

EUA Statement on Open Science to EU Institutions and National Governments

Achieving Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Must be a Priority for Europe

Open Science holds great promise for improved scientific systems and for society as a whole. As stated in the Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science of the EU Dutch Presidency in 2016: “Open science has impact and has the potential to increase the quality and benefits of science by making it faster, more responsive to societal challenges, more inclusive and more accessible to new users (...) Reality, however, has not caught up yet with the emerging possibilities” (p.2).

The move towards an open science system needs to be supported by developing new cultures of sharing, creating new models and infrastructures for dissemination, preservation and reuse of research results and providing adequate legal frameworks for conducting research (e.g. TDM), for teaching, and for open licences. EUA welcomes the efforts of National Governments and the European Commission in promoting these values in their national research funding schemes and in the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme, respectively. In particular, EUA strongly supports EU policies such as [Open access to publications and research data](#), EU-wide open science platforms such as [OpenAIRE](#), and the upcoming creation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). EUA also concurs with the principles outlined in the [EC FAIR data guidelines](#), for Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable research data. Nevertheless, much more needs to be done by governments and all stakeholders in a concerted effort.

In parallel with the efforts to persuade researchers to practice Open Science, and the need to develop new research assessment methodologies that fairly assess the scientific quality of the research outcomes independently of indirect metrics such as the journal impact factor, there is a recognition of the need to change the current publishing system, making it more transparent, cost-effective, innovative and closer to the interests of the research community and research institutions.

Regarding cost effectiveness, some studies indicate that savings can be made in the transition to an open access scholarly system (of up to 45%)¹. An EUA study showed that subscriptions to three top publishers in 20 European countries amount to, at least, EUR 380 million per year. This conservative figure implies a potential saving of ca. EUR 170 million which could be relocated, for example, to research activity and/or moving towards Open Access (green, gold or other open access publishing models).

EUA has several key messages for EU Institutions and for National Governments. The messages follow the recommendations that EUA has provided to its membership based on current good practice ([open access to research publications](#), and on [research data management and text and data mining](#)), and are fully in line with EU policies.

¹ Schimmer, R., Geschuhn, K. K., & Vogler, A. (2015). Disrupting the subscription journals' business model for the necessary large-scale transformation to open access. doi:10.17617/1.3. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17617/1.3>

Key messages for EU Institutions

1. **Embed Open Science in all parts of the next Framework Programme (FP9)** including:

- i. Developing measures to support a more competitive environment in the scientific publishing market with the main objective of maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of the market;
- ii. Strengthening policies which require researchers to deposit their outputs in existing European repositories and databases, and taking measures to reward and maximise compliance;
- iii. Making expenses for good practice in research data management (e.g. making data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable) eligible costs in FP9 projects; and, additionally, enabling costs to be covered beyond the original duration of the project;
- iv. Support where appropriate the involvement of citizens in projects and stimulate public engagement.

2. **Support the creation of new European infrastructures**, for example, the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and a possible European-wide publishing platform, ensuring that it is accessible and open for all relevant stakeholders, particularly for universities and researchers, and allowing to setup new digital and open journals with peer review mechanisms.

3. **Support the ongoing development of existing infrastructures supporting Open Science**, such as OpenAIRE.

4. **Support the development and implementation of new research assessment approaches**, e.g. through supporting pilot programmes, in dialogue with member states and stakeholders, taking account of researchers' Open Science practices.

5. Craft a coherent EU **legislation package that ensures lawful access, use and re-use of both research publications and research data, including text and data mining (TDM)**.

6. Ensure easy and straightforward access to and reuse of outputs, including publications and data, which requires **supporting TDM-related e-infrastructure and tools developments**, and promoting changes in policy frameworks that impact on TDM activities.

7. Provide a detailed policy framework for Open Science developments and practices, including frameworks for the provision of skills development, incentives and rewards, citizen science.

Key messages for National Governments

1. **Embed Open Science in all nationally funded research projects** in similar terms as recommended to EU institutions.
2. Ensure the **compatibility of national policies and regulations with European Union policies** where possible, simplifying requirements to encourage their widespread adoption.
3. Take into account and **support of both the gold and green routes, or other convenient routes**, to immediate OA at the date of publication, depending on the situation in each country/institution/discipline.
4. **Incentivise researchers to adopt open practices**, including creating incentives for the publication and dissemination of high-quality articles in an OA form and sharing of research data.
5. Include **open science practices as part of the pre- and post-evaluation of research projects** and, if applicable, in national research assessment exercises.
6. Provide further support, together with national research funders, in the transition towards OA by **contributing to additional costs incurred by institutions and researchers** related to open access to publications² and infrastructures.
7. Provide **political support for open access to research publications and data**, favouring the principles of ensuring that data should be “as open as possible, as closed as necessary” (e.g. by creating national targets for open access).
8. Take a **proactive role in adopting national legislation that facilitates OA to research outputs (publications and data)**, in line with EU Directives including developing, modifying and/or adapting existing national regulations to ensure the lawful use of TDM, while safeguarding authors rights and fair use and re-use of data.

European universities are leaders in tackling the challenges involved in the transition towards open science, as the EUA Surveys and dialogue fora all over Europe and the world demonstrate. EU institutions and national governments need to step up their efforts in creating favourable framework conditions, including policies and regulations, to accelerate the transition towards an open scholarly knowledge exchange system.

² LIBER has proposed [five principles for negotiations with publishers](#), which are in line with other major developments at European level in the area of open access.

The **European University Association** (EUA), representing more than 800 universities and 33 National Rectors Conferences of 43 countries in Europe, is committed to support the development of an open scholarly knowledge exchange system in which the main products of publicly funded research – mainly research publications and research data – are openly available and fully reusable.

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