Open Access in Horizon 2020 - EC funded projects

Briefing paper for Project Officers

In Horizon 2020, the European Commission (EC) requests all projects to provide open access (OA) to all peer reviewed articles arising from project funding. The grant agreement[1] states:

"Ensure open access….as soon as possible and at the latest on publication, deposit a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a repository for scientific publications;"

How can projects adhere to these open access requests?

- Open Access is the immediate, online, free availability of research outputs without restrictions on use.

- All publications arising from Horizon 2020 projects should be open access and freely available as soon as possible.

- Each publication must be accompanied by bibliographic information, publication date and a persistent identifier, so you can access and cite the article.

OpenAIRE's tools for project coordinators:

When publications are correctly identified as produced by a Horizon 2020 project, they are automatically aggregated by the OpenAIRE portal. Each EC project has its own page on OpenAIRE, featuring project information, related project information and datasets, and a statistics section.

- **Help with reporting:** You can find your publications and project listed at www.openaire.eu. This is embedded in the EC's project portal (Cordis) and can be used for your reporting.

- **Generate your publication lists:** OpenAIRE provides you with a button that will automatically generate a publication list. Check that the list of publications is complete. Please notify us of articles not listed.

Four steps to getting open access articles:

1. Submit papers to a **journal of choice**, there is no restriction. If a researcher chooses to publish in an OA journal, publishing costs can be reimbursed within the project period and budget.

2. **Deposit** the final manuscript or publisher's PDF in a repository, either institutional or disciplinary. An embargo period might apply. **NB: It is not enough to list publications via a project website. They will go unnoticed!**

3. **Acknowledge project funding**, both in the publication and in the metadata: each publication should add the EC grant agreement number, e.g. *"This project has received funding from the [European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme] under grant agreement No [Number]".*

4. Each paper must have a **publication date**, a **date of release in open access** (embargoed if necessary) and a **persistent identifier** (e.g DOI, Handle).

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1 Grant Agreement http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/gga/h2020-mga-gga-multi_en.pdf

How can OpenAIRE help?

How to support your projects to adhere?

During the project's lifetime there are various opportunities to inform project coordinators about the EC's open access policies and to support them with the EC's open access requests:

- **During call and negotiations:** Inform project coordinators about the EC's Open Access policies
- **When the project starts:**
  1. Make sure that all partners are aware of the EC's Open Access policies (e.g. at kick-off) how articles should be open access, and reimbursement for publication costs.
  2. Inform about the support OpenAIRE can offer.
- **At mid-term and final reviews:**
  1. Ask for information about the project's dissemination strategies, efforts & challenges regarding Open Access
  2. Make sure publication reports and statistics are provided, via the OpenAIRE portal
- **Final reports & evaluation:**
  1. Make sure project information and publications are visible through the OpenAIRE portal
  2. Ask for reasons why Open Access has not been achieved

Will publishers allow self-archiving of article copies in a repository?

In most cases, yes. Most publishers (check here: http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/) will allow you to deposit a copy of the article in a repository, sometimes with a restricted (embargo) access period. In Horizon2020 this is no longer than six months (or twelve months for social sciences and humanities). Some publishers allow authors to retain their copyright via an author addendum. OpenAIRE can give you advice on these aspects, especially where self-archiving is not allowed.

What if researchers have no repository?

Always check if your researchers can store ('deposit') their article in a local or discipline repository. If no repository is at their disposal, they are welcome to deposit in Zenodo, specifically targeted to data and publications from EU projects: www.zenodo.org

What about the management of research data?

Some projects under Horizon 2020 will be eligible for the 'open data pilot'. OpenAIRE can point you to the right resources if projects need to write a research data management plan.

I need more information

The OpenAIRE infrastructure is funded by the EC to support its OA policies and rules. OpenAIRE can provide you with more information about the Open Access policies in Horizon 2020 and about how we can help you to comply. The OpenAIRE project has local representatives in all EU countries (the National Open Access Desks or NOADs). You can contact them directly or ask a question through our helpdesk system.

For more information and contact details, please visit www.openaire.eu.

The EC has an Open Access Factsheet:
https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/FactSheet_Open_Access.pdf

Guidelines on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf