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FOSTER PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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EU Partnerships Cultivate Open Science in Kenya and Tanzania

Special points of interest:

- Advancing Open & Citizen Science Ecosystems
- Strengthening Research Capacity Through Partnerships
- Collaborative Roadmaps for Institutional Transformation
- Strengthening Africa–Europe Research Collaboration
- Ethical and Inclusive Open Science Adoption

The FOSTER Project is a three-year initiative co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Programme, designed to accelerate digital transformation in science and higher education in Kenya and Tanzania. By strengthening Open Science (OS) and Citizen Science (CS) ecosystems, FOSTER supports universities in building inclusive, transparent, and collaborative research environments. Through capacity-building workshops, policy alignment, and infrastructure development, the project promotes Open Access publishing, FAIR data principles, researcher training, and community engagement. In October 2025, partners convened in Slovenia and Spain to experience mature European Open Science ecosystems firsthand. These engagements deepened institutional understanding of how policy, infrastructure, and citizen participation work together to enhance research quality, visibility, and societal impact.



***FOSTER** group of participants representing global collaboration and partnership (**Ljubiana, Slovenia**)*

From Policy to Practice: Building Sustainable Open Science Systems

FOSTER bridges the gap between Open Science theory and institutional practice. The project equips universities with tools to integrate Open Access, FAIR data management, and Citizen Science into everyday research and teaching. Through exposure to European regulatory frameworks, libraries, innovation hubs, and participatory research models, African institutions gain practical insights for long-term transformation.

The October 2025 workshops reinforced collaboration among universities, government agencies, publishers, and innovation actors, highlighting the importance of shared responsibility in sustaining Open Science ecosystems. These lessons now inform institutional roadmaps across partner universities in Kenya and Tanzania.

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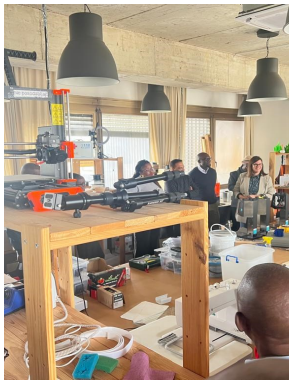
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*FOSTER Team engaging with Slovenia's Open Science infrastructure across universities, innovation hubs, at **Center Rog,** &*



*Savinjska Region Incubator **Ljubljana, Slovenia***

Inside ISSBS Slovenia's Open Science Experience



From **13 - 17 October 2025**, FOSTER partners participated in an intensive Workshop study visit across **Ljubljana, Celje, Koper, Piran, and Bled**. Institutions including ISSBS New University Ljubljana, Center Rog, Savinjska Region Incubator, Central Technical Library (CTK), University of Primorska, EMUNI University, and the College of Management Bled demonstrated how Open Science is embedded within national policy, research libraries, innovation ecosystems, and vocational education.



*FOSTER project partners in class sessions at **ISSBS New University Ljubljana, Slovenia***

Participants explored Slovenia's national Open Science framework, FAIR data infrastructure, Diamond Open Access publishing, and strong links between academia and industry. The visit highlighted how coordinated policy, digital infrastructure, and community engagement can create sustainable and ethical Open Science environments.

"When citizens become partners in research, science gains relevance, trust, and impact."

FOSTER Builds Open Science Policy Alignment at University of Zaragoza - Spain



FOSTER** group of participants representing global collaboration and partnership **(CIHEAM, Zaragoza - Spain)

the FOSTER Project held a high-level Capacity Building Workshop at the University of Zaragoza, Spain From 20 to 24 October 2025, bringing together academics, researchers, and project partners to advance Open Science and Citizen Science practices. Sessions hosted in university lecture halls and seminar rooms focused on Open Science policy alignment, open access publishing, FAIR research data management, and ethical research governance in line with European frameworks.

Participants also undertook a field visit to CIHEAM Zaragoza, where they examined practical citizen science initiatives linked to environmental monitoring, climate adaptation, and sustainable agriculture. The exchange highlighted how research institutions and specialized centers can work together to make science more open, inclusive, and socially responsive.

The workshop concluded with a FOSTER technical meeting, where participants reflected on lessons learned and agreed on next steps to strengthen institutional adoption of Open Science across partner universities.



*FOSTER project team engaging citizens in soil testing at **CIHEAM***

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Fostering digital transformation of science in Kenya and Tanzania

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FOSTER at a Glance: Questions, People, and What's Next

What Is the FOSTER Project?

Project Overview: FOSTER (FOSTERing Digital Transformation of Science in Sub-Saharan Africa) is a three-year initiative supported by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Programme.

Why It Matters: The project promotes ethical, inclusive, and policy-aligned Open Science and Citizen Science in Kenya and Tanzania.

Who Is Involved: Universities, research institutions, and policy partners from Kenya, Tanzania and Europe work collaboratively across work packages.

Key Activities: Capacity-building workshops, policy dialogues, citizen science demonstrations, and Open Science strategy development.

What's Next: Regional dissemination events, policy validation meetings, and training sessions continue through 2026.

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FOSTERING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF SCIENCE