

Position statement on Open Access to research outputs in Italy

Having regard to the Berlin Declaration¹ on Open Access to knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities of October 2003, whereby research bodies and organizations commit to support the Open Access model as the online dissemination of scientific knowledge and its reuse under the least possible constraints;

Having regard to the OECD Declaration² on Open Access to Research data from public funding of 2007;

Having regard to the reviewed Strategy on the UNESCO contribution to the promotion of Open Access to scientific information and research³ of 2011;

Considering that the publication and distribution of research outputs are embedded in the research process;

Considering that Open Access to publicly funded research outputs (publications and data) enhances the circulation of knowledge, supports innovation, the transfer of knowledge, the competitiveness, internationalization and quality of research, thus fostering economic, social and cultural benefits for enterprises (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises), for the public sector and generally speaking for citizens at large;

Having regard to the recommendations of the Scientific Committee of the European Research Council of December 2007 updated and reinforced in June 2012⁴ which establish that:

- all *peer-reviewed* publications, funded under ERC granted research projects, will be deposited at the time of publication in an appropriate subject repository, if available, such as Europe PubMed Central or ArXiv, or in an institutional repository, to be subsequently made open access within 6 months from publication.
- primary (raw) research data will be deposited in suitable databases as soon as possible, preferably immediately after publication and in any case no later than 6 months from the date of publication;

¹ http://oa.mpg.de/files/2010/04/berlin_declaration.pdf

² <http://www.oecd.org/science/scienceandtechnologypolicy/38500813.pdf>

³ <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/%20images/GOAP/OAF2011/213342e.pdf>

⁴ http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/open_access_policy_researchers_funded_ERC.pdf

Having regard to the Commission's "Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information" 2012/417/UE issued last July 17th, 2012, stating that Member States are recommended to define and put in place clear policies for the dissemination of and open access to scientific publications resulting from publicly funded research.

The Conference of Rectors of the Italian Universities and the Italian Public Research Institutions, being aware of the benefits of Open Access for National Research in terms of visibility, promotion and dissemination, commit themselves to act coordinately in order to achieve the success of Open Access in Italy by:

- encouraging the creation of OA repositories and technological infrastructures allowing access to, preservation and dissemination of data and publications both at a National and at a global level. These infrastructures should be implemented according to International interoperability standards and will capitalize on the OpenAIRE portal or other initiatives to be developed within the European Research Area (ERA) in order to maximize the visibility of European research;
- encouraging researchers to make their research results (data and publications) available in OA journals or Institutional or subject repositories. Research results deposited in Open Access repositories should be made available in their post-print or publisher's version upon publication, and no longer than 12 months after their publication;
- contributing to an effective fulfillment of Open Access principles through the adoption of Institutional policies and rules asking researchers to deposit their publications in Institutional OA repositories. If such a repository does not exist, researchers should use other institutions' or subject repositories to deposit their publications and data.

lobbying National government so that Italy, as other European countries are doing, can adopt and support a National strategy on Open Access, based on specific policies and rules.

Rome, March 21st 2013.

The declaration was signed by the representatives of the Conference of Italian University Rectors and of the public research institutions who attended the National MedOANet Workshop on 29th January 2013.



Marco Mancini,
Presidente
CRUI



Luigi Nicolais,
Presidente
CNR



Giovanni Lelli,
Commissario
ENEA



Stefano Gresta,
Presidente
INGV



Fernando Ferroni,
Presidente
INFN



Enrico Garaci,
Presidente
ISS

The original statement is online at http://wiki.openarchives.it/images/3/35/Position_statement_OA.pdf

Translated by Stefania Arabito (Università degli studi di Trieste) and Ilaria Fava (CINECA)