Open Access Publishing in Horizon 2020 Projects

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The funding guidelines of the European Commission and other third-party funding providers state that any findings arising from projects funded by them must be available via Open Access. According to the Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement of the European Commission (article 29.2), Open Access is obligatory for all peer-reviewed publications. In order to provide you with an overview on Open Access, we have summarised the key aspects.

What is Open Access?
In research, Open Access refers to the practice of making articles/literature publicly available on the internet so that they can be read, downloaded, printed, copied, and distributed free of charge. Open Access does not imply an obligation to publish and therefore does not affect the decision to exploit research results commercially. There are several good arguments in favour of Open Access: easy and quick access to publicly funded scientific information, increased visibility, and avoiding duplication of research effort.

Implementing the EU Open Access requirements
In order to meet the EU requirements, all project partners must ensure that peer-reviewed publications arising from the project can be read online, downloaded, and printed. For this, the EU stipulates the following procedure:

1) Publishing the article either
   - in an Open Access journal
   - or in a scientific journal.

2) Depositing an electronic copy in a centralised, institutional or subject-based repository. This must be done at the latest upon publication. In order to ensure long-term preservation of the article, this step also applies in the case of publication in an Open Access journal as defined in option two.
   - Please keep the confirmation email or the persistent identifier (if applicable) for your records.
   - In general, publications in repositories are free of charge.

3) Availability in the repository must be ensured after the article’s embargo period specified by the publisher has elapsed.
   - The EU accepts an embargo period of 6 months (12 months for publications in the social sciences and humanities).
   - Please check in advance whether the publisher allows secondary publications, if applicable with an embargo period.

Furthermore, beneficiaries must ensure that the article can be identified by using bibliographic metadata in the repository. Standard metadata must include the following information:
- the terms “European Union (EU)” and “Horizon 2020”,
- project name, acronym, and Grant Agreement number,
- publication date, length of the embargo period, and
- a persistent identifier.

In general, all repositories fulfil these requirements. However, we advise you to check the restrictions of the individual repositories in advance.

Publication costs
Publication costs in relation to an EU-funded project, for example for Open Access publications, are eligible for funding. Please budget for publication costs — especially for publications in Open Access journals — when applying for projects with third-party funding (approximately 3,000 euros per publication).
Further information

- Directory of Open Access Repositories: http://www.opendoar.org/
- Open Access Journals and Repositories by Scientific Disciplines: http://open-access.net/DE-EN/open-access-in-individual-disciplines/
- Further Information on Open Access:
  - SHERPA RoMEO: Database on publishers and their position on Open Access and archiving in repositories: www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.html
  - JULIET: Overview of guidelines and requirements of various funding organisations: www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php
  - “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities” (2003): https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration

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Contact person for the implementation of the Open Access requirements at the respective universities

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  Tel.: +49 511 762 - 4209
  Email: stefan.schmeja@tib.eu
  Further information: https://www.tib.eu/en/publishing-archiving/open-access

- Hannover Medical School
  Ms Annette Spremberg
  MHH Library
  Tel.: +49 511 532 - 6606
  Email: sprembert.annette@mh-hannover.de
  Further information: https://www.mh-hannover.de/index.php?id=28202&L=1

- University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
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  University Library
  Tel.: +49 511 953 - 7110
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If there is no contact person for Open Access at your university,
you can contact the OpenAIRE project, which also manages the orphan repository:
Dr Birgit Schmidt
Göttingen State and University Library
Tel.: +49 551 39 - 33181
Email: bschmidt@sub.uni-goettingen.de
Further information: http://www.openaire.eu/