

OPEN ACCESS GUIDELINES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

OPEN SCIENCE IN HORIZON EUROPE

What is open science? Open science is an approach to research based on open cooperative work that emphasizes the sharing of knowledge, results and tools as early and widely as possible. It is mandatory under Horizon Europe, and it operates on the principle of being ‘as open as possible, as closed as necessary’.

What does “as open as possible, as closed as necessary” mean? Results and data may be kept closed if making them public in open access is against the researcher’s legitimate interests. Examples include to commercially exploit their research results, or if it is against any obligations mentioned in the Grant Agreement (e.g. personal data protection).

What is open access? Open access is the practice of providing online access to scientific information that is free of charge and reusable to the user. This includes both peer-reviewed publications and data underlying publications, or other datasets. Under Horizon Europe, researchers are not obliged to publish their results in publications, however if they choose to do so, it should be in open access.

What is open access to research data? Research data is the information (facts or numbers) collected to be examined and considered, and to serve as a basis for reasoning, discussion or calculation. Open access to research data is the right to access and reuse digital research data under the terms and conditions set out in the Grant Agreement. The research data of EU-funded projects must be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

What are the benefits of open science? Open Science encourages collaboration across academia, industry, public authorities, and citizen groups. When these groups are invited to participate in the research and innovation process, creativity and trust in science increases. This engagement process leads to greater transparency in the research process, greater potential impact of research, more efficient research processes and opportunities for global scientific collaboration.

OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with the Horizon Europe open access policy, all publications arising from data acquired through POLARIN must be made openly accessible. This obligation ensures that research funded by the European Union remains widely available to the scientific community and the public, fostering transparency, innovation, and collaboration.

There are two mandatory practices: Open access to publications and open access to research data based on the principle of ‘as open as possible, as closed as necessary’.

HOW TO COMPLY?

1. At the latest at the time of publication (i.e. no embargo period), upload a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication (i.e. Author Accepted Manuscript - AAM; or author's postprint) in a trusted repository for scientific publications, with a CC-BY or equivalent license for articles (at least for the AAM); or with a CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND or equivalent license prohibiting commercial use or derivative works, for monographs and other long texts, with information about any research outputs, tools or instruments necessary to substantiate the conclusions of the scientific publication. Moreover, you must aim to deposit at the same time the research data needed to validate the results presented in the deposited scientific publication.
2. Metadata of deposited publications must be open under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent, in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following:
 - publication (author(s), title, date of publication, publication venue;
 - Horizon Europe or Euratom funding;
 - grant project name, acronym and number;
 - licensing terms;
 - a persistent identifier for the publication, the authors involved in the action and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the publication.

You are free to publish wherever you want, but note that an embargo on open access is no longer accepted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

How to find a trusted repository?

Under Horizon Europe, a repository is an online archive where researchers deposit and share research publications, research data and other scientific outputs. The initial step in this process is to determine if your organization has a repository, or if there is a thematic/disciplinary repository that would align with your research. You may consult with your academic library for assistance or explore the available options at [the Directory of Open Access Repositories](#) or [Re3Data](#). Should you be unable to identify a suitable repository, [Zenodo](#) is a centralized repository that is supported by the European Commission and helps beneficiaries in meeting their Open Access requirements.

How to know if a scientific journal is compliant with open access?

To find out if a scientific journal complies with open access, check on [the Directory of Open Access Journals](#) or the [Journal Checker tool](#).

Consider publishing in the [Open Research Europe](#) that will allow you to comply with the Open Access EC requirements.

Open Research Europe is an open access publishing platform for the publication of research stemming from Horizon Europe funding across all subject areas. The platform makes it easy for Horizon Europe beneficiaries to comply with the open access terms of their funding and offers researchers a publishing venue to share their results and insights rapidly and facilitate open, constructive research discussion.

[Know how it works](#)

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this open access requirement may have direct consequences. The European Commission actively monitors compliance, and non-compliance could result in future reductions in grant allocations for the researchers or institutions involved. Beneficiaries are therefore strongly encouraged to ensure that all relevant publications adhere to open access standards as specified in the Grant Agreement and POLARIN guidelines.

To facilitate compliance, researchers are advised to:

- Publish in open access journals or deposit publications in recognized open repositories.
- Ensure proper acknowledgment of POLARIN funding in all relevant publications.

- Consult the POLARIN data management guidelines for specific requirements and recommended repositories.

For any questions regarding open access compliance, beneficiaries should contact POLARIN's project office or refer to the European Commission's guidelines on open access and research data management.

Reference: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en