Open Access Guidelines
for research results
funded by the ERC

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The mission of the European Research Council (ERC) is to support excellent research in all fields of science and scholarship. The main outputs of this research are new knowledge, ideas and understanding, which the ERC expects its researchers to publish in peer-reviewed articles and monographs.

The ERC considers that providing *free online access* to these materials is the most effective way of ensuring that the fruits of the research it funds can be accessed, read, and used as the basis for further research.

Open access to research publications

The ERC therefore supports the principle of open access to the published output of research as a fundamental part of its mission.

Accordingly, the European Research Council:

• *requests* that an electronic copy of any research article, monograph[1] or other research publication that is supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding be deposited in a suitable repository immediately upon publication. 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.

• *strongly encourages* ERC funded researchers to use discipline-specific repositories for their publications. A list of recommended repositories is provided in Appendix 1. If there is no appropriate discipline specific repository, researchers should make their publications available in institutional repositories or in centralized ones, such as

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[1] Every effort should be made in compliance with the provisions in the H2020 ERC Annotated Grant Agreement.

Zenodo[2].

- *reminds* ERC funded researchers that open access fees are eligible costs that can be charged against ERC grants, provided they are incurred during the duration of the project.

- *entreats* Host Institutions to cover open access fees of any research publications supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding, arising after the end of the project.

Research data management and sharing

The European Research Council supports the basic principle of Open Access to research data. It therefore

- *recommends* to all its funded researchers that they follow best practice by retaining files of all the research data they have produced and used during the course of their work, and that they be prepared to share these data with other researchers whenever they are not bound by copyright restrictions, confidentiality requirements, or contractual clauses.

To further this principle, the ERC is following, and participating in, developments in this area both to help create an appropriate professional environment to collect, structure and store data, to arrive at suitable protocols to gain access to data and to identify appropriate repositories for research data in different disciplines and domains.

The European Research Council considers that, given the fast evolving practices in this area and the extreme diversity of situations, as well as the different approaches in different disciplines, it would be premature at this time to ask ERC funded researchers to make a binding commitment to open research data right at the start of their project. Nevertheless, the ERC continues to strongly encourage all ERC funded researchers to seek to establish and practice good research data management in accordance with the current best practices in their respective fields and to share their data with other researchers in a responsible way.

This document has been drawn up to provide guidance to ERC funded researchers and their Host Institutions[3]. It will be reviewed periodically.

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[2] http://www.zenodo.org/
[3] These guidelines are complementary to Special Clause 39 of the FP7 ERC Model Grant Agreement / to the Horizon 2020 ERC Model Grant Agreement, which detail the legal obligations of the beneficiary with regard to open access, where applicable.

Appendix 1: Recommended discipline-specific open access repositories

The recommended repository for Life Sciences is Europe PubMed Central[4]; and for Physical Sciences and Engineering arXiv[5] is recommended. The ERC Scientific Council is currently not recommending any specific repository for Social Sciences and Humanities. However, it is reviewing existing practices and open access infrastructures in this domain and may make recommendations in the future.

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[4] http://europepmc.org
[5] http://arxiv.org/