



**GLOBAL
YOUNG
ACADEMY**

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NEWS RELEASE

'Global Access to Research Software: The Forgotten Pillar of Open Science Implementation' Report to be released and livestreamed 20 March

14 March 2018 – Virtually all researchers today use a variety of software to carry out and organise their research. Therefore, the global trend towards Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) is often assumed to be a boon for researchers in low-income countries.

However, data revealed by the [Global Access to Research Software](#) (GARS) Working Group of the Global Young Academy (GYA) clearly shows that researchers in Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria have only limited knowledge about and experience with FOSS. There also seems to be little interaction between the Open Research Software communities in high-income and low-income countries. Even if FOSS is free to use for everyone, the lack of active promotion and training specifically targeted to FOSS means that it remains inaccessible to most researchers.

These and other issues were uncovered by the GARS Working Group, in collaboration with Oxford-based International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), which carried out a pilot survey to assess the quantity and quality of access to proprietary and open source software among researchers from all disciplines based across the globe.

The output of these efforts, a report titled 'Global Access to Research Software: The Forgotten Pillar of Open Science Implementation', will be launched at the conclusion of the international workshop on Open Science, 'Perspectives on Open Science', convened by GYA Open Science Working Group Co-Lead Koen Vermeir and GYA Co-Chair Moritz Riede. The workshop is co-organised by the Maison Française d'Oxford (MFO), a French research centre in the humanities and social sciences. The 20 March workshop in Oxford, UK, will also be partially live-streamed.

Further findings and policy implications, as well as the entire report, will be made available on 20 March. The webpage of the event is available [here](#).

For further information, please contact [Moritz Riede](#) or [Koen Vermeir](#).

About the Global Young Academy

The Global Young Academy (GYA) was founded in 2010 with the vision to be the voice of young scientists around the world. The GYA empowers early-career researchers to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogue by developing and mobilising talent from six continents. Its purpose is to promote reason and inclusiveness in global decision-making. Members are chosen for their demonstrated excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to service. Currently, there are 200 members and 171 alumni from 77 countries. The GYA is hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and received its seed funding from the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the Volkswagen Foundation. Since 2014, has received core funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and is also supported by the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and other international donors.

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