

EN

E-002842/2025

Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.9.2025)

The EU Open Science Policy¹ aims to improve access to and reuse of publicly funded research results. A secondary publication right (SPR) is a tool that may help reach this objective and is already introduced in six Member States². The Council has recently welcomed this introduction³.

Following action 2 of the European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2022-2024⁴ and action 1 of the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027⁵, the Commission is analysing existing obstacles and possible solutions to improve access to and reuse of research results. To this end, a study⁶ was published in May 2024, providing evidence and policy options, including the possibility of an EU-wide SPR with various parameters, including embargoes. It is also a topic of the Commission's ongoing study on the economic impact of identified policy options⁷.

Immediate open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications through trusted repositories is mandatory for Horizon Europe beneficiaries, including retention of sufficient intellectual property rights to do so. Through Horizon Europe, the Commission financially supports institutional non-profit open access infrastructures and services without author fees⁸.

In 2021 the Commission launched Open Research Europe (ORE)⁹, an open access scholarly publishing service for Commission-funded researchers in all disciplines and with no author fees. It is aligned with Horizon Europe open access requirements, promoting equity, transparency and integrity in scholarly publishing. With several European research funding and performing organisations, the Commission aims to evolve ORE into a sustainable collectively funded and governed non-profit open access service^{10, 11}.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/our-digital-future/open-science_en.

² Germany (2013), the Netherlands (2015), Austria (2015), France (2016) Belgium (2018) and Bulgaria (2023).

³ Council Conclusions of 23 May 2023 on 'High-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy and equitable scholarly publishing'.

⁴ <https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/policy-agenda-2022-2024>.

⁵ <https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/era-policy-agenda-2025-2027>.

⁶ 'Improving access to and reuse of research results, publications and data for scientific purposes': https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/enhancing-research-accessibility-and-reuse-new-study-outlines-strategic-measures-2024-05-16_en.

⁷ 'Economic analysis of options for improving EU legislative and regulatory frameworks with impact on access and reuse of publicly funded R&I results and of publications and data for scientific purposes'. Expected to be finalised spring 2026.

⁸ For example through projects such as DIAMAS (Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication) and CRAFT-OA (Creating a Robust Accessible Federated Technology for Open Access), accessible at <https://diamasproject.eu/> and <https://www.esf.org/eu-projects/craft-oa/>, respectively.

⁹ <https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/>.

¹⁰ <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6282402>.

¹¹ <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/204155>.