



# Open licences in open science

## SHORT INFORMATION SHEET

 [Link to the French version of the detailed information sheet](#)

**Definition** : An open licence is an agreement by which the rights holder of a publication, dataset, or software grants all or part of the rights conferred by copyright to any individual or legal entity wishing to make use of these rights. The term “free dissemination” is used when the author imposes restrictions on rights other than attribution, whereas a strictly “open” licence only mandates attribution.

### Different types of **open licences** or licences for **free dissemination**

- Any use is allowed as long as the attribution is mentioned (CC BY, Etalab)



LICENCE OUVERTE  
OPEN LICENCE



- Same conditions + sharing must be done under the same licence (ODbL, CC BY-SA)



- Same conditions + no commercial reuse without the rights holder's permission (CC BY-NC-SA)



### What does the law say ?



The Code of Relations between the Public and the Administration recommends a list of licences, including the Open Licence (Etalab) and ODbL.

- Note: Creative Commons licences are not part of the licences recommended by French law

### What do funders say ?



The ANR, the ERC, and the members of cOAlition S require the use of CC BY licences or equivalent by default; CC BY-SA is tolerated but not recommended

- Be careful of the choice of licence offered by the publisher: you will not be able to submit a publication in HAL under an open licence if the publisher distributes it under a restrictive licence or without a licence.

**Key takeaway** : Choosing the most open licence possible is always the most beneficial to...

- respect the principle of wide dissemination that an open licence entails

- comply with the funders' criteria

- prevent the publisher from taking advantage of it to maintain exclusivity over the publication

It is possible to apply two open licences as long as they are compatible. For example: CC BY and the Etalab Open Licence