



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Director-General

Brussels,

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Subject: Open access to publications in Horizon 2020; involvement of your organisation as coordinator in Horizon 2020 grants

Dear Legal Entity Appointed Representative of [Organisation Legal Name],

I am writing to highlight the significance of our policy for open access to publications funded by Horizon 2020, and to remind you of the related obligation undertaken by your organisation as a beneficiary of Horizon 2020 grants.

The European Commission has steadily supported open access to publications starting with a pilot action in FP7 and subsequently as an obligation of beneficiaries in Horizon 2020. It has been a frontrunner in open access policy by issuing a recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information in 2012 and has supported policy alignment across EU Member States. Open access contributes to research efficiency and impact, and ultimately to more excellent research. The economic and social benefits of excellent research that is openly available are too important to ignore. As a public funder, the European Commission is committed to this policy, for the benefit of society, economy, and of the European citizens.

Your organisation is involved as coordinator or single beneficiary in Horizon 2020 grants. It appears that in some of these grants your organisation reported peer-reviewed publications that are not available in open access. I would like to remind you that your Horizon 2020 grant agreements include an obligation to make all peer-reviewed publications relating to the results of the Horizon 2020 grants available in open access repositories (see grant agreement [Article 29.2](#) and its [annotations](#)). If a beneficiary breaches this obligation, the grant may be reduced (see [Article 43](#) of the grant agreement).

I would therefore ask you to initiate the necessary actions for ensuring compliance with the obligations on open access in all your Horizon 2020 grants¹.

Many thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Robert-Jan Smits

¹ The list of ongoing Horizon 2020 grants of your organisation is available for you via the Participant Portal (log in with your EU Login (ECAS) credentials, click “My organisation(s)”, then on “VP” (view projects)).