The European Research Council

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Information Session for PIs
Open Access
Université Claude Bernard Lyon1
Villeurbanne, 6 Mai 2014
Open Access

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
  - does not interfere with the decision to exploit research results commercially e.g. patenting

- **Two main OA publishing business models**
  - **Gold OA:** costs covered (by authors/funders) → immediate OA
  - **Green OA:** deposit of manuscripts → immediate/delayed OA

Established by the European Commission
Why Open Access?

EU Policy objective:

- to optimise the impact of publicly-funded scientific research, both
  - at European level (Framework Programmes), and
  - at Member State level (encouragement of national initiatives; policy coordination)

Expected impacts:

- Economic growth (accelerated innovation)
- Better science (build on previous results)
- More efficient science (avoid duplication)
- Improved transparency (involving citizens & society)
 ERC Open Access Guidelines – Revision of October 2013

- Open access required for research papers and monographs that are supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding
- Maximum embargo period 6 months (12 months for Social Sciences and Humanities)
- Use of discipline-specific repositories strongly encouraged (Europe PubMed Central for LS domain, arXiv for PE domain; no recommendation for SH domain)
- Alternatively institutional repositories or centralised ones such as Zenodo)
- Research data should be retained and researchers should be prepared to share their data where possible
- Host institutions are encouraged to cover open access related costs after the end of the project for up to 24 months
Special Clause 39 ERC – applicable to FP7 ERC projects from 2012-13 calls

- The **beneficiary** shall deposit an electronic copy of the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication of a scientific publication, related to foreground published before or after the final report, in an **institutional or subject-based repository** at the **moment of publication**.

- The **beneficiary** is required to make its **best efforts** to ensure that this electronic copy becomes freely and electronically available to anyone through this repository:
  - **immediately**, if the scientific publication is published "open access", i.e. if an electronic version is also available free of charge via the publisher, or
  - **within 6 months** of publication.
ERC Open Access Guidelines vs. Special Clause 39 ERC

- ERC Open Access Guidelines:
  - *aspirational* (not legally binding)
  - should be followed by all ERC funded researchers on a voluntary basis

- Special Clause 39 ERC:
  - *legally binding*
  - addressing beneficiary
  - no reference to research data
  - systematically included in Grants resulting from 2012 calls onwards *(i.e. ERC grants from calls in 2007 – 2011 not affected by the Special Clause)*
What does "best effort" in Special Clause 39 ERC mean?

- If publishers' policies do not allow compliance with Grant Agreement, authors should negotiate an amendment or request an authorisation to self-archive within the specific embargo period (model letters available on CORDIS).

- If negotiations are unsuccessful, researchers should consider submitting to another journal (no obligation).

- In case of non-compliance, beneficiaries must be able to demonstrate that they have made their "best effort", e.g. through a letter from the publisher stating refusal to allow compliance with the reasons for refusal).

- See Guide to Intellectual Property Rules for FP7 projects
Art.29.2 **ERC-MGA**: The beneficiary must ensure open access (free of charge, online access for any user) to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to its results

- Machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a repository for scientific publications (+ related research data)

- Open access to the deposited publication — via the repository — at the latest:
  - (i) on publication, if an electronic version is available for free via the publisher, or
  - (ii) within six months of publication (twelve months for publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities)

- Open access — via the repository — to the bibliographic metadata that identify the deposited publication, which must include a persistent identifier
THANKS!

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