



European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

Brussels,
ERCEA/12.04.2016

Dear grantee of the European Research Council,

You are the Principal Investigator of an ERC grant funded under Horizon 2020, and we would like to provide you with important information regarding the requirements for open access to publications.

Please be reminded that you have an **obligation to ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications related to the results of the ERC project**. We would like to emphasize that the mandatory open access for ERC projects in H2020 applies not only to peer reviewed journal articles, but to all types of peer reviewed scientific publications, including books and monographs.

You can ensure open access through the green (self-archiving) or gold (publishing open access) route.

Choosing green open access means that you provide open access by depositing a copy of the final peer-reviewed manuscript (or published version) in a repository. Open access should be provided as soon as possible and in any case no later than six months after the official publication date. For publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities domain a delay of up to twelve months is acceptable.

Choosing gold open access means ensuring that an electronic version will be available for free via the publisher. Be aware that also in these cases, a copy of the publication must be deposited in a repository, at the latest on publication (either by the publisher or the researcher).

These are the main open access obligations in your grant agreement and we advise you to read the full text of the relevant article (29.2) with more details, at the end of this letter.

The ERC strongly encourages ERC funded researchers to use discipline-specific repositories for their publications. The recommended repository for Life Sciences is Europe PubMed Central (<http://europepmc.org>) and for Physical Sciences and Engineering arXiv (<http://arxiv.org/>). The recommended repository for monographs, book chapters and other long-text publications is the OAPEN Library (<http://oapen.org>). Institutional repositories and centralised repositories are also acceptable.

Open access fees are eligible costs that may be charged to the ERC grant, if they incur in the duration of the projects, even if this was not planned in the original budget. There is however no additional funding for this type of costs. Be reminded that as stated in your

Grant Agreement (Article 29), any dissemination of results must display information on EU funding.

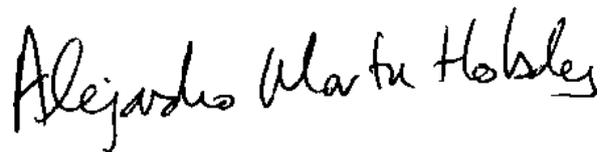
We furthermore advise you to read the recently revised "[Open Access Guidelines for research results funded by the ERC](#)". All ERC grantees are encouraged to comply with these guidelines.

Please note that you will be asked to report about open access to publications related to the scientific results of the project.

If you have any questions about open access in the context of your ERC grant, you are welcome to contact us at ERC-OPEN-ACCESS@ec.europa.eu.

Best regards,

the ERC project follow-up coordination team



Alejandro Martin Hobdey
Head of Call and Project Follow-up Coordination

H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA): V2.1 – 30 October 2015

ARTICLE 29 — DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS — OPEN ACCESS — VISIBILITY OF EU FUNDING

29.2 Open access to scientific publications

Each beneficiary must ensure open access (free of charge, online access for any user) to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to its results.

In particular, it must:

(d) as soon as possible and at the latest on publication, deposit a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a repository for scientific publications.

Moreover, the beneficiary must aim to deposit at the same time the research data needed to validate the results presented in the deposited scientific publications.

(e) ensure open access to the deposited publication — via the repository — at the latest:

(iii) on publication, if an electronic version is available for free via the publisher, or

(iv) within six months of publication (twelve months for publications in the social sciences and humanities) in any other case.

(f) ensure open access — via the repository — to the bibliographic metadata that identify the deposited publication, which must include a persistent identifier.

Please find further information on dissemination of results and open access in the [Annotated Grant Agreement](#) (pages 362-364).