



EUA ROADMAP ON OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

February 2016

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Preamble

The European University Association (EUA) agreed at its Council meeting on 23 October 2015 on the development of a roadmap to assist European universities in the transition to Open Access (OA). This initiative follows on from a recommendation made by [EUA's Expert Group on Science 2.0/Open Science](#).

The current roadmap focuses primarily on OA to research publications, as in the broader field of Open Science most progress has been accomplished in this area. It is intended as the first step in a series of initiatives that EUA and its Expert Group are developing to address the most pressing implications of Open Science, including, *inter alia*, OA to research data, copyright, data protection and text and data mining; new models of evaluation and quality assessment; digital literacy and awareness.

EUA looks forward to collaborating with all its partners and stakeholders in furthering the dialogue and addressing the opportunities, challenges and next steps concerning Open Access and, more broadly, Open Science. Building upon the European Commission's Open Access policy (Horizon 2020) and the statements made by Commissioner Moedas and Dutch Secretary of State Dekker in October 2015, EUA also views the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union as an excellent platform for the scientific community at large, policy makers and scientific publishers to work together on this crucial topic.

Vision

Universities and scientists should have adequate and cost-effective platforms for collaborating, disseminating and using scientific publications openly. EUA aims to contribute to a publishing system that is simultaneously fair and transparent for stakeholders, in particular universities, research institutions, libraries, researchers, research funders, learned societies and commercial publishers.

With the developments in Open Science and particularly in Open Access enabled by rapid technological change, new ways of collaborating, producing, accessing, collecting, disseminating, and using research publications are constantly emerging. These trends call for changes in traditional publishing systems. Moreover, they can facilitate the emergence of new, disruptive ways of generating, retrieving and using knowledge that lead to alternative, improved scholarly communication systems, and publishing business models.

EUA is committed to working towards a system that seeks to achieve a balance of realistic costs and benefits shared between all stakeholders, including commercial publishers and researchers, considering that scientists have simultaneously the critical roles of content providers and peer-reviewers of research publications.

Objectives

EUA strives to achieve this vision in the next three years by concentrating on the following areas:

- Fostering structured dialogue among all stakeholders – especially scientists, universities, research funding and performing organisations, libraries, politicians and publishers;
- Promoting and supporting the adoption of OA policies, infrastructures and initiatives (repositories, institutional publishing initiatives – both for journals and monographs) by European universities;
- Encouraging the development and establishment of advanced scientific recognition and research assessment systems – including scientometrics and altmetrics, quality evaluation in OA, career progression of scientists and rigorous quality assurance of conventional and novel research outputs;
- Addressing intellectual property rights and copyright policies for various outputs, including publications, research data, learning materials and patents;
- Considering alternative and sustainable OA business models;
- Promoting access, use and sharing of research publications and data, including text and data mining (TDM), tailored to different stakeholders, including researchers at different stages in their career;
- Encouraging, supporting and eventually monitoring the establishment of comprehensive standards for institutional OA policies concerning research publications and teaching materials.

Priority actions

EUA will focus its efforts in the next twelve months on the following concrete, and equally important activities in cooperation with national rectors' conferences (NRCs), universities and researchers:

Information gathering and sharing

- 1) Gathering information and mapping the European Open Access landscape, by continuing to monitor institutional OA policies and establishing an evidence base about current agreements and ongoing negotiations with publishers in collaboration with NRCs;
- 2) Establishing a platform for dialogue and sharing good practices of “big deal” negotiations, including a high-level group of university leaders;

Policy and good practice recommendations

- 3) Issuing principles and recommendations for negotiations with publishers based on the outcomes of the platform and the evidence gathered through EUA activity with its members (surveys, workshops, etc.);
- 4) Proposing recommendations for institutional OA policies based on EUA's annual survey and the

outcomes of the platform, on current best practices, model policies and guidelines (e.g. [PASTEUR4OA](#) project);

- 5) Supporting the development of European OA policies, infrastructures and initiatives, e.g. Horizon 2020, [OpenAIRE](#);

Dialogue and mobilisation of researchers and other stakeholders

- 6) Engaging researchers at all career levels in the development of novel academic recognition systems through workshops and other fora;
- 7) Engaging in dialogue with other relevant stakeholders in the field, including other university networks, such as [LERU](#) and [CESAER](#), as well as organisations such as [COAR](#), [LIBER](#), [SPARC Europe](#), [MPDL](#), [Science Europe](#) and the [Global Research Council](#);
- 8) Discussing with publishers economically realistic and viable conceptions of the OA future;
- 9) Mobilising politicians for a fair, balanced and innovative publishing system through position papers and seminars at national and European level.

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The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 36 national rectors' conferences (NRCs). The Council of EUA is comprised of the President, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe's National Rectors' Conferences. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.