

Science Europe Press Release: *for immediate release*

Increasing Access to Science Results: Science Europe Adopts Principles

(Brussels, 29 April 2013) For the first time since the debate on Open Access to scientific publication has taken off, the major European Research Funding and Performing Organisations have agreed on a common set of 'Principles' that should guide the transition to Open Access to research publications.

Science Europe's 51 Member Organisations are all committed to ensuring that results of publicly-funded research and innovation in Europe are available through an unrestricted, online access system, and have identified a list of ten principles that will ensure consistency and coherence in their efforts towards Open Access.

The Principles are detailed in Science Europe's latest Position Statement, which has just been released: 'Principles on the Transition to Open Access to Research Publications' (www.scienceeurope.org/downloads).

Amongst other principles, Science Europe's members "*advocate that research publications should either be published in an Open Access journal or made available or be deposited as soon as possible in a repository*". They also "*expect publishers to apply institutional, regional, or country-based reductions in journal subscriptions, in line with increases of contributions paid by author(s) or institution(s)*"; hence discouraging situations where institutions pay twice for accessing scholarly articles (so-called 'double-dipping').

"The benefits of Open Access are clear: it improves the pace and the efficacy of research, it facilitates interdisciplinary research and strengthens the dissemination of scientific breakthrough", said Paul Boyle, President of Science Europe. *"However, we are all aware that the transition towards such a system presents some challenges and a collective approach will be the most effective way to accomplish rapid change"*.

Each organisation will be able to implement policies according to their needs, but these principles will be the basis for co-operation and exchange of experience and information.

With the release of this Statement, Science Europe wishes to encourage the European Commission, national governments, research funding and research performing organisations, and other stakeholders at global level to adopt a similar approach to Open Access. The transition to Open Access is a world-wide process and Science Europe will encourage other organisations at the Global Research Council to adopt this approach.

Science Europe comprises 51 Research Funding and Research Performing Organisations from 26 countries, representing around €30 billion per annum. It was founded in October 2011 with the aim of promoting the collective interests of members and providing them with a platform to collaborate at both policy and activity level.

Science Europe's Position Statement is available on Science Europe website at this link:

<http://www.scienceeurope.org/downloads>

For any further information, please contact:

Elena Torta

Communications Manager at Science Europe

elena.torta@scienceeurope.org; Tel. +32 (0)475 84 01 12