

Editorial introduction

Aysa Ekanger, Mikael Laakso, Liisi Lembinen, Michael Svendsen, Gintarė Tautkevičienė, and Lars Wenaas

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In 2025, our journal has published its first thematic volume. The volume focuses on communities and collaborations fostering more transparent and open research to the benefit of society.

Throughout the last decade, we have seen a growing movement in international, regional, and national contexts towards more networked communities working collaboratively to increase access to and reuse of research and culture in a way that best serves the interests of the public and academic communities. Early this year, we published a call to welcome contributions highlighting such communities and collaborations – and we were pleased with the response. The resulting volume contains six papers from the Nordic region addressing a mix of topics: searching for research data, open educational resources, research reproducibility efforts, open software, and policies on open science.

[“From mess to method: A case study about designing a workshop on research data discovery”](#) by Derksen et al. tells about how a Danish network of library research support staff has developed a workshop designed to help researchers increase their skills in searching for published data. As the authors point out, data search is a new area in information searching, so the network had to try out a number of strategies. One of the results of the collaboration is an open educational resource that can be reused by the wider research support community, outside of Denmark.

Another example of a national network collaboration is presented by Bochynska et al., who write about the activities of the Norwegian Reproducibility Network (NORRN). This grassroots network of researchers works together to advance rigorous, robust, and transparent research practices through education, training, and stakeholder engagement. Read about NORRN in [“Grassroots networks can help implement and harmonize open research efforts”](#).

Odu et al. recount how a part of the international open access community comes together to improve Open Journal Systems – open software that, as of 2023, was used by over 50 thousand journals worldwide, according to [usage data](#) from the Public Knowledge Project. Odu et al.’s [“Experiences and Reflections: the PKP Sprint and CRAFT-](#)

[“OA Tech Event in Turin 2024”](#) gives a peek into how these community events run, what topics were discussed at these two particular events, and encourages others to join such sprints in the future.

[“Speech Synthesis Integration in Open Journal Systems”](#) by Utnes and Odu presents the results of a project that took place at a Norwegian university. The project was directed at making the fulltext content of articles published on Open Journal Systems platforms accessible to the visually impaired, and it is an example of how efforts made locally by project teams contribute to the development of open software, to the benefit of a wider group of users. The paper describes the decisions that were made during the project and presents a recommended solution and workflow.

Two papers in this volume look at how communities contribute to policy-making, and both papers focus on Finland. Mustajoki & Karlsson’s [“Finland has a New National Declaration for Open Science and Research – and the Keyword is Community”](#) provides insight into the co-creation process that has functioned as the foundation for the updated national declaration of open science and research in Finland. Formulating common actionable commitments while accommodating for the diversity of organisations in the landscape was a challenge that was managed through an extensive and iterative consultation process where anyone was invited to give their input. Svahn & Karlsson take a closer look at the participatory aspect in the making of the Finnish [Recommendation for Citizen Science](#) by examining extensive data material (such as meeting notes and survey results) through the lens of stakeholder theory. Citizen science is a part of the open science framework whose implementation many countries struggle with, and the Finnish example can serve as both an inspiration and a learning opportunity. Read about how stakeholder engagement helped shape the Finnish citizen science policy in [“Insights into Participatory Policymaking: Analysing the National Citizen Science Policy Development in Finland”](#).

The papers in this volume have undergone various forms of review. In 2023, NOPOS introduced a formal peer review procedure for the newly established section *Research articles*, where at least two external reviewers would need to review a manuscript according to a list of preset questions. You can find a description of the peer review process in NOPOS on the journal’s website. [“Insights into Participatory Policymaking”](#) by Svahn & Karlsson is NOPOS’ first research article. The rest of the papers have been through editorial review where at least two editors have given feedback to the authors to make sure that their papers are consistent, do not contain factual mistakes, and present the topics in an understandable way and with sufficient detail. In those cases where the editorial team members lacked the necessary expertise on a topic, external reviewers were invited.

The editorial team would like to thank the following colleagues who were engaged as external reviewers in 2025:

- Alisa Martek, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7179-7315>, National and University Library in Zagreb
- Maryna Rabinovich, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6038-2472>, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

- Linn Benjaminsen Hølvold, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6615-4278>, Norwegian University of Life Sciences
- Jan Erik Frantsvåg, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3413-8799>, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Reviewers play an integral part in the scholarly communication infrastructure, and the editorial team are grateful to have the support of colleagues who can find the time in their busy schedules to contribute to the quality of the content published in our journal.

In the coming year, *NOPOS* will continue to publish papers on all topics of open science in the Nordic-Baltic region, and we hope to see the community of *NOPOS* – authors, reviewers and readers – grow. With this, we close this editorial introduction and wish everyone a pleasant reading.

Sincerely,

NOPOS editorial team: Aysa Ekanger, Mikael Laakso, Liisi Lembinen, Michael Svendsen, Gintarė Tautkevičienė, and Lars Wenaas

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