



Univerza v Mariboru

Fakulteta za energetiko

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The Senate of the Faculty of Energy Technology University of Maribor on its 14th regular session on 4 May 2022 adopted a decision No. 9 confirming the Open Access Policy for Research Infrastructure at the Faculty of Energy Technology.

## **Open Access Policy for Research Infrastructure at the Faculty of Energy Technology University of Maribor**

### **1. Definition**

Research infrastructure of the Faculty of Energy Technology University of Maribor (hereinafter referred to as RI FE UM) denotes the whole of multi-purpose and multi-dimensional facilities, laboratory environments, research equipment, complex digital research systems and databases used for research purposes as well as dedicated research groups. RI FE UM is a prerequisite for research work and, at the same time, essential for achieving both excellence in research as well as wider social development.

RI FE UM may comprise fundamental RI (buildings, equipment, etc.) and/or RI for knowledge transfer (researchers, laboratories, databases, etc.). In certain cases, it can also be defined as a virtual infrastructure or a virtual research environment, where the service is provided electronically.

RI FE UM consists of individual entities representing faculty units equipped with RI:

- Laboratory for Energy Management and Engineering,
- Laboratory for Alternative, Aero - and Hydro - Energetic Technologies,
- Laboratory for Thermomechanics, Applied Thermal Energy Technologies and Nanotechnologies,
- Nuclear Energetics Laboratory,
- Laboratory for Virtual Engineering,
- Laboratory for Energy Conversion,
- Laboratory for Dynamic Systems,
- Electric Machines and Drives Laboratory,
- Applied Electrical Engineering Laboratory,
- Laboratory of Ecology and Environment Protection.

### **2. Users**

RI FE UM is publicly accessible to researchers, research groups or research organizations within:

- the framework of UM research activities (employees, including researchers of different stages, postdoctoral researchers, technicians and doctors of science) and
- research activities outside UM (external users, such as researchers of various research organizations, commercial or other).

Within the framework of research, users are involved in designing or creating new knowledge, products, processes, methods and systems.

The UM may require from external users (those who are not employed at FE UM) that they demonstrate they have the knowledge and skills required to use the RI. Where external user does not have the required knowledge and skills for professional operation of the equipment, the entity can provide complete service by employing its internal staff. FE UM may also offer and provide training for new external users. The cost of such training is borne by the external user.

Users need to abide by relevant principles, strategies, directives and other regulatory UM documents in their collaboration or when using RI FE UM.

### **3. Access**

Access means a legitimate and authorized admission to interactions and use of RI FE UM and the services provided by RI FE UM to users. Access can be physical, remote or virtual (allowing access through communication channels, usually online network facilities).

RI FE UM access modes comprise the excellence-driven access mode and market-driven access mode. The excellence-driven access mode is dependent on the scientific excellence, originality, quality, technical and ethical feasibility of the work. The market-driven access mode is possible in case of an agreement between the user and the RI manager which will lead to a fee for access. This mode is also possible when there is a market need demanding technical or scientific solutions that can be achieved through access to RI. Both methods of access are approved by the dean of the Faculty of Energy UM on the basis of an internal evaluation or expert review of the application for access by the equipment administrator and the head of the laboratory that manages the individual equipment.

RI FE UM provides users with a certain amount of access, which is measured in access units. The access units may vary according to the different types of RI and are generally precisely definable.

### **4. Costs and fees**

Access to RI may either be provided free of charge or it may require payment. All terms and conditions associated with the use of RI have to be transparent and publicly available. In the case of paid access, the user is charged a fee which has to be clearly linked to the actual use of RI itself and it is determined by the Price List for the use of the research infrastructure of the Faculty of Energy, University of Maribor. Access fees may vary for different types of RI, but they all have to abide by the following principles:

- auditability,
- traceability to the work done on the RI item, including maintaining appropriate records outlining access requests (successful and unsuccessful), reasons for declining access (if relevant), usage data, etc.,
- prohibition of duplicate funding,
- compliance with all relevant national and EU funding terms and conditions and with competition legislation.

Market-driven access costs should be recovered at full commercial rates.

Unit of cost depends on the amount of use of a particular access unit.

## **5. Training and Education**

The RI FE UM open access policy encourages collaboration with other institutions and organizations that benefit from RI FE UM for their research, education and training.

## **6. Restrictions**

Access to RI UM can be limited by the national security and defence, privacy and confidentiality, commercial sensitivity, intellectual property rights, and ethical consideration following applicable laws and regulations.

## **7. Ethical conduct, research integrity, and non-discrimination**

RI FE UM open access policy follows the Code of Ethical Conduct of the University of Maribor as well as the eight principles laid down in The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity drafted by the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the European Federation of National Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA). The eight principles that researchers need to abide by are: honesty in communication, reliability in performing research, objectivity, impartiality and independence, openness and accessibility, duty of care, fairness in providing references and giving credit, and responsibility towards the scientists and researchers of the future.

When considering granting RI UM access to a user, the user should not be discriminated on any personal grounds.

## **8. Quality Assurance**

Quality of the RI UM open access will be ensured by establishing quality assessment mechanisms for RI access within individual entities. The mechanisms will follow the general principles defined by the European Commission and the rules of University of Maribor.

## **9. Research data management**

The data management policy provides clear guidance on how and where to store the generated data for a reasonable period and on how the user should provide this data for reuse. Instructions may vary depending on the type of RI within each individual entity. The data should follow the FAIR principles (findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability).

## **10. Transparency**

Faculty of Energy technology provides information on the RI FE UM open access policy, general information on RI FE UM and RI UM entities' contacts.

The general contact person of the Faculty of Energy Technology regarding RI FE UM open access policy:

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## **11. Annexes**

- Price list for the use of the research infrastructure of the Faculty of Energy Technology  
University of Maribor