

HELLENIC NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTER “OPEN SCIENCE: ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES” CONFERENCE REPORT, JUNE 2017

The 15th June [National Documentation Center](#) (NDC) [Day Conference on “Open Science: Issues and Perspectives”](#) designed to engage a wide variety of professionals, came as the necessary complement to build upon the “[OA to Research Data within Horizon 2020](#)” 22nd March NDC webinar delivered by **Sarah Jones** from Digital Curation Center by updating knowledge with the latest from the field.

Through a series of illustrative rich content case studies the audience was gradually familiarized with the Open Access (OA)/Open Science (OS) related issues which helped acquire an essential baseline knowledge of the technology-driven publication and data management changing landscape.

At Open Science NDC day conference, it became clear that European states have already started to put in place measures to adapt to the new paradigm. The conference has also provided reflection and inspiration on challenges and possible key solutions to the major issues involved. During the event, there has been extensive reference made to the EC actions in support of these efforts as a knowledge and expertise provider that however has to be further supported by local knowhow through engaging stakeholders in a constructive dialogue. To mitigate challenges, the silo approach needs to be left behind along with old misconceptions and stereotypes in order to be able to mainstream adaptation.

For the purposes of this report and a mindset towards emerging common themes particularly associated with the rapporteur’s research, it was decided to especially highlight OA/OS implementation recommendations and challenges, with major issues as identified revolving around ALIGNMENT, COORDINATION AND AWARENESS.

After welcoming participants to the event, **Marina Angelaki**, NDC Project Officer and **Nena Maliou**, Head of NDC Research, Development, Innovation Services Department provided a brief overview of the OA-related NDC activities and its H2020 national open access help desk mission in supporting research projects, collaborations, training and development. They also conveyed the conference organizers’ wish to help capacity building in the specific area and challenged participants to consider a series of questions around risks involved.

1. As their first invitee, they introduced via teleconference **Victoria Tsoukala**, Program Officer-Seconded National Expert for e-Infrastructures and [Open Science Cloud at the European Commission](#), who referred to the reasons why open access should be pursued as one of the basic components of open science and in support of confirmability, interdisciplinarity and citizen equal access to scientific knowledge, and stressed the importance of Data Management Plans (DMPs) and the need for infrastructural reform to help respond to the prioritized need for data economy. Very optimistic on OA deployment, she acknowledged the global trend towards incentivizing OA adoption and also outlined European policies for OA and Open Research Data, Digital Single Market Strategy (2015) potential and challenges, and European Cloud

Research data should be “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”

Initiative seen as a solution to data silos, interoperability, governance and funding issues, infrastructural fragmentation, High Performance Computing Deficit and long-term service sustainability considerations as recorded in [Brussels EOSC](#) (European Open Science Summit) on June 12th 2017.

2. Back at the National Hellenic Research Foundation Auditorium and following previous highly informative presentation, **Natalia Manola**, research associate in the University of Athens, Department of Informatics and Telecommunications and the Athena Technology and Innovation

Europe is a pioneer in OA and there is already a strong indication of open data capitalization

Research Center, offered participants a panorama of recent initiatives and insisted on the importance of putting research in the right context by working in a continuous loop of stakeholder-centered service provision adjustment and policy alignment, envisioning at the same time potential benefits from linking OA journals, aggregators, archives and data repositories in an Integrated Scientific Information System at both EU and International level in the example of COAR, REMRI, JAIRO, ATHENA RC etc.

3. During her speech, **Marina Angelaki** briefly commented on [PASTER4OA](#) 2014-2016 project goals (EU funded project aiming to support open access policies alignment and conformance to H2020 mandates), she pointed out the growing number of initiatives in supporting OA at government, university, working group and national funders’ level and also reported Knowledge Net Initiative contribution to enhancing awareness of local OA issues in the Balkans.

Among associated challenges, she highlighted low funding priority and low national strategy implementation priority and, specific to the South East EU, low awareness of OA benefits.

Proposed actions: Urgent need to engage in dialogue, raise awareness of the OA benefits through event, conferences organization and support material production.

4. In her turn, **Ioanna Sarantopoulou**, Head of the NDC Digital Library Department, discussed the likelihood of replacing traditional subscription models with either type of OA publication models (gold, green path) concluding with the strong affirmation that at this stage OA could only be forwarded in no other than a complementary role, to pass on the baton to the next guest speaker, **Ntaountaki Maria**, Head Librarian at the Technical University of Crete, who invited us to reflect on the reconceptualization of institutional repository policies to face researchers and faculty reluctance to submitting content to OA repositories, while **Elena Diomidi-Parpouna**, University of Cyprus librarian, identified the lack of awareness of the OA benefits, OA related technology skills deficit and low funding priority as the major hindering factors to OA implementation before enumerating the pros and cons of different OA publication types.

During a brief QA session that followed, there was a brief discussion and recap of major reasons for researcher mistrust on OA publishing stressing again the need to incentivize stakeholder culture change by highlighting the enormous benefits of the new paradigm.

Session II opened with **Gwen Franck**, recently appointed LIBER Open Access Project Officer, who briefly referred to the OA model and all that it conferred to the publication landscape, to reasons for extending [FP7 Post-Grant Open Access Pilot](#) until Feb 2018 among which low fund absorption and overall lower response than expected, and reported UK, Spain and Italy at the top positions of the OA publishing funding requests. She finally offered participants with a quick overview of OA publication grant request, application and evaluation workflows.

1. Along the line of more practical OA/OS related aspects, **Jose Carvalho**, Open Access Project Officer at the university of Minho, presented the [FOSTER PROJECT](#) objectives and scheduled activities among which Open Science reusable training content creation for face-to-face, and e-learning sessions, Open Science Taxonomy, OS train the trainer events and OS training handbook, webinars and e-learning platform development, and
2. **Marjan Grootveld**, Senior Policy Officer at [Netherlands Institute for Permanent Access to Digital Research Resources](#) (DANS), gave participants a short outline of challenges surrounding Research Data Management, stressing the importance of using relevant standards to enable interoperability and the need for documentation to support research findings. She also briefly initiated participants to the OA repository accreditation procedures (NESTOR, ISO 16363 etc.) and DMP development.
3. Next, **Stelios Krinidis**, Postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), reiterated among others the research data management FAIR principles (findability, accessibility, interoperability, reusability) with specific reference to file naming, anonymization and research subject clearance issues encountered in his own research course.

In her concluding reflections, the NDC moderator, **Marina Angelaki**, reminded us of NDC scheduled lines of action to fostering a transformational shared vision of the OA principles as an NOAD (National Open Access help Desk) such as webinars and briefing papers framed within the common effort of mainstreaming OA adaptation in Europe of which EC is at the forefront by financing projects and creating tools and data.

OA implementation related challenges and major impeding factors on the road to Open Science Policy Platform creation and the leap from e-Infrastructures (2016) to European Data Infrastructures (2020) repeatedly emphasized during the conference have been:

- *digital skills deficit*
 - *limited infrastructural affordances*
 - *policy and infrastructure coordination aspects*
 - *difficulty to change researcher mindsets*
 - *difficulty to understanding complex issues such as licensing*
 - *researchers and faculty reluctance to submitting content to OA repositories*
 - *difficulty to erasing inherent inhibitions and researcher mistrust on OA publishing*
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By skillfully combining presentations of general principles and guidelines with case studies followed by short question-answer periods, the conference has provided a rare opportunity to raise understanding around the majority of OA-related issues, most current trends and considerations, EC recommendations, national and international guidelines and directives associated with Open Access and Open Science, information particularly valuable to any researcher or information professional seeking the necessary knowledge to

- effectively serve, advise and support the research and student community in OA publication and collaboration related scenarios
- best address data storage, sharing and dissemination considerations especially in cases of data-intensive research
- effectively address HE community considerations associated with OA/OS strengths and weaknesses and confidently provide the best possible consultation from any active librarian, teaching or administrative offices.
- self-motivate to pursue at least some degree of compliance with the H2020 mandates and FAIR principles even if one’s project is not publicly funded
- become proficient in identifying available options and possible pitfalls associated with data management lifecycle early in the process

RAPPORTEUR: **Stavroula Sant-Geronikou**, Ph.D. student in LIS (Charles III University of Madrid). Also holds an MA in Libraries and Digital Information Services, a B.A. in French Literature and post-graduate qualifications in Educational Technologies. Her academic interests include Information Literacy, Learning Commons, High Impact Practices and Learning Analytics.