

## Open data – Erica Key – Belmont Forum

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you briefly about open data. I want to say that Kati's presentation was exceptional and very complete and it is extremely helpful in the formation of your data management plans.

I can speak on behalf of open data from two perspectives. In the Belmont Forum we also have an open data policy and principles that is international, but I also have a background in funding. I have been on the side of compliance checking data management plans.

When creating your plan there are a number of things to keep in mind, that Kati has outlined very carefully. The first instance is that it organizes your research, your communication, your interaction, and helps you visualize outcomes.

The data management plan is also a record for your funder of the activities and the products that you generate. I think that the use of data sometimes is misleading, particularly in projects that are transdisciplinary. We want to think of data in its most inclusive form, including knowledge, information, outcomes, and transformations.

The plan is also a record of the investment of funds -in particular public funds- in research, and the outcomes and information that you share are the return on investment of those funds to the people, to the public. And so, it is an important step to plan and manage that information to communicate back the manager of the public funds how the money was spent.

The ethical archiving and reuse of information can advance careers, not only your own, but those of who can collaborate with you to enhance learning about complex systems.

My last two points are going to be from a funding perspective. The lifetime of the information that you create is measured by funders in terms of return on investment; and the appropriate documentation of the information increases that return on investment to the funder, increasing their interest in the further support of the research. And so, it is absolutely important that your funder can find your information easily.

Open access to information is achievable. There are available templates and guidance online. The easier it is for your funder to find your outcomes and match them to your project, the quicker your report will be approved. And in your instance, you are providing data at the end of your projects, but if in the future you have to provide data each year and funding is contingent upon that data, then you will be in a good position to have your funds released to you quickly.

Thank you.