



F.O.R.M.

Forum for Open Research in MENA

MEMBERSHIP PACK

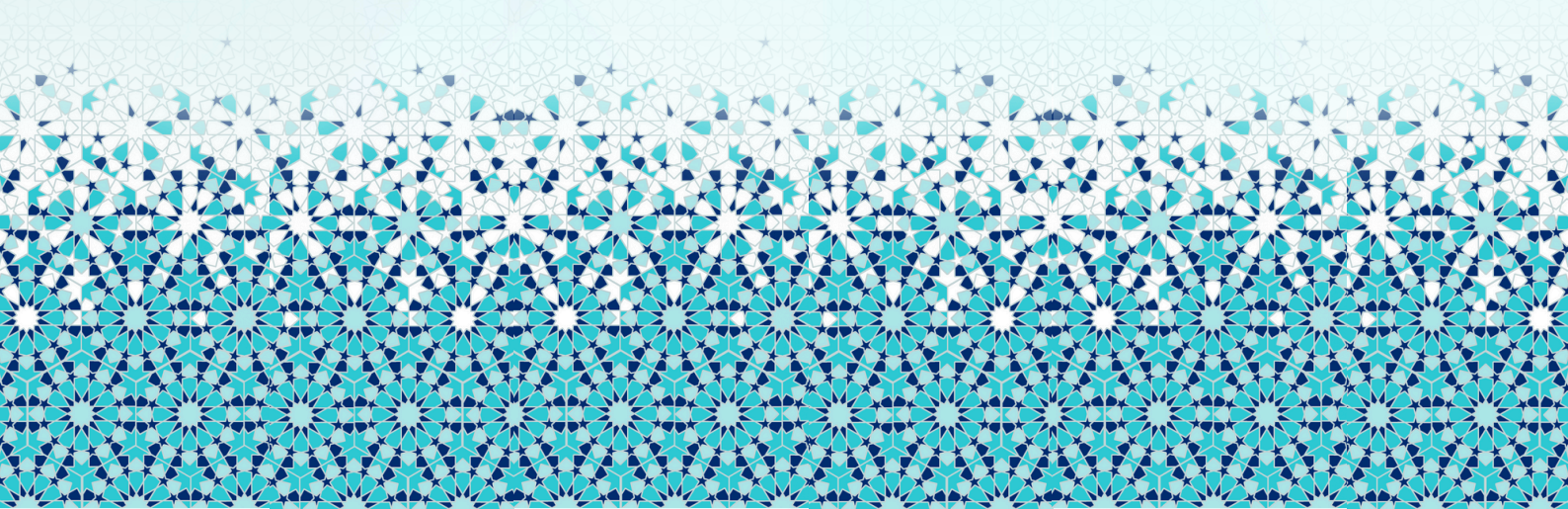


Table of Contents

Welcome to FORM!	2
FORM: The Overview	3
What We Do	4
Member Benefits & Responsibilities	5
Becoming a Member: Next Steps	6

Welcome to FORM!

The **Forum for Open Research in MENA (FORM)** is a non-profit membership organisation supporting the advancement of Open Science policies and practices in research communities and institutions across the Arab region. We believe that increasing the accessibility and visibility of research is key to ensuring the sustainability of research ecosystems, and we want to support all our research communities and stakeholder groups in the journey towards a more 'open' world, by facilitating the exchange of actionable insights and the development of practical policies.

Our goal is to work as a catalyst of change, uplifting other Arab communities, institutions, and organisations to take ownership of their own development within the Open Science space. In order to achieve this, we need organisations like yours to help foster meaningful, sustainable advancements across the region through shared values, actionable insights, and collaboration.

If your organisation has shown interest in FORM's activities, discourse, or mission to support the development of Open Science in the region, then becoming a member of our organisation is likely the best step for you!

This Membership Pack acts as a guide to help you better understand FORM, its mission, and your role as a prospective member. It includes insights into our activities, goals, and 2024 programme, as well as some benefits to becoming a member of our network. It should also help clarify the next steps that should follow the formalisation of your membership, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of your organisation throughout.

We thank you again for showing interest in becoming a member of FORM, and look forward to our future collaborations!

Best wishes,
The FORM Team



FORM: The Overview

FORM is an international alliance of higher education institutions, research libraries, and other research communities based within the Arab region. We are comprised of a diverse array of stakeholder groups involved in the academic research and scholarly communications ecosystems, including local research institutions based in the Arab States and global non-profit organisations working to support Open Science.

FORM is an independent project of the [Knowledge E Foundation](#), (a philanthropic entity established to promote education and work towards a more knowledgeable world).

The Arab states have the resources and capability to play a pivotal role in the global transition towards more accessible, sustainable and inclusive research and education models. However, while many institutions and organisations are at the forefront of this change, there is a clear need for something more focused on the specific needs of research communities and research institutions just starting out on their journey towards openness.

Our mission is to support the advancement of Open Science practices in research libraries and universities across the Arab world, by facilitating the exchange of actionable insights and the development of practical policies, and by encouraging the evolution of a strong cross-regional collaborative community.



Our focus is on empowering libraries, higher education institutions, research councils and policy makers to collaborate on activities, projects and resources that promote engagement with, and the generation of, open research – enabling them to better serve the needs of local research communities.

Any research institution or research community based within the Arab region that wishes to support our mission and become a signatory of our principles can become a member.

Becoming a member of FORM means becoming part of an international community of Arab researchers and research institutions, championing the advancement of Open Science policies and practices in your institution, and working in a shared direction for positive change and more sustainable and inclusive educational models.

What We Do

FORM hosts an array of activities throughout the year that aim to meet our overarching goals of encouraging community collaboration, supporting higher education institutions, and developing valuable resources that will help further the Open Science strategies of the region. These activities include working groups, monthly community development activities, and our Annual Forum, hosted every October.

Below is a list of links to activities and resources you can explore to learn more about our work:

- [The Annual Forum](#)
- [Our Arabic Open Science Glossary](#)
- [Our Zenodo Community](#)
- [FORM Slack Channel](#)
- [Other Resources](#)

Community Development Activities

Our [Community Development Series](#) is a key part of our strategy, designed to provide insights and learning opportunities for all stakeholders looking to engage with Open Science at an institutional level, including funding groups and government ministries, libraries and universities, non-profit solutions providers, and all members of the region's wider research communities.

These free events are held on a monthly basis, online, in collaboration with non-profit organisations and open source solutions providers. The goal is to offer practical guidance on a broad array of issues relating to the implementation of Open Science policies and practices in scholarly ecosystems, from leading global experts.

Our community development activities take place on a monthly basis, and we've already had a year of successful workshops that are freely available to watch on our [website](#).



Member Benefits & Responsibilities

Any research institution or research community based within the Arab region that wishes to support our mission and become a signatory of our principles can become a member. Non-profit organisations and non-profit solutions-providers working to support Open Science policies and practices can also become members or strategic partners.

Our membership is institutional, and it is also free.

Becoming a member of FORM signals your public commitment to contribute actively and constructively to the advancement of Open Science in the tertiary education sector and research communities of the Arab world.

- Recognise the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research, and where appropriate incorporate these diverse outputs into your assessment criteria.
- Support the development and implementation of Open Science policies and practices at your institution/organisation.
- Gain global and regional visibility for your institution through FORM promotion and support.
- Take advantage of a potential speaking spot to display your institution's latest research at our Annual Forums (subject to availability & quality of proposal).
- Work to enhance the discoverability and visibility of Arab language research.
- Participate in collaborative community development activities and contribute to the growth of an Arab community of best practice in Open Science.

Member organisations have the right to nominate a representative to join and vote at the Members Council, and this representative can also stand for election to the Executive Committee and the FORM Board, and participate in the various working groups and other groundbreaking new initiatives. Member organisations can also attend and present at the Annual Forum, and will receive a discount on the conference fees for their official representative. (For more details on the rights and responsibilities of Member organisations, see our [Governance](#) documentation).

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

STANDARD MEMBERSHIP

Standard Membership is for Research Institutions and Research Communities within the Arab States. Membership is institutional, with a designated senior staff member acting as the institution's representative and contact, or in their absence, their designated nominee.

STRATEGIC PARTNER MEMBERSHIP

Strategic Partner Membership is for not-for-profit organisations working to advance Open Science in its various forms. Strategic Partner members can be based within the Arab States or elsewhere. Membership is at the organisation-level, with a designated senior staff member acting as the organisation's representative and contact, or in their absence, their designated nominee.

Join us, and together we will work towards a more [open](#) and [knowledgeable](#) world.

Becoming a Member: Next Steps

Once you're ready to formalise your position as a member of FORM, we will begin the process of onboarding your organisation:

- We will require the name and contact details for your designated representative (the representative can be changed, when required). They will receive regular updates about our activities, and have the option to participate in working groups, stand for election to the Executive Committee, and become involved in other collaborative activities.
- We will add your organisation to our Members' List on our website, and request that provide a high resolution copy of your logo (colour, black and white, and without a background)
- We will issue a short press release, and include a news announcement on our website. Where possible we would prefer to include a quotation from you about your interest in Open Science and why you are joining FORM, together with some information about your organisation, to include in these announcements.
- We will also provide a high resolution copy of our logo together with a brief description of our organisation for inclusion on your website. (We can also provide a short quotation if your organisation also wishes to publish a news announcement or issue a press release).
- Your representative will also be invited to join our FORM Slack Channel via email. This is an online community which serves as a bilingual hub for all Open Science activities across the Arab region, allowing our network of Open Science advocates to share ideas, develop partnerships, and participate in groundbreaking new projects. Here you are welcome to share information about your own organisations activities and updates relating to Open Science, develop future partnerships, share ideas, and more!
- If other members of your organisation are interested in our activities, please do send their contact details and we will add them to our mailing list and invite them to join our FORM Slack Community.

Once your onboarding is complete, your staff and faculty will be able to attend, facilitate, and pitch ideas for future community development activities, workshops and working groups.

We would like to encourage you to take full advantage of our shared community spaces to boost your organisations presence in Open Science, as well as help notify your wider network about FORM activities.

The 2024 Programme

We're already working to finalise next year's exciting programme of workshops, working groups and symposia that will align with the 2024 Annual Forum's theme of **Transforming Knowledge Into Action**.

As a member, you would be able to offer your input, insights and support to our annual programme and help foster a collaborative environment within FORM's infrastructure.

You can view the draft agenda below:

January	Decolonisation Symposia
February	Peer Review 101: How to Provide Unbiased, Clear, and Constructive Feedback to Research Manuscripts
March	Ramadan Break
April	The Adoption of Persistent Identifier (PIDs) in MENA: Challenges and Opportunities (English language)
May	How to Be Open: Starter Pack for Researchers
June	How to Be Open: Starter Pack for Librarians
July & August	Summer Break
September	Transformative Agreements Symposia
October	The 2024 Annual Forum
November	How to Be Open: Starter Pack for Institutions
December	How & Why to Launch Open Access Journals



F.O.R.M.

For all enquiries please contact Nahil Nassar
at nahil.nassar@forumforopen.org

@FORM4Open
www.forumforopen.org
contact@forumforopen.org

