Towards a European Policy on Open Access

Jean-François Dechamp
Open Access Policy Officer
European Commission
Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD)

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EU Policy objective

The EU 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

**For publications:**
- OA comes after a decision to publish
- OA does not interfere with patenting

**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...
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
- Research Framework Programmes (next: Horizon2020)

**Capacity builder**
- Funds infrastructure projects relevant for open access and Digital Science
- Funds projects that support EC 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
EU concrete objectives

**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 policy initiatives

**Contribute** to policy 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
- 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 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

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

*Research & Innovation*
Horizon 2020


- Includes many references to open access:
  - Framework Programme
  - Rules for Participation (central for OA Rules in H2020)
  - Specific Programme

- Co-decision Council & European Parliament (amendments proposed)
- 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
Recent EC policy 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.
Pointers

Website of the European Commission on open access
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/open_access

More with OpenAIRE
- www.openaire.eu

Contacts in DG RTD
- jean-francois.dechamp@ec.europa.eu
- daniel.spichtinger@ec.europa.eu

Contact in DG RTD CNECT
- celina.ramjoue@ec.europa.eu

Twitter
@OpenAccessEC
@NeelieKroesEU
@ccbuhr