

Data ownership decision aid



Data ownership refers to the right to control research data access, use and retention. This decision aid helps define the research data policies, contracts and regulations that can influence this control.

Who owns research data?

- WUR has ownership over research data created by its employees, (non-employee) PhD candidates, students and users of WUR research facilities.
- External policies, contracts and regulations can also influence data ownership.

Why is this important?

- Retaining data ownership enables WUR to fulfil its data access, use and retention obligations for publically funded research.
- Retaining data ownership safeguards the continuity of access to research data into the future.

Questions to define research data ownership

Do you work with personal data?

Research data containing personal data falls under the General Data Protection Regulation ([GDPR](#)). This regulation supersedes contractual agreements and WUR policies for data access, use and retention. However, WUR retains data ownership.

Questions?

Contact [Data Management Support](#) or go to the [Data Management Support](#) website for more information.

Is the research data created by WUR employees, (non-employee) PhD candidates, students or users of WUR research facilities?

Yes

No

Is there a contractual agreement with a third party defining data ownership, access, use or retention of the data?

Yes

No

A contractual agreement defining data access, use or retention supersedes WUR ownership and research data policy.

Data ownership policy should be consulted at the institute where the data was created.

Yes

No

The project or group-level RDM policy or Data Management Plan defines data access, use and retention obligations. WUR retains data ownership.

There are 3 levels of openness defining data access and use:

- Open (e.g. with CC-BY licence)
- Restricted access (e.g. only paid)
- Closed (e.g. only within group)

Data underlying publications should be kept 10+ years, following WUR's research data policy. WUR retains data ownership.