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Japan Launches its Open Science Monitor, inspired by the French Open science monitor

Japan has created its own Open Science Monitor, inspired by the French model, to measure scientific openness and promote open science practices. This initiative, the result of fruitful Franco-Japanese collaboration, highlights France's leadership in this field.

The French Open Science Barometer (BSO), established in 2018, marked a turning point in France's open science policy. This innovative tool measures the openness of science in France using reliable, open, and controlled data. Developed alongside the National Plan for Open Science, the Monitor is used to assess the impact of this policy, refine strategies, and better understand research practices. It covers traditional dimensions of open science, such as open access to publications, as well as areas rarely monitored due to significant methodological challenges: data and software sharing, and the reporting of clinical trial results. The Monitor also measures the openness of doctoral theses in France and the adoption of open science policies by French institutions. Finally, it allows each institution to adapt the national indicators to its own scale, as needed.

The Japanese Open Science Monitor stems from the implementation of open science principles and successful cooperation. In the spirit of open science, France made its methodology, code, data, and interfaces publicly available under a license permitting reuse. When Japan decided to create its own Monitor, it chose to draw directly from the French model and build upon its technological and methodological framework. Close collaboration was established between the two countries through regular exchanges, leading to the transfer of technology and expertise from France to Japan.

Japan announced the launch of its Monitor on February 5, 2026. This initiative symbolises the universal nature of science and encourages other countries to follow this path.

"By adopting the framework of the internationally acclaimed French Open Science Monitor and utilizing open data, the Japan Open Science Monitor provides trusted indicators that are verifiable by anyone. This allows us to understand the current standing of Japanese research activities in a format that enables international comparison, facilitating evidence-based research policy-making" stated Mikiko TANIFUJI, Director of the Center for Open Science and Data Platforms at Japan's National Institute of Informatics (NII).

France continues its efforts to maintain the monitor as an international reference in open science. It will keep improving this tool with annual updates and, looking ahead, aims to enhance the relevance of results and introduce new dimensions for observation, drawing on methodologies including artificial intelligence.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Space thanks its Japanese counterparts for their collaboration and commitment to open science. This cooperation underscores the importance of knowledge sharing on an international scale.

For more information:

- Japanese Open Science Barometer: <https://osm.nii.ac.jp/>
- French Open Science Monitor : <https://frenchopensciencemonitor.esr.gouv.fr/>