REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

National Policy of the Republic of Cyprus for Open Access to Scientific Information

Directorate General
European Programmes,
Coordination and Development

The National Policy of the Republic of Cyprus for Open Access to Scientific Information was approved by the Council of Ministers on 25 February 2016 (Decision No.: 80.309)

1. Introduction

The Policy for Open Access to Scientific Information of the Republic of Cyprus[1] is aligned with the current provisions and good practices of Horizon 2020 which is the Framework Programme of the EU for Research and Innovation for the period 2014-2020. It is also based, to a large extent, on the UNESCO's policy guidelines for Open Access, the guidelines of the MEdOANet[2] and PASTEUR4OA projects for Open Access, on the current policies at European and International level, on the policy recommendations of the RECODE[3] project for Open Access, as well as on practices and support applications which are being promoted by the Pan-European programme OpenAIRE[4]. More specifically, the policy provides the framework, the process and the general implementation provisions which will facilitate research funders, as well as research stakeholders, in their efforts to adopt Policies for Open Access to Scientific Information.

2. The current European framework for Open Access

The global interest for Open Access policies to Scientific Information is not new; on the contrary, it constitutes the result of long-term efforts, at state and institutional level, as well as by the researchers themselves. Furthermore, it is directly linked with the developments in electronic/technological infrastructures, such as repositories and electronic journals, and the continuous development of Information and Communication Technologies. The recognition of the benefits of Open Access for researchers and research funders and the common position that research, and especially publicly funded research, should be available to the entire society, make the development of relative policies imperative, in order to render Open Access as the established practice for dissemination of research.

The European Commission supports Open Access as the established practice for dissemination of publicly funded research in the European Union, as well as the open circulation of knowledge as one of the six priorities of the European Research Area. In 2012, the European Commission issued the Recommendation of 17th of July 2012 on

[1] The text of the Policy for Open Access to Scientific Information was prepared by the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development, in collaboration with the National Documentation Centre (NDC) of Greece, the University of Cyprus and the Research Promotion Foundation. The NDC is collaborating with SPARC (Scholarly and Academic Resources Coalition) in the framework of the European project PASTEUR4OA (www.pasteur4oa.eu), which supports the development of coordinated policies for Open Access for EU Member States. The Library of the University of Cyprus is a member of the European Programmes OpenAIRE and PASTEUR4OA.

[2] "Mediterranean Open Access Framework" is a project financed by the European Commission.

[3] "Policy Recommendations for Open Access to Research data in Europe" is a project financed by the European Commission.

[4] Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe.

"access to and preservation of scientific information", recommending the Member States to develop national policies for Open Access to publicly funded research and to ensure that research funding institutions responsible for managing public research funding and academic institutions receiving public funding, implement the policies in question. **Open Access is obligatory for all the peer-reviewed publications which result from Horizon 2020 funded projects.** This decision was taken following the pilot action for Open Access which was implemented for the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for the period 2007-2013. **Horizon 2020 includes also a pilot action which concerns Open Access to research data.** Open Access to Research Data is a field which is receiving increased attention; however the development of relative policies is still at an early stage.

The most important development at policy level is the internationally increasing number of research funders and stakeholders, who implement Open Access to scientific information. Key public and private funders adopt obligatory Open Access policies, paving the way for Open Access to become the established practice for research dissemination, while at the same time pushing research stakeholders to make the necessary changes.

3. Definitions

Open Access to scientific information is defined as the online access to digital academic and scientific content which is free, immediate, continuous, free of charge and free from most copyright restrictions. Interested parties are able to use the available content freely, for research, educational or other purposes. The aim is the exchange of scientific information, the enhancement of research and the most effective exploitation of research results.

Open Access consists of two steps: first, the submission of the publication to a repository and second, the provision of Open Access to it. These two steps can be taken either separately or at the same time, depending on the type of model which is chosen for Open Access, i.e. the "Green Route" or the "Gold Route".

(a) Self-archiving (or "Green Route")

It concerns the submission of a publication or its final version (final quality assured or peer reviewed version) by a researcher or his/her representative, before or at the time of publication, to a digital registry (bibliographic data bases and national or/and international repositories), to which the interested parties will have free internet access – possibly following an embargo period, if it is required by the publisher.

(b) Electronic Publishing (or "Gold Route")

It concerns the publication of academic and research articles (final quality assured or peer reviewed version) to scientific electronic journals, which is freely accessible by interested parties, following the payment of author publication charges which are paid separately for each of the articles. These journals are published either by traditional publishers, by exclusive Open Access publishers or by new forms of publishing formats.

Publication is defined as the researcher's project which is published or is going to be published (indicatively includes articles, conference papers, etc.).

Digital Copy is defined as the final electronic copy of a publication, as it was presented by its author or its publisher (final quality assured or peer reviewed version).

Embargo Period is defined as the period through which the publication remains closed and its full text is not provided through Open Access, rather only its metadata.

Metadata is the structured information which is used for description, interpretation, tracking, use and management of an in information source, i.e. a book, museum object, or an archive's folder (it basically concerns the data which describe a publication, e.g. title, author etc.).

Science Data is the primary information, namely the data or numbers which were collected and are considered as a basis for reflection, discussion or calculation in order to carry out a scientific research. Examples of scientific data include statistical data, results of experiments, measurements, observations resulting from field research, survey results, recordings of interviews and images, with emphasis on data available at digital form.

Data Management Plan is the document which describes the way in which the data produced or collected by a research project will be managed, both during its implementation and after its completion.

Suitable Repositories are defined as the repositories which offer Open Access to scientific information, allow data referral through permanent determinants (Digital Object Identifier (DOI)) or other which provide quality metadata (including a reference to the research funder), according to the acceptable guidelines and standards of interoperability with international digital collectors, as well as compatibility with OPENAIRE or other similar infrastructure.

4. Vision, objectives and benefits of the Policy for Open Access to Scientific Information

The vision of the national policy for Open Access is the creation of open access conditions - for all the citizens, researchers and businesses - to the publications of research organizations and academic institutions in Cyprus, that are publicly or privately funded.

The objective of the Open Access Policy is the alignment with European policies (European Commission recommendation, Horizon 2020) and current best practices, effectively participating in the formulation of a research and academic ecosystem, in the framework of which, access to research and especially publicly funded research is immediate and open. This is based on the recognition of knowledge as a public good which brings social and economic benefits at national, European and international level.

More specifically, the expected benefits for the society, but also for the researchers, are of major importance and are described as follows:

- The total of the scientific work which is foremost publicly, but also privately funded, is concentrated, safeguarded in the long-run and becomes available to the citizens, while at the same time, it becomes internationally available through accessible repositories.
- Publicly funded research projects can be indexed and traced by the internet search engines.
- The traffic and use of the publications can be monitored, while data and indicators for the evolution of research are collected.
- The internal and external evaluation of research stakeholders is facilitated, and so is the dissemination of their scientific production.
- Possibilities for exploitation and reuse of projects for scientific purposes are generated (CV's, publications, reports on excellence, debriefing reports, indicators, websites of research institutions, personal websites etc.).
- The channels for international cooperation are enhanced, as well as the international profile of researchers, research institutions and of the country in general.
- The visibility of the researchers' work is enhanced, receiving therefore more references and citations.
- The impact of the researchers' work is increased.
- Researchers acquire a permanent internet link for each of their projects.

5. Provisions for the implementation of the policy for Open Access

(1) Researchers deposit to a suitable repository:

(a) the required metadata (indicatively: title, summary, authors, capacity, name of the journal which accepted the publication, etc.) for all their publications which are mentioned in 1(b) and which will immediately become accessible through the framework of Open Access

(b) a digital copy of their publication (final quality assured version or peer reviewed version) together with the final acceptance for publication. Researchers are responsible for the consistent and comprehensive submission of their projects to the repository.

(2) The text of all the publications which are defined according to 1(b) becomes available at the moment of submission or as soon as possible after it. As concerns the quality assured or peered reviewed articles, it is allowed for the text to be closed until the expiration of the embargo period that is set by the publisher. In any case, the metadata of the publications should be immediately and openly accessible.

(3) In the case of "closed" publications, their summary is submitted to a repository, with a view to enhancing its recognition.

(4) Researchers are encouraged to make use of the Creative Commons licenses[5].

(5) Research staff is encouraged not to exclusively transfer intellectual property rights to the collaborating publishers, but to provide them only with those rights which are required for the publication in question. This can be achieved by including addenda to the publishing contract. Specimens for such addenda can be found at the following website links:
www.sparc.arl.org/resources/authors/addendum and
http://copyrighttoolbox.surf.nl/copyrighttoolbox/index.html

(6) Researchers are encouraged to submit any publications which were authored before the adoption date of this Policy, to an institutional repository which is compatible with OPENAIRE, or to any other data repository of Open Access and to render them openly accessible.

[5] Creative Commons licenses are a group of flexible copyrights which provide a simple, standardized way for the creators to share their work with the public – under certain circumstances. More specifically, it concerns licenses of non exclusive ownership which enables the creators to limit in a flexible manner the terms of use of their work. When using the license, the creator does not give up of all his/her rights of its work. Creative Commons licenses concern only copyrights and give the power to the creator to control how its work will be used by other people.

Additionally, further actions which promote the openness of science are the following:

(7) Researchers are encouraged to submit all the datasets which support their publications, to an institutional repository which is compatible with OPENAIRE, or to any other data repository of Open Access.

(8) Researchers are encouraged to draft Data Management Plans, integrating them in the project's lifecycle and improving data management throughout the duration of the project, but also after its completion.

6. Implementation Tools of the Policy

The implementation of the Policy for Open Access to Scientific Information requires the following tools:

(1) The provision of the electronic infrastructure, that is, a repository for Open Access at an institutional, national or European/international level.

(2) Design and implementation of appropriate rules and internal procedures for the implementation of Open Access Policy by research stakeholders and academic institutions.

(3) Researchers' training (one-to-one and seminars for researchers for Open Access, the use of repositories, copyrights, negotiation with publishers etc.)

(4) Monitoring mechanism in relation to the implementation and compliance with policies of Open Access.

(5) Continuous development of incentives for researchers (added value services: dynamic reports, reports per School/Department/Institution etc, statistics on progress and impact of the project etc).

7. Support, Promotion and Monitoring of the Open Access Policy

(1) The implementation of the Policy is promoted through the organization of seminars, events and other actions of raising awareness and educating/training on issues of Open Access.

(2) The compliance with the Open Access Policy is monitored through a special Monitoring Mechanism, with special emphasis on the monitoring of compliance in relation to the publicly funded research.