Declaration on the Application of Open Science Principles at the University of Zadar

With the aim of stimulating scientific excellence at the University of Zadar, increasing the quality of scientific productivity, promoting scientific activities, facilitating the access to the results of scientific research, their conservation, protection and long-term preservation, as well as promoting scientific, academic, popular and teaching activities at the University of Zadar, in accordance with Croatian Open Access Declaration from October 24, 2012, Croatian Rectors’ Conference’s Evaluation of Scientific Research and the Promotion of Open Access to Scientific Information and Research Data from October 21, 2015, and the EU’s Recommendation on Access to and Preservation of Scientific Information from July 17, 2012 and April 25, 2018, Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science from April 5, 2016, European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Declaration, and standard practices implemented by most prestigious institutions of higher education in the world, according to Article 54 of The Statute of the University of Zadar, the Senate of the University of Zadar, at its 2nd regular assembly held on November 26, 2019, adopted the following

Declaration on the Application of Open Science Principles

I. The University of Zadar starts with the assumption that science and innovation are the basis for economic recovery as well as sustainable growth and development, while efficient scientific communication warrants quick exchange of knowledge. With this in mind, science should be based on accessibility, transparency and integrity thus ensuring reliable cooperation and interconnectedness as the foundation of scientific excellence and optimal implementation.

II. The University of Zadar endorses the European Union recommendations and the European Open Science (EOS) initiative for systematic promotion of scientific excellence and scientific development with the goal of advancing the efficiency of research, increasing the tempo of new discoveries, enabling interdisciplinary research, promoting scientific rigor and replication, advancing high level of scientific communication, improving cooperation, promotion of scientific activities and public involvement, increasing economic and social impact of scientific research and ensuring new possibilities for innovation.

III. The University of Zadar supports the position that European science should advocate a common culture of sharing access to publications as well as managing research data as
key outputs of scientific activities that are to be optimally used for the well-being and development of the society and the economy. All publications and research data that are the product of publicly funded scientific activities should be provided in open access, while any exception to this rule is acceptable only in specific cases of personal data protection, intellectual property, national security, etc.

IV. The University of Zadar underscores the importance of multidisciplinary and multilingual science and considers that all researchers in the EU should have open, equal and free access to publications and research data. At that, the management of research data should be guided by FAIR DATA Principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability.

V. In accordance with the EOSC Declaration, signed on July 10, 2017 in Brussels, the University of Zadar recognizes and fully supports the initiative, endorses its intentions and plans for the transformation of the European research landscape. Through its bodies and units, institutional policies and activities, the University of Zadar shall attempt to support, develop and implement the EOS/EOSC initiative to the best way possible, by encouraging dialogue between scientists, funders, users and providers of services, with the goal of building trust and consensus. The University of Zadar shall promote and advocate EOS/EOSC on the national and international level and, according to its abilities, get involved in all future European activities in the area of open science.

VI. The University of Zadar fosters and adopts the open science principles by:
   a. Allowing open access to journals published on MorePress platform;
   b. Allowing open access to books, original and edited, as well as conference proceedings and collected papers published through MorePress platform;
   c. Providing infrastructure and enforcing standardized procedures of open access dissemination of different kinds of publications and research data through the Repository of the University of Zadar;
   d. Providing infrastructure and enforcing standardized procedures of open access dissemination of graded and other kinds of student papers (undergraduate, graduate, professional and postgraduate theses) through the Repository of the University of Zadar;
   e. Advocating changes in the assessment systems that reflect open science principles and practices, giving importance to quality and not quantity, and in accordance with the recommendations of San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and the principles of The Leiden Manifesto.

VII. In order to use the existing and implement future infrastructure needed for the implementation of open science principles in all areas of activities of the University of Zadar, adequate services and offices shall develop procedures and employ concrete activities. The Repository of the University of Zadar is maintained and developed by the Zadar University Library, which educates the university employees and students and provides the necessary support.

VIII. In accordance with open science principles, the employees of the University of Zadar, especially those holding research, artistic, adjunct and teaching positions, as well as students, are obliged to respect open science principles and work on promoting as well as employing the said principles in their research and teaching.