



Open Data Project  
Social Science Data Archives

## CREATING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF OPEN ACCESS TO PUBLICLY-FUNDED RESEARCH DATA IN SLOVENIA

Recommendations of the participants of the workshop *Challenges and Solutions in Data Services in Slovenia*, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ljubljana, 5 December 2012

### Introduction

Open research data enable Open Science, encourage heterogeneity of analyses, hypotheses and data scope as well as stimulate interdisciplinary research. Better efficiency of public research funding can be reached via opening research data as well as commercial exploitation of research results. Enhanced publications can be created by connecting open research data and open publications.

Both Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European Commission (EC) recommend Open Access to research data. Neelie Kroes, EC Vice-president and Commissionaire for Digital Agenda, states that sharing research data and facilitating their reuse is crucial for the development of science.

Open Access to research data is part of the national environment of Open Access to publicly-funded research results, whose expected developments in the EU Member States are described in the document entitled *Commission recommendation of 17. 7. 2012 on access to and preservation of scientific information* (2012/417/EU).

### Conclusions of the workshop

Workshop participants support the viewpoints presented above with regard to the Open Access data in Slovenia and urge that the EC Recommendation be implemented. They conclude that:

- Researchers are not yet fully aware of the advantages and benefits of open research data, the level of their awareness varies depending on their scientific field. Researchers' reluctance on open publishing of research data emphasises various legal issues, such as intellectual property and personal data protection. The other

obstacles are the lack of data sharing culture and non-stimulating system of evaluation of scientific output.

- Slovenian research funders and research organisations have not yet developed open research data policies, the few existing recommendations are not clear enough about the responsibilities and incentives for ensuring Open Access. An encompassing national infrastructure of open data has not been built yet.
- Promotional, support and counselling activities for Open Access data have not yet been developed at the national level, with few exceptions, such as the explanations and the news on the national information portal 'openaccess.si'.

### **Joint statement of the participants:**

- Slovenian research funders and research organisations should, following the recommendations of OECD and the EC, formulate open research data policies, which will, taking into account the legal and ethical obligations, provide the widest possible Open Access and use of research data from public funding.
- Policies should bring up an appropriate motivation and reward system for data creators, based on their contribution in preparing research data in conformity to the demands of authorised disciplinary data centres (obligations of providing data management plans, financial support for the additional work with managing data for archiving and access, evaluation of listing the research datasets in researchers' personal bibliographies).
- The continuation of building the national infrastructure of open data is required, including the establishment of a national portal/aggregator, establishment of disciplinary data centres, and mechanisms for transferring metadata from the international data infrastructure (introduction of a system of permanent identifiers, ethical obligation of citation, follow-up of secondary data use). National membership into the European research data infrastructures should be supported (specifically CESSDA, CLARIN and DARIAH, which are already included into the Research Infrastructure Development Plan 2011-2020). Permanent digital curation and preservation of open research data should be secured.
- Criteria for the operation of disciplinary and integrated data services should be developed. A development and counselling when establishing new data services should be ensured, and conformity of activities with the criteria should regularly be checked. A coordinated development of research data evaluation as a service of authorised disciplinary data centres is especially important on the national level, as is coordinated development of the network of digital preservation services.
- Assistance to the researchers with preparing data management plans during the project application can be provided by properly trained research librarians. In cooperation with data creators they can assist with data processing and offer

support. They can as well assist with digital preservation services, preparation of metadata, promotional activities and secondary use counselling. In cooperation with the national Central Specialised Information Centres and based on research data publications by authorised data centres, librarians can take care of registering published research data in the national current research information system.

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