After almost 10 years of providing open access and research data management training for researchers, Zorica Janković realized that she needed to learn new open science training methods and to find new training tools.

“Our researchers need training to help them understand how open science practices attract new collaborations. There is a fear of openness. They also need to understand the importance of research data management (RDM) planning, which is one of the central components of open science.

“I was trying to get these messages across in my training sessions with groups of up to 10 researchers. But in each group I could see at least one person was not convinced. And that is why I joined the EIFL Open Science Train-the-Trainer Bootcamp.”

The EIFL bootcamp took place online, in November 2023, and ran over five half days. The invitation targeted open science trainers — librarians, research support staff and other professionals — in EIFL partner countries. A total of 52 trainers from 19 countries took part.

“The training was very good for me,” said Zorica. “It was organized in a way that was completely new to me. There were games to arouse interest, to help scientists overcome their trust issues, to solve problems and to believe in open science as a positive innovation. And the training materials have been really useful.”

In December 2023 Zorica was selected to be part of a team of trainers for a RDM workshop for researchers and librarians of major research institutes in Serbia. The workshop drew on the training methods and materials tested during the EIFL bootcamp. The workshop participants now have ambitious plans for the future, including an open science bootcamp in Serbia and developing a self-paced course on open science in Serbian.

“I learnt how to integrate real-life examples into my training. After the bootcamp I invited a scientist who practices open science methods to speak to one of my training groups, from a scientist’s perspective. This worked really well.”

– ZORICA JANKOVIĆ