

THE FOURTH NATIONAL OPEN ACCESS WORKSHOP: ANKARA STATEMENT ON OPEN ACCESS (October 19-21, 2015)

The Fourth National Open Access Workshop (AE2015) organized and hosted by the Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council (TÜBİTAK) in cooperation with Anatolian University Libraries Consortium (ANKOS), Hacettepe University (HU) and İzmir Institute of Technology (İYTE) took place in Ankara, Turkey, from October 19-21, 2015. “Open Science” and “Open Access” concepts along with the policies, strategies, legislation, standards and infrastructures needed to provide free access to publicly-funded scientific publications and data through institutional repositories (IRs) were among the topics discussed during the workshop. Carried out with contributions of both national and international speakers, some 380 participants from universities, public institutions, professional associations and publishing sector attended the workshop.

In his opening address, TÜBİTAK’s President Professor **A. Arif ERGİN** emphasized that Open Science and Open Access provides equal opportunity to all segments of the society to participate in scientific research and that, provided it is supported with national policies and infrastructures, “citizen’s science” will solve the problem of access to publicly-funded scientific publications and data. He stated that only 15% of some two million articles published annually are Open Access. TÜBİTAK provides full-text access to more than 150,000 articles through its **DergiPark** Project and supports the SCOAP3 Consortium providing Open Access to publications in particle physics. Drawing attention to the lack of Open Science and Open Access policies and infrastructural shortcomings in Turkey, Professor Ergin announced that a national Open Science Committee was set up in 2015 within TÜBİTAK and that an Open Access pilot involving one of TÜBİTAK’s support programs will be started soon.

Prepared by the **Organizing Committee of the Fourth National Open Access Workshop (AE2015)**, the following statement on Open Science and Open Access is hereby shared with science and technology policy makers, research funders and research performing institutions, workshop participants and the public.

“Open Science” is the practice of science that provides everybody free access to research output (publications and data) and research processes, and enables their use, dissemination and creation to carry out collaborative studies. “Open Access” is defined as free access to the full-texts of publicly-funded scientific publications and data, and to use them for various purposes. Open Access is one of the priorities of the **European Union (EU)** and the **European Commission (EC)**. Open Access to research publications is mandatory for research funded by the EU in its **Horizon 2020** Framework Program covering the years 2014 and 2020, and a pilot project to provide Open Access to research data is currently being carried out. Various countries regulated Open Access to research output and several research funding agencies and research performing institutions developed their own Open Access policies along the same lines. Currently, EU-supported projects **PASTEUR4OA** and **OpenAIRE**, of which Turkey a partner, are being carried out to align those policies with that of Horizon 2020 and develop the Open Access infrastructure.

In Turkey, the Open Science and Open Access issues have not yet been dealt with on higher levels (e.g., the Prime Ministry, ministries) comprehensively. Nor have research funder policies been developed to provide Open Access to publicly-funded research output. Although Turkey is one of the 30 countries signing OECD’s “**Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding**” in 2004, not much has happened in this field since then. TÜBİTAK, **Higher Education Council (HEC)**, universities and research institutions have yet to be represented in, e.g., **Science Europe** and **EuroCRIS**, where Open Science and Open Access policies are shaped. Despite the fact that several universities set up their IRs thanks to HEC’s Academic Open Archives Project (**YAAP**), stronger Open Access policies aligned with that of Horizon 2020 are needed. TÜBİTAK has recently started work on setting up its own IR and harvesting the contents of other IRs. It is hoped that such initiatives will contribute to build an interoperable Open Science and Open Access infrastructure including research data in accordance with standards. Works to be carried out along

these lines will have a positive impact on Turkey's efforts to integrate with the **European Research Area** (ERA) and facilitate to gain utmost benefit from the Horizon 2020 funds. Therefore, regulations need to be developed by the relevant institutions in order to put the following recommendations into practice as soon as possible:

- National legal regulations aligned with that of EU have to be effected in order to support Open Science and provide Open Access to publicly-funded publications and data.
- Research funders such as TÜBİTAK and HEC, and universities should develop their own Open Access policies. These policies should be mandatory but supported with funding mechanisms (e.g., article processing charges) and enablers such as infrastructure and training.
- Existing Open Access policies of universities and research institutions should be strengthened and aligned with that of Horizon 2020.
- In order to collect, harvest, organize and provide free access to scientific publications and data, an interoperable Open Science and Open Access infrastructure in accordance with international standards (e.g., OAI-MPH, CERIF) should be set up.
- **Researcher IDs** (e.g., ORCID) and **project numbers** should be part of the infrastructure to increase the visibility of publications and to provide interoperability.
- The efforts to integrate the existing IRs with the European Open Access and research infrastructure (**OpenAIRE**) should be speeded up by primarily making use of open source applications.
- Depositing the output of research projects (publications and data) in IRs and making them Open Access should be the prerequisite of getting research funds and be linked with the research evaluation process.
- Compliance with Open Access policies should be monitored by research funders and universities.
- Open Access publication expenses should be paid for by the research grants and TÜBİTAK's National Academic Network and Information Center (**ULAKBİM**) and **ANKOS** should sign offset agreements with publishers to recoup these costs.
- Authors' copies of refereed articles that are accepted for publication should be immediately deposited in IRs along with their metadata. Metadata of such publications should be made Open Access immediately while their full-texts should be done so by taking publishers' open access policies into account.
- IRs that contain scientific publications, research data and software should be at the center of **research information systems** and their contents should be harvested and backed up.
- **Copyright legislation** should be revised so as to cover Open Science, Open Access, research data, and text and data mining (TDM) issues.
- **Creative Commons** licenses (CC-BY) should be used in order to provide Open Access to publicly-funded research output.
- Initiatives (e.g., posters and trainings) should be in place to increase the awareness of Open Science and Open Access issues of policy makers, researchers and the public.
- **Professional associations**, small and medium-size enterprises (**SMEs**) and the **industry** experiencing more difficulties in getting access to scientific information should also be considered as the stakeholders of Open Science and Open Access.

Respectfully announced to the public.

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