



Brussels, **27 MARS 2017**
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Subject: The open access to publications obligations in Horizon 2020 (*mailing to all Horizon 2020 Participants*)

Dear Horizon 2020 Participant,

Following up on my earlier letter of 15 February 2017 on project communication and the acknowledgement of EU funding, I would like to draw your attention to another very important matter related to the dissemination of knowledge generated with EU funding.

Open access to scientific publications produced with public funding is beneficial not only for science but also for speeding up innovation and involving citizens and society. This is why under Horizon 2020, each **participant must ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to their results** (Article 29.2. of the Model Grant Agreement). However, we realise that there is no "one size fits all" solution, which is why participants can choose between two routes towards open access, namely:

- **Self-archiving** (also referred to as 'green' open access), meaning that a published article or the final peer-reviewed manuscript is archived (deposited) in an online repository before, alongside or after its publication. If this route is chosen, beneficiaries must ensure open access to the publication within a maximum of six months (twelve months for publications in the area of social sciences and humanities).
- **Open access publishing** (also referred to as 'gold' open access) means that an article is immediately placed in open access mode (on the publisher/journal website). Publishers often charge so called Article Processing Charges to make articles open. Such costs are eligible for reimbursement during the lifetime of the project as part of the overall project budget. For gold open access publishing, open access must be granted *at the latest on the date of publication*. A copy should, at the same time, be deposited in a repository.

We have recently analysed the state of play of compliance with our open access obligation in Horizon 2020. Currently, 68% of publications produced with Horizon 2020 funding are subject to open access, the majority through the green route.¹

¹ See <https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/open-access-to-scientific-publications-horizon2020>

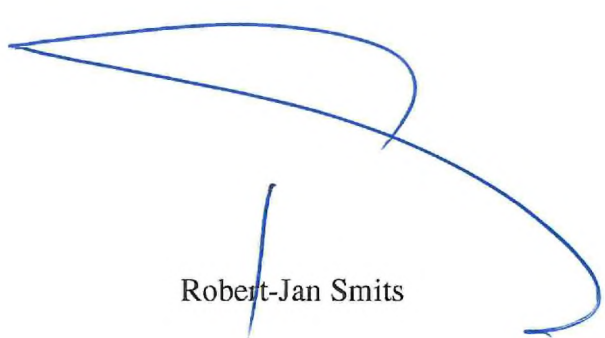
Given that not yet many publications have been published so far in Horizon 2020, this is an encouraging start. But we should not forget that we need to reach 100% open access by 2020, which is why I want to draw again your attention to this obligation.

The Commission will continue to provide support for open access to publications and it will also strengthen the monitoring of compliance. The Commission foresees sanctions in case of non-respect.

Of course, we would also be interested to hear from you which action we should take to increase compliance and for this you can contact us at our functional mailbox RTD-OPEN-ACCESS@ec.europa.eu. You will find more information about the open access requirement in Horizon 2020 on the participant portal at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-data-management/open-access_en.htm

Best regards,



Robert-Jan Smits

