



Towards a European Policy on Open Access

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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

"We spend hundreds of billions of Euro on research in Europe and we need to make sure the results can have the largest possible impact"

(July 2012 Press conference)



Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn Research & Innovation

"Open access will (...) boost Europe's innovation capacity and give citizens quicker access to the benefits of scientific discoveries"

(2012 Stakeholder meeting)

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

* and further distribution and proper archiving

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

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



European
Commission

Open access in FP7



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

*One of the five priority areas: **Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge***

- **Joint statement by five stakeholders organisations**
- **Formal commitments on open access by:**
- **EARTO, NordForsk, Science Europe, LERU and EUA**

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

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
& Gold
Green
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*
- A pilot for OA to data to be developed
- *Co-decision Council & European Parliament (amendments proposed): 'trialogues' with the European Commission*

By end of 2013: Adoption of Horizon 2020 legislative act
From 2014 Horizon 2020 starts / launch of first calls

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 H2020 policy and MS policy

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

Multi-stakeholder dialogue to be set up

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RECOMENDAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO
de 17 de julho de 2012

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

In summary...

- Open access as a means to improve knowledge circulation
- Not all Member States are the same: both **Green** and **Gold** open access measures should be promoted in Europe
- Open access to publications: a general principle in H2020.
- In Horizon 2020, both routes should be valid and complementary (transition period of the market)
- Open access must be effective, affordable, competitive and sustainable for researchers and innovative businesses
- Next challenges:

inter alia **OA to data, alternative metrics, Text and Data Mining ('Licenses for Europe')**

We need you!

Website of the European Commission on open access

- http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/open_access

More with OpenAIRE & MedOAnet

- www.openaire.eu & www.medoanet.eu

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