

Using VLIZ online DOI data publication service to publish research data as a citable and traceable dataset

Goffin Annelies, Daphnis De Pooter and Klaas Deneudt

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende, Belgium

E-mail: data@vliz.be

In science a DOI or Digital Object identifier has been widely used by publishers of peer reviewed journals for over 10 years to uniquely identify a specific article. Associating a DOI to a scientific publication has not only increased the traceability of the cited literature but also simplified the maintenance of citation indexes which serve today to **assign academic credit** to scientists for their work. Nature even describes its Index as 'A global indicator of high-quality research'.

Today, there is growing international support for the idea that **dataset citations** should also lead to **academic credit** for the work done. Scientific journals start to recommend or claim an online available dataset before publishing is granted. Assigning a DOI to your dataset facilitates these processes.

In collaboration with DataCite and the ICSU World Data System, VLIZ offers a data publication service that facilitates the assignment of a DOI upon request and meet the requirements listed below:

- A DOI **identifies your data**. Minimum metadata - including the names of the data author(s) - needs to be associated with the DOI during registration. Having the data authors associated with the DOI will assure that they can receive the **appropriate credit and recognition** for their work. An online input form is provided to allow researchers to describe their dataset.
- A DOI always traces back to its **specific version** and guarantees that the data file is **persistently accessible**. VLIZ commits to keeping the data online and offers the Marine data Archive (MDA) as a certified data repository complying ICSU World Data System and Data Seal of Approval requirements. In case the DOI is requested for the submission of a paper in a peer reviewed journal, the dataset can remain restricted until publication of the paper.
- With a DOI the data publisher attests that the dataset conforms to certain **quality standards** and contains all necessary metadata to make the dataset usable by other scientists. This will encourage other scientists to use it for their analyses and cite your dataset in their publications. VLIZ checks incoming datasets for compliance with a set of basic **quality standards** and for completeness of required metadata.
-

In one step you can meet the requirements and request a DOI !

Go to http://www.vliz.be/en/publish_data or e-mail to data@vliz.be.

Keywords: data publication; citation; DOI; dataset; credit; data author