

**SCIENCE EUROPE PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Open Access Policies Widely Available and Increasingly Aligned**

(Brussels, 17 October 2016) A new report is released today by Science Europe, entitled ‘Open Access Publishing Policies in Science Europe Member Organisations: Key Results from Science Europe and Global Research Council Surveys’.

This survey report presents an overview of the development of the Open Access (OA) policies of Science Europe Member Organisations (MOs) using data from 2012 and 2014, a period when a large number of MOs were introducing or revising their OA policies. The report is complemented with a section presenting the state of play up to mid-2016.

The report highlights the efforts made by public research organisations in Europe to develop and implement OA policies. All organisations that responded to the survey had implemented OA policies, or were in the process of doing so. Key remaining issues are monitoring compliance with OA policies, and encouraging more publishers to respect requirements of the policies such as embargo periods or transparency of costs. Lack of awareness was identified as a barrier to OA implementation, so efforts to improve understanding must continue. Targeting early-career-stage researchers (PhDs and postdocs) is essential in order to encourage new publication habits and enable a cultural shift.

Numerous challenges still need to be addressed by different actors in order to facilitate and accelerate the transition towards full OA for all scholarly publications by 2020, as called for in the conclusions on ‘The Transition towards an Open Science System’ adopted by the Council of the EU on 27 May 2016. However, the report indicates that national research organisations are committed early adopters and that their OA policies are increasingly aligned with each other, and with the OA requirements of Horizon 2020 and the European Research Council (ERC).

The full report can be downloaded at the following address: <http://scieur.org/oa-survey>.

**Notes to Editors**

Science Europe is an association of major European research funding and research performing organisations in 27 countries, established in 2011 to promote the collective interest of its members and to foster collaboration between them. For more information see: [www.scienceeurope.org](http://www.scienceeurope.org).

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