Open Access Policies

The European Commission and OA Policy Recommendations

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The European Commission is a...

- **Policy maker**

- **Funding agency**

- **(Infra)structure funder & capacity builder**

Two Commissioners (and their teams)

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

- Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
- **Research, Innovation & Science**
  European Research Area (ERA) & Innovation Union

1. Policy maker

- **Legal foundations**
  - European Community Treaty ('Lisbon Treaty')
    - Objective of strengthening bases for researchers, scientific knowledge and technology to circulate freely
    - Objective of carrying activities in dissemination and optimisation of research results
- **Consultations, hearings, workshops, conferences, studies...**
- **Hard law/soft law**
  - Soft law e.g. Communication, Recommendation, Conclusions, Guidelines...
  - Where the case (hard law) collaboration with other EU institutions (European parliament, Council...)

Digital Agenda

- Speed up the roll-out of high-speed internet
- Reach the benefits of a digital single market

Digital Agenda
1010111011100000100 **2010-2020**
for Europe

- Driving ICT innovation by exploiting the single market:
  - "[...] *publicly funded research should be widely disseminated through* **open access** *publication of scientific data and papers*";
  - "[...] *the Commission will appropriately extend current* **open access** *publication requirements* [...]".

- **Communication from the Commission '**A Digital Agenda for Europe**'**

European Research Area

- A Europe-wide space or 'single market' for research and innovation

- Incl. knowledge circulation:
    - Free movement of knowledge
    - Clear principles/rules regarding:
        - The management of intellectual property resulting from publicly funded research
        - Access to, and dissemination & preservation of publications and research data resulting from publicly funded research

- **ERA Framework in progress**

European Research Area

Innovation Union

- **Communication from
the Commission
'Innovation Union'**

European Research Area

INNOVATION UNION

- Improve conditions & access for research and innovation

- Delivering the ERA:
  - "[…] *The Commission will propose a European Research Area framework [and] seek to ensure [...] dissemination, transfer and use of research results, including through* **open access** *to publications and data from publicly funded research*"

- Promoting openness:
  - "*The Commission will promote* **open access** *to the results of publicly funded research. It will aim to make* **open access** *to publications the general principle for projects funded by the EU research Framework Programmes* [...]".

EC services to consult and/or involve

- **Other directorates within both directorates-general (DGs):**
  - Within Research and Information DG and Information Society and Media DG

- **Other DGs in EC:**
  - 'Thematic' e.g. Competition, Education and Culture, Enterprise and Industry, Internal Market and Services, Mobility and Transports, Taxation and Customs Union, Trade…
  - 'General' e.g. Budget, Legal Service, Publications Office, Secretariat General…

- **Joint Research Centre, European Research Council Executive Agency**

2. A funding agency (FP7/H2020)

- **OA publishing costs are covered in FP7**
  - For all projects
  - Limited to the duration of the grant agreement

- **OA Pilot in FP7**
  - 20% of total FP7 budget (2007-2013)
  - 7 areas (~1000 projects to date)
  - Self-archiving & 'Best effort to provide OA' mandate
  - Embargo (6/12 months)

3. An (infra)structure funder & capacity builder

- **Example: EU-funded portal OpenAIRE**
  – Support for technical implementation
  – Helpdesk & contact points
  – Technical infrastructure of digital repositories
  – Repository for homeless publications

- **Example: EU-funded infrastructure DARIAH**
  – Develop and maintain an infrastructure in support of ICT-based research practices
  – Enhance and support digitally-enabled research across the humanities and arts.

Building EC policy in open access

- **Communication on Scientific information in the digital age (2007)**
  - Objective overview of the state of play in Europe regarding scientific publishing and the preservation of research results: organisation, legal, technical and financial issues

- **Council Conclusions on Scientific information in the digital age (2007)**
  - Invitation to the European Commission to experiment with open access
  - Invitation to the Member States to:
    - Reinforce national strategies and structures
    - Enhance co-ordination among Member States

Latest surveys & consultations

1. **2011 Survey on OA in FP7**
   - Publication early 2012

2. **2009 & 2011 Questionnaires to Member States**
   - Publication late 2011

3. **Public consultation on scientific information in the digital age**
   - 1140 answers & ~20 position papers
   - Analyse running

4. **Public consultation on obstacles to ERA**
   - deadline 30.11.2011 – section on knowledge circulation

Many questions to answer

- **How to get authors to deposit?**
  - How to reward an author for sharing?
  - What role for (what) publishers?
  - What funding (and where)?
- **How to measure OA?**
  - EC 2011 call for tender 'Study to develop a set of indicators to measure open access'
- **What about data (the 'rising tide of data')?**

  And many more...

Why are 2011-2012 important years?

- **2012 Communication and Recommendation on scientific information in the digital age**

- **Post-2013 (FP7) research funding: Horizon 2020**
  - Legislative proposal

- **ERA & Digital agenda activities**

European Commission (1/3)

- **2012 Communication & Recommendation on scientific information**
  - Communication: take stock of developments in the area & outline next steps the Commission will take
  - Recommendation: outline what the EC expects from Member States in terms of access/management of publications/data, in particular policies in relation to OA
  - Foreseen adoption: 2012

- **Horizon 2020 (next FP)**
  - Make open access to publications the general principle for all projects
  - Open up possibilities for data
  - Put the open access mandate and associated policies into practice

- **Building an e-infrastructure for data**
  - "Our vision is a scientific e-infrastructure that supports seamless access, use, re-use, and trust of data."
  - 'Package' to be released (Public Service Information, Re-use of data…)
  - Partner, pilot & build infrastructures

Conclusion

'*The question is no longer 'if' we should have open access. The question is about 'how' we should develop it further and promote it.*'

(N. Kroes)

'*We need* [...] *a unified research area that brings together people and ideas in a way that catalyses science and world-leading innovation. Open access can help make this vision become a reality.*'

(M. Geoghegan-Quinn)

Pointers

- ## The EC and open access
  - http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/open_access

- ## Twitter

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