

OpenAIRE – EUROPEAN REPOSITORIES JOINTLY SUPPORTS THE EC OPEN ACCESS PILOT

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OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe), is a three-year project funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. The project had its kick-off meeting in Athens on January 27 in 2010. The overall budget is 4.1 Million Euro.

The main goal of OpenAIRE is to support the Open Access pilot, launched by the European Commission in August 2008. This Open Access pilot covers about 20% of the FP7 budget, which amounts to more than 50 billion Euros for the period 2007 - 2013. The pilot commits researchers from 7 thematic areas to deposit their research publications in an institutional or disciplinary Open Access repository. In the areas of Health, Energy, Environment, Information & Communication Technology and Research Infrastructures the authors have to make their best efforts to ensure Open Access to their publications within six months and in the areas of Socio-economic sciences and Humanities and Science in Society within twelve months.

It also supports the European Research Council Open Access policy from December 2007 which likewise commits researchers to deposit their research publications in Open Access repositories and make them Open Access within six months.

Why the success of the EU Open Access mandates is so important

The degree of success of these two very significant Open Access mandates will have a great impact for the general acceptance and support for Open Access in Europe. Governments, national research funders, researchers and universities all around Europe are affected by them and will follow their implementation closely. Success can be measured in compliance to the mandates but also in the experiences of the researchers involved. Is it reasonably easy and straight-forward for them to deposit their research publications? Can they and the EU commission see tangible benefits in increased use of Open Access publications?

Pan-European network for Open Access with broad coverage

OpenAIRE will create underlying structures to support researchers in complying with the EU Open Access mandates. It will establish and operate a European Helpdesk System, with a European Centre and National Open Access Liaison Offices in 27 countries. It will build an OpenAIRE portal and e-Infrastructure for the repository networks building on the solutions developed within the DRIVER project. (<http://www.driver-repository.eu/>) This portal will give access to the EU-funded scientific publications but also provide monitoring tools for depositing and usage statistics. The main focus of the project is on networking and services but it will also have some research activities exploring scientific data management services together with 5 disciplinary communities.

This ambitious effort unites 38 partners from 27 European countries. All member states but one are directly represented (Luxembourg is represented indirectly through Belgium) plus Norway. With this broad coverage the project for the first time establishes a genuinely pan-European infrastructure for Open Access and digital repositories. This will have a wide-reaching significance beyond the specific goals of the OpenAIRE project.

Synergy between European and national OA mandates

The Open Access Liaison Office for Sweden is run by OpenAccess.se programme at the National Library of Sweden. The liaison offices are organized in regions and the Nordic region will be coordinated by the Danish Technical University. In Sweden there will be a rising need to advise researchers also on complying with OA mandates from national research funders, and we hope that there will be a synergy between this and our role within the OpenAIRE project. One important new task will be to create links with VINNOVA, which has the national responsibility for providing information and advice on EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development.

More information about Open AIRE, see <http://www.openaire.eu>



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