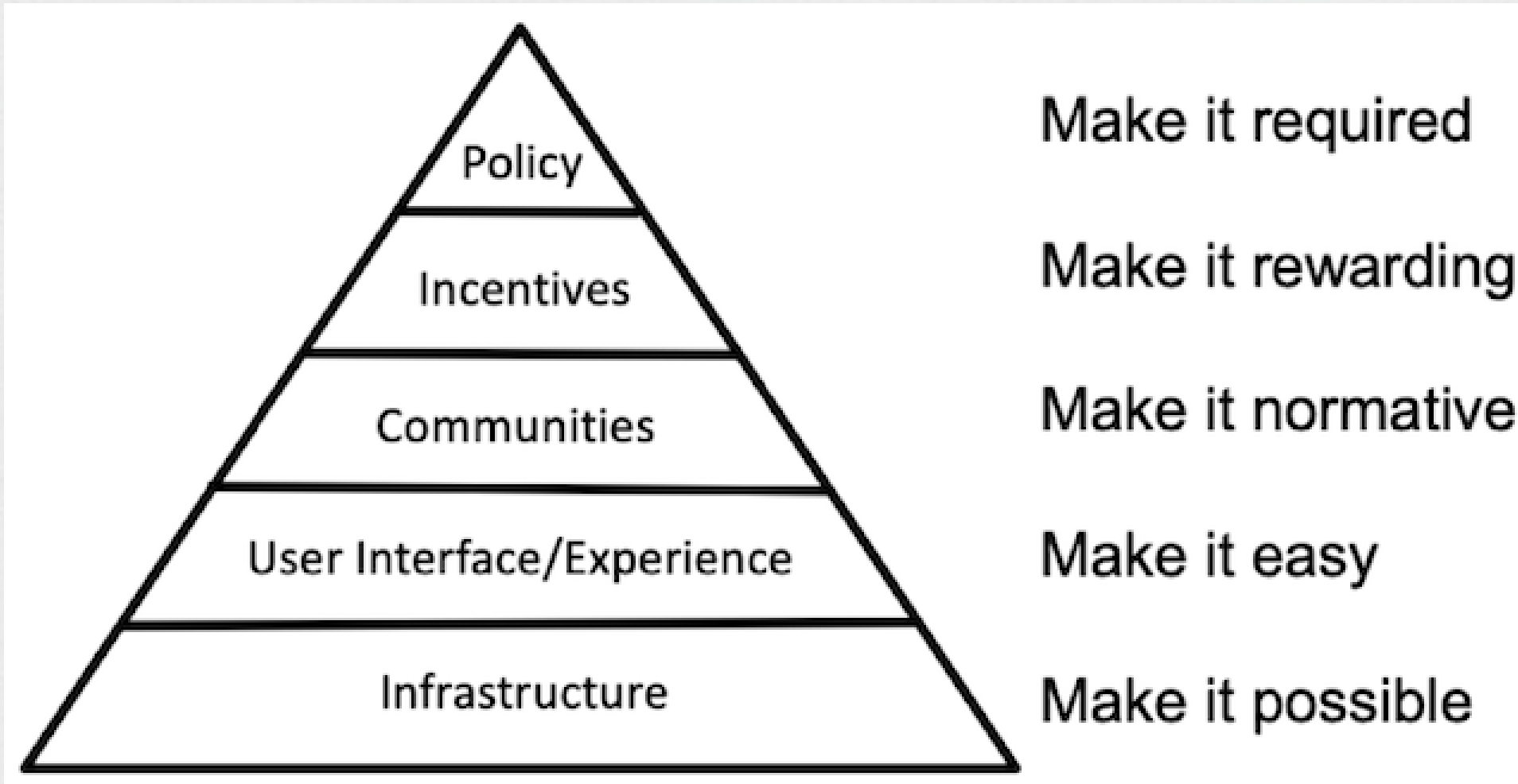
The ORRI instrument...

	NAME: _____							
	Open Access Publications	Manage research data	Manage IPR	Operate Open Source Software	Promote open innovation	Promote Citizen Science	Communicate to broad public	Increase the impact of Science on Policy and Society
How important is this field for me (1-5) 1-not so important / 5 - very important;	5	5	5	1	5	2	5	5
How knowledgeable am I in this field (1-5) 1-not so knowledgeable / 5 - very knowledgeable;	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2



- How important is this field for me (1-5) 1-not so important / 5 - very important;
- How knowledgeable am I in this field (1-5) 1-not so knowledgeable / 5 - very knowledgeable;

Some observations on the environment



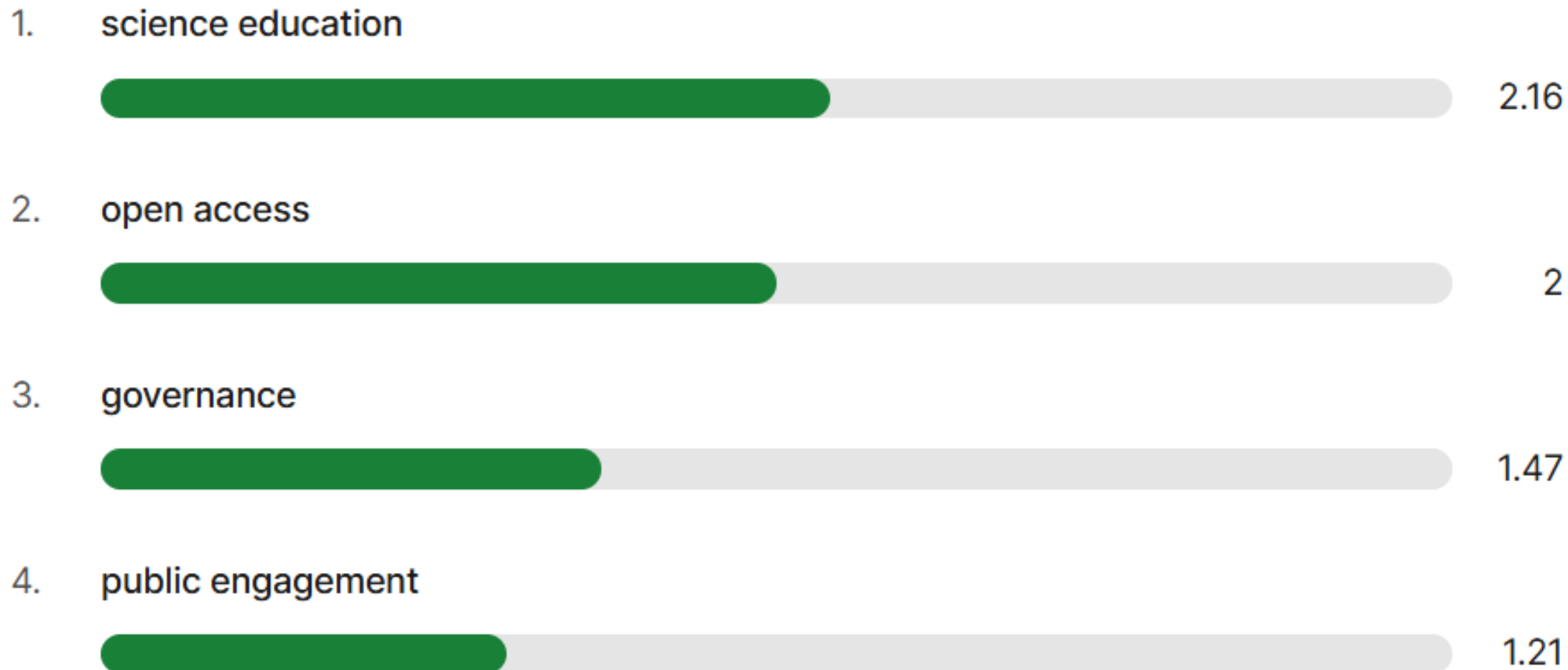
Brian Nosek (2019)



How would you rank the experience of Bulgarian researchers with these ORRI domains?

Share

Ranking Poll 19 votes 19 participants





What is the biggest barrier to open science from your experience?

Wordcloud Poll



22 responses



20 participants



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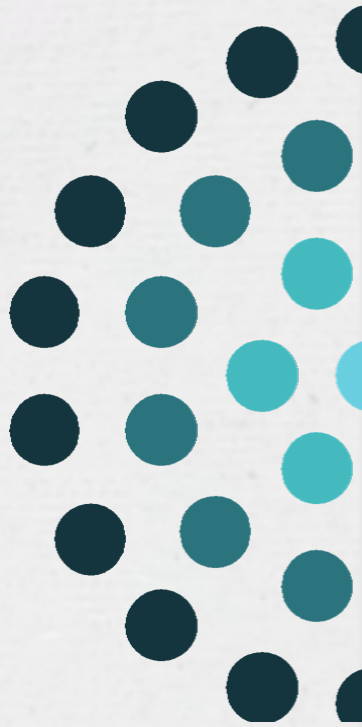


**Could you suggest one skill
which can increase
considerably the use of ORRI in
Bulgaria?**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

17 responses

- Openness
- Sharing the fair data
- Increasing open data literacy
- IPR issues
- Data management
- Sharing
- being academically fair
- digital skills
- Trust
- Knowledge
- Responsible sharing and mentoring
- Only one?
- Experts working with researchers
- Digital skills
- Being data literate
- Openness
- To disseminate findings



Some local issues

- **Lack of awareness, many myths and fears**

A major challenge across all stakeholder groups is the insufficient knowledge about ORRI principles and benefits. Researchers fear losing control over their work, while citizens have limited exposure to scientific achievements that impact their real lives. Educational institutions also struggle to incorporate Open Research into the curriculum.

- **Data sharing and infrastructure challenges**

While ORRI promotes data sharing, researchers in Bulgaria are still hesitant to share their data due to the effort involved in data collection and preparation. Existing infrastructures are inadequate, with limited access to research data repositories.

- **Intellectual property restrictions**

The dominant business model of academic publishing restricts researchers from retaining copyright over their work, leading to financial and accessibility constraints. This discourages active participation in ORRI.

- **Insufficient funding**

Everyone complains about the lack of sufficient funding... but what about the importance of having a vision first?



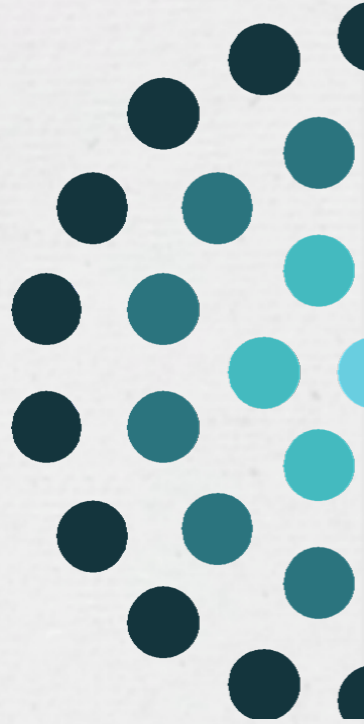
Achievements - <https://openresearch.bg/>

- First set of EOSC-compatible case studies underway
- 20 PhD students, 150+ participants
- Virtual lab
- AURA
- Knowledge exchange



Conclusions

- How to design a programme to improve open science awareness and engagement?
- How to integrate the understanding of local knowledge and needs?
- How to measure progress?
- In supporting less advanced countries, avoid 'colonial' attitudes. Co-create even when it is challenging!



Thank you!

- All suggestions welcome!

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- Many thanks to the ORBIT team.

