

OPEN Strategy 2020-2022

OPEN Foundation

The OPEN Foundation is an independent, interdisciplinary not-for-profit NGO, founded in the Netherlands in 2007. OPEN was founded to advocate for and stimulate multidisciplinary scientific research into psychedelics and into therapeutic applications of psychedelics. In doing so, OPEN has consistently emphasized the importance of caution and scientific rigour, in order to maximize the safety, efficacy and benefits of those who use psychedelics responsibly, while minimizing potential risks. OPEN is a Public Benefit Organisation (ANBI), as designated by the Dutch Tax Administration. We are a largely volunteer-run organisation.

OPEN organizes expert meetings, workshops, symposia, and conferences and collaborate with academic and clinical partners, including universities around the Netherlands, clinical care and research organisations, and academic partners such as the Royal Academic of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). OPEN functions as a central node in an ever-expanding field of researchers and clinicians interested in psychedelic research.

Funding

The foundation obtains its funds through events, donations, and grants. Its main expenditures are personnel expenses. Reserves will be earmarked to increase staffing and saved as deposits for the organization of scientific events, including international multiday conferences workshops.

Vision

OPEN is the leading organization on psychedelic research in the Netherlands, functioning as a central node in a rapidly expanding field of psychedelic research and treatment. OPEN critically interprets the latest scientific insights and provides access to objective, balanced information, contributing to an open debate on the potential value of these substances. We connect key players from leading academic, clinical, and policy organizations, in order to establish a firm evidence-base on safe, responsible and beneficial psychedelic experiences, which will serve to ensure that research advances contribute to a better understanding and implementation of the sustainable, responsible and safe integration of psychedelic therapy in for science, health care and society.

Mission

OPEN will continue to bring together researchers and practitioners from various backgrounds, stimulating critical and interdisciplinary discussion, and continuing to emphasize the salience of the wide variety of subjective experiences that different psychedelic substances elicit. We will do so by organizing both informative events such as symposia, conferences, journal clubs, seminars and lectures, as well as more practically oriented activities, such as workshops, continuing education courses, expert meetings and other events. We target both the general public with a nascent interest in psychedelic research and therapy, as well as specific target groups: academic researchers, (PhD) students, professional associations, policy makers, clinicians, and others.

Core values

OPEN is characterized by its consistent focus on high-quality scientific research. We believe in the importance of collaboration, transparency and intellectual integrity, and strive to be a unifying, collaborative and interdisciplinary approach and to remain independent from commercial motives and cherish our not-for profit status.

- We advocate work that is always based on science, evidence and objectivity and intellectual integrity;
- In advocating for scientific research, we also acknowledge the importance of careful scrutiny of research findings, and of stimulating scientific rigour always;
- We also emphasize the relevance and centrality of subjective experience; the capacity of psychedelics to bring about subjective experiences that promote healing and well-being;
- Our thematic emphasis is on the therapeutic and beneficial potential of psychedelic substances;
- We strive for the sustainable and durable integration of psychedelics in the health care infrastructure, guaranteeing access to those who would most benefit from it;
- We strive to ensure that optimal conditions are in place to guarantee safety, minimizing risk and maximizing benefit;
- Finally, we promote critical discussions and thorough, wide-ranging analyses of developments in psychedelic research, in academia as well as in society

Activities

- Organizing conferences, symposia, network events and expert meetings;
- Building and expanding a community of international academics and therapists involved with or interested in research and therapy with psychedelic substances, aimed at the exchange of knowledge and expertise;
- Promoting the entry of researchers and therapists new to this field;
- Facilitating professional discourse on the responsible, ethical, safe and accessible application of psychedelics in therapy and in mainstream mental health care;
- Emphasizing the importance of exercising caution and of conducting rigorous scientific research, in order to maximize the safety, efficacy and therapeutic benefits of psychedelics and MDMA;
- Advocating scientific research, making literature and new developments available online;
- Advocating for a common European standard on high quality, responsible application of psychedelics and entactogens;
- Facilitating the education and training of (prospective) therapists, researchers and students;
- Providing information to the general public and the academic community on matters relating to scientific research and therapeutic uses of psychedelics;
- Building bridges and facilitating dialogue between different stakeholders in the field of psychedelic therapy and science: therapists, researchers, regulators, investors, government bodies, and insurance companies.