



# **Towards a European Policy on Open Access**

**Jean-François Dechamp**

Open Access Policy Officer

European Commission

Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD)

**6 February 2013**

**MedOANet European Workshop, Braga, Portugal**

# Our objective

***The EC wants to optimise the impact of publicly-funded scientific research***

- At European level (Framework Programmes)
- At Member State level

***Expected impacts:***

- Economic growth (accelerated innovation)
- Better science (build on previous results)
- More efficient science (avoid duplication)
- Improved transparency (involving citizens & society)

# One way to get there: open access (OA) to scientific information

***OA = online access at no charge to the user***

- to peer-reviewed scientific publications
- to research data

***Two main OA publishing business models***

- **Gold OA**: costs covered (by 'authors') → **immediate OA**
- **Green OA**: deposit of manuscripts → **immediate/delayed OA**

# Expected benefits of open access

- Results of publicly funded research can be disseminated more broadly and faster for the benefit of:
  - researchers
  - industry
  - citizens
- Equal access across Europe and beyond
- Drive down the costs of dissemination without sacrificing quality

# EU politics are complicated...



European Commission



Council



European Parliament

# The European Commission is a...

## ***Policy maker***

- Proposes EU legislation & legislates with other EU institutions
- Invites Member States to act

## ***Funding agency***

- Sets access and dissemination rules for EC-funded research

## ***Capacity builder***

- Funds projects that support EC/EU policy



# Two Commissioners on open access



*Vice-President Neelie Kroes*  
**Digital Agenda**  
*Digital single market*



*Commissioner*  
*Máire Geoghegan-Quinn*  
**Research & Innovation**  
*Horizon 2020*  
*European Research Area (ERA)*  
*& Innovation Union*

# In concrete

***Develop and implement open access to research results from projects funded by the EU Research Framework Programmes (FP7, Horizon 2020)***

- Including fund research and support activities in the area of open access

***Encourage national initiatives***

***Contribute to co-ordination between Member States***



# Open access in FP7

## *OA Pilot in FP7*

- **7 areas (>1300 projects to date)**
- **20% of total FP7 budget (2007-2013)**
- **Survey (summer 2011)**

## *OA publishing costs are eligible in FP7*

- **Since the beginning of FP7, for all projects**
- **Limited to duration of project**

## *European Research Council*

- **Updated (2012) Scientific Council Guidelines for OA**
- **Embargo (6 months) including primary data**

## *OpenAIRE*

- **EU-funded portal giving access to repositories across Europe (implements FP7 Pilot)**



# Three key documents from the European Commission (16.07.2012)

Communication 'A reinforced European Research Area partnership for excellence and growth'

- **Global setting**

'Scientific information package':

Communication 'Towards better access to scientific information: boosting the benefits of public investments in research'

- **Focus on Horizon 2020**

Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information

- **Focus on EU Member States**



# 1. Communication 'ERA'

*The ERA is based on the internal market in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely*

*Five priority areas:*

- More effective national research systems
- Optimal transnational cooperation and competition
- An open labour market for researchers
- Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research
- **Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge**

## 2. Communication 'Towards better access to scientific information'

*Why does better access matter for Europe?*

*The Commission's vision*

*Where do we stand?*

- Access to publication and data, preservation, international context

*What are the barriers to change?*

- Transition to OA to publications, the case of data, long-term preservation

*Action at European level*

- What has the Commission done so far, what are the next steps (**Horizon 2020**)

# Communication: what is proposed for OA in Horizon 2020 ?

## ***OA Pilot in FP7***

- 'Best effort' to provide OA
- 7 areas
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Allowed embargos: 6/12 months

## ***OA publishing costs***

- Eligible while project runs

OA  
Green & Gold  
Gold OA

## ***OA mandate in H2020***

- Obligation to provide OA
- All areas
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Allowed embargos: 6/12 months
- In addition: pilot for research data  
(*details to be defined, interests, will be protected*)

## ***OA publishing costs***

- Eligible while project runs
- In addition (tbc): possibility to cover publications after project ends, conditions to be defined

# Horizon 2020

- Commission proposal November 2011
- Many references to open access, in particular *Rules for Participation*
- *Co-decision Council & European Parliament (amendments proposed): 'trialogues' with the European Commission*
- By end of 2013: Adoption of legislative act
- From 2014 Horizon 2020 starts / launch of first calls

# Pilot on open access to data

- To be developed during 2013
- Will take into account privacy, security issues, commercial interests
- Issues to consider:
  - What data? (underlying data, raw data, metadata)
  - What areas? (ERC, FET, societal challenges, others?)
  - Where should data go?
  - Use and re-use / ownership
  - Not just open access: data-sharing and management
  - Need to create incentives for researchers
- Process: internal and external consultations

### 3. Recommendation to Member States

*Member States to define policies for and implement:*

- **OA to publications**
- **OA to research data – taking into account data-specific concerns**
- **preservation and re-use of scientific information**
- **e-infrastructures**

*Consistency between EU H2020 policy and MS policy*

*Structured co-ordination of MS at EU-level and reporting*

*Multi-stakeholder dialogue to be set up*

Click here →



RECOMENDAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO  
de 17 de julho de 2012

sobre o acesso à informação científica e a sua preservação  
(2012/417/UE)



# Our main steps on OA

- 2006
  - EC-funded Study on the scientific publication market in Europe
- 2007
  - EC Communication on scientific information
  - Council Conclusions on scientific information in the digital age
  - FP7 (OA publishing costs/Gold OA) are eligible)
- 2008
  - Open Access Pilot in FP7
- 2009
  - OpenAire platform launched to give EU-wide access to publications (and since Dec. 2011: research data)
  - EC Communication on ICT infrastructures for e-Science
- 2012
  - Surveys: OA in FP7, State of play in Member States
  - EC Communication on ERA
  - Scientific information package: EC Communication and Recommendation on scientific information

## In summary...

- Open access & related measures: not a goal in itself, but a means to improve knowledge circulation and thus innovation in Europe.
- Open access to publications: a general principle in H2020.
- Both **Green** and **Gold** open access measures should be promoted in Europe

Best for transition, not all Member States are the same etc.

- Open access to data

A pilot will explore possibilities and fully take into account privacy, security and commercial interests.

- Beyond open access: creating incentives and a culture of sharing.



# We need you, med<sup>o</sup>anet!

Mediterranean Open Access Network

*Website of the European Commission on open access*

- [http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/open\\_access](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/open_access)

*More with OpenAIRE*

- [www.openaire.eu](http://www.openaire.eu)

*Contacts in DG RTD*

- [jean-francois.dechamp@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jean-francois.dechamp@ec.europa.eu)
- [daniel.spichtinger@ec.europa.eu](mailto:daniel.spichtinger@ec.europa.eu)

*Contact in DG RTD CNECT*

- [celina.ramjoue@ec.europa.eu](mailto:celina.ramjoue@ec.europa.eu)

*Twitter*

Click here →



@OpenAccessEC