Deliverable

Grant Agreement number: 611742

Project acronym: PASTEUR4OA

Project title: Open Access Policy Alignment STrategies for European Union Research

Funding Scheme: FP7 – CAPACITIES – Science in Society

**Project co-ordinator
Organisation:**   **EKT/NHRF**

E-mail: **tsoukala@ekt.gr**

Project website address: **www.pasteur4oa.eu**

Deliverable No.	2.3
Deliverable Name	Report on progress of Network building and activities
Lead Beneficiary	UMinho
Dissemination Level	PU
Expected Due Date	Month 17 (31/8/2015)
Actual submission date	Month 20 (5/10/2015)

D 2.3 – Report on progress of network building and activities

PASTEUR4OA is an FP7 project funded by the EUROPEAN COMMISSION

This publication reflects only the author's views – the Community is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Document Change Control

Version No	Date of Issue	Author(s)	Brief Description of Change
1.0	07/07/2015	Clara Boavida, Eloy Rodrigues	First version
2.0	07/08/2015	Clara Boavida, Eloy Rodrigues, Mafalda Piçarra	Included section 4 and revised document
3.0	24/09/2015	Marina Angelaki	Revised v.2.0
4.0	29/09/2015	Victoria Tsoukala	Revised version 3.0
4.1	1/10/2015	Eloy Rodrigues, Iryna Kuchma	Comments on version 4.0 with minor changes
4.2	5/10/2015	Marina Angelaki, Victoria Tsoukala	Embedded comments

Abstract:

PASTEUR4OA (Open Access Policy Alignment Strategies for European Union Research) aims to support the European Commission's Recommendation to Member States of July 2012 that they develop and implement policies to ensure Open Access to all outputs from publicly-funded research.

PASTEUR4OA will help develop and/or reinforce Open Access strategies and policies at the national level and facilitate their coordination among all Member States. It will build a network of centres of expertise in Member States that will develop a coordinated and collaborative programme of activities in support of policymaking at the national level under the direction of project partners.

Contents

Introduction

PASTEUR4OA has undertaken the ambitious task of establishing a European network of Open Access expert organizations that will gradually take the form of a Knowledge Net. This objective will be achieved through the identification of expert organizations at member state level (termed Key Node organizations in the framework of the project) and the creation of supportive and productive relations between them in view of working systematically towards the promotion and coordination of aligned open access policies across Europe. Deliverable "***D2.1 Collaboration of networked organizations"*** described the processes that have taken place during the first ten months of the project in identifying the Key Node organizations in Europe (Task 2.1) and in developing a programme of engagement in close consultation and collaboration with them that targets national policy makers (Task 2.2).

This reports focuses on three main streams of activities of the project: First, on bringing together an account of project activities related to the gradual establishment of the European network, which have been presented in detail in other deliverables, namely: the organization of a Europe-wide meeting of national experts (Deliverable D2.2), the deployment of procedures internal to the project to work with Key Nodes from all over Europe (Deliverable D2.1), the scoping of needs and current situation in terms of policies in the various European regions that inform project activities, and project activities and outputs aimed at supporting the work of the network (such as work with ROARMAP and advocacy materials). Second, on providing an account of the activities targeted towards policy development and support across Europe through this nascent network of experts within and outside of the project an activity that continues until the end of it. Finally on providing an account of work performed to help the Knowledge Net materialize by the end of the project.

Setting the foundations for the Knowledge Net and its work

This section describes the initial work of the Key Nodes within the PASTEUR4OA project, as well as the initial assessment of the situation with regard to policy development across Europe that determines the work to be carried-out during the project.
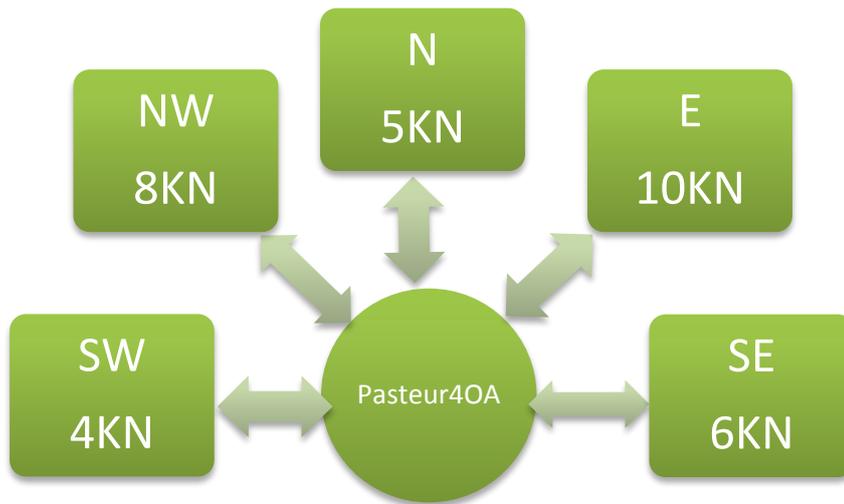
The Key Nodes and structuring the work of the nascent network

The initial step in carrying out project work in policy support, as well as setting the foundations of the Knowledge Net, was to identify expert organizations in each MS and associated countries. This was done early in the project and the process has been described in Deliverable
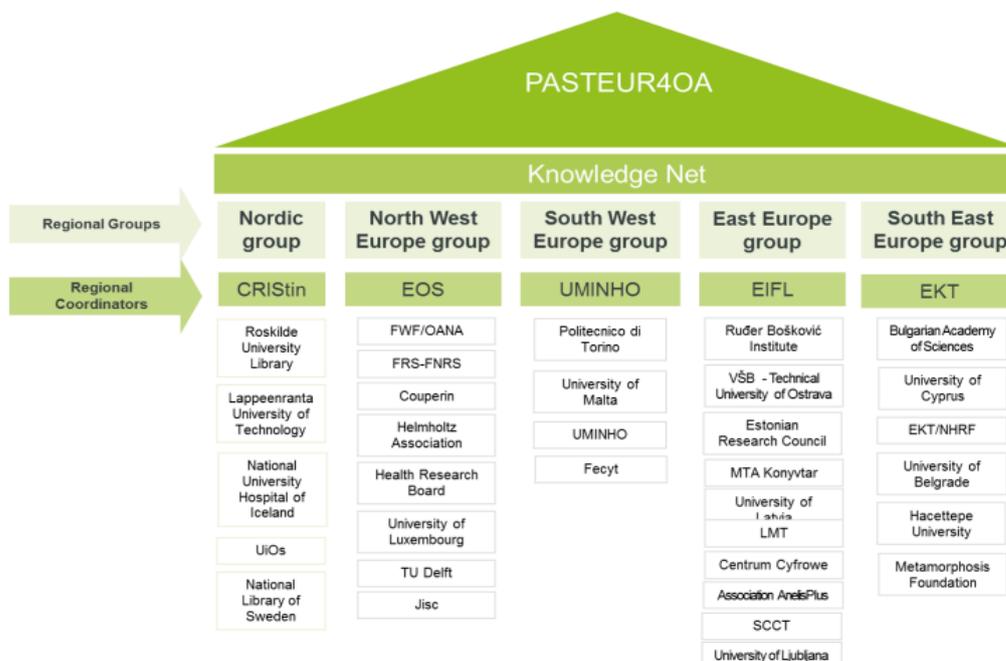
D2.1. It is notable that most of these organizations are already National Open Access Desks (NOADs) for OpenAIRE and have some working relationships amongst themselves and with their policymakers, as well as with the National Points of Reference (NPRs), but their focus thus far has been on policies rather than infrastructures. This fact suggests interesting possibilities for the collaboration between PASTEUR4OA and OpenAIRE, as well as for the potential future workings of the Knowledge Net (cf Appendix 1 for list of Key Nodes organizations across Europe).

In establishing working relationships with and between these organizations, a regional scheme was followed, visually presented in the following image. This reflects the perceived level of development of open access among the various MS at the outset of the project, as well as a rough geographical approach. It allowed for five distinct regional working groups to be formed across Europe (the Nordic, South Eastern, South Western, Eastern and North Western), each coordinated by a PASTEUR4OA partner (called Regional Coordinator in the framework of the project), acting as a liaison between each region and the project.

To enable the workings of the Knowledge Net, i.e. the network, and work that the Key Nodes do with relation to the project during its lifetime, PASTEUR4OA set up detailed procedures regarding the roles of Key Nodes and the Regional Coordinators and reporting of activities for the project. The procedures have, in short, been presented in the former deliverable D2.1. The role of the Key Nodes, also presented in the said deliverable, focuses on engaging policymakers, with the assistance of the project (e.g. direction, suggestions, advocacy materials, consulting) and with minimum requirements the contact with the NPR network and the participation of significant policymakers in the PASTEUR4OA workshops. For the moment, work is mostly carried out within each of the five regional groups and not across regions; this work feeds the project, which, in turn provides resources and direction to them. This is schematically represented in the following diagram.
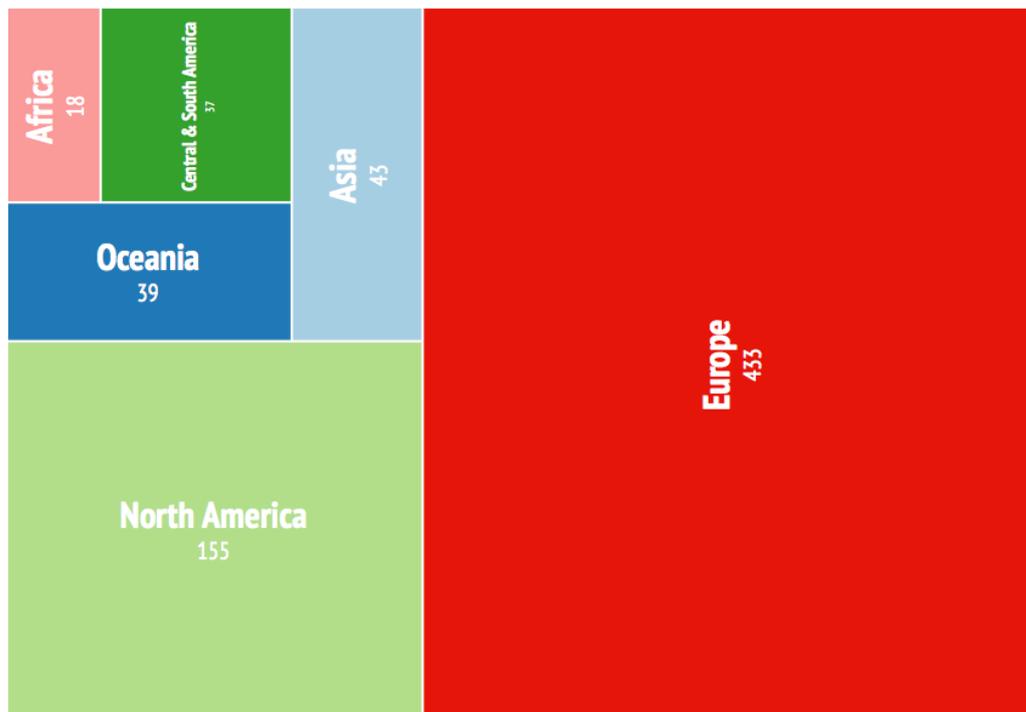
Thus far, the Key Nodes have met and worked together only once, during the meeting in December 2014 in London, described below, in brief. A detailed account of the results of that meeting, whose purpose was to initiate productive working relationships between group members and secure high levels of expertise among them, is provided in deliverable *"D3.1 Synthesis report of Europe-wide project meeting of experts".* The results of these regional challenges and solutions inform the work carried out by project partners with National Key Nodes and, in turn, their engagement with policymakers, the regional activities within the nascent Knowledge Net, and ultimately the orientation of the latter. The following image shows the specific organizations involved as Key Nodes and or Regional coordinators in the nascent Knowledge Net.

	PASTEUR4OA			
	Knowledge Net			
Nordic group	**North West Europe group**	**South West Europe group**	**East Europe group**	**South East Europe group**
CRIStin	EOS	UMINHO	EIFL	EKT
Roskilde University Library	FWF/OANA	Politecnico di Torino	Ruđer Bošković Institute	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Lappeenranta University of Technology	FRS-FNRS	University of Malta	VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava	University of Cyprus
National University Hospital of Iceland	Couperin	UMINHO	Estonian Research Council	EKT/NHRF
UiOs	Helmholtz Association	Fecyt	MTA Konyvtar	University of Belgrade
National Library of Sweden	Health Research Board		University of Latvia	Hacettepe University
	University of Luxembourg		LMT	Metamorphosis Foundation
	TU Delft		Centrum Cyfrowe	
	Jisc		Association AnelisPlus	
			SCCT	
			University of Ljubljana	

Regional Groups →
Regional Coordinators →

Regional challenges and directions for work within the network

As highlighted both during the Europe-wide meeting of experts and in Deliverable "*D3.1 Report on policy recording exercise, including policy typology and effectiveness and a list of further policy maker targets*" Europe is leading the way in relation to Open Access. According to ROARMAP data, where the following visualization derives from, Europe clearly demonstrates higher numbers of policies compared to other continents.

From: http://pasteur4oa-dataviz.okfn.org/worldwide.html

At the same time though, this picture conceals important differences between European countries in relation to the level of development and maturity of Open Access policies with some countries, like the UK, leading the way and others, like Greece, still seeking to raise awareness among the research community and related stakeholders on the benefits of Open Access. A further important factor for policy development is most certainly the availability and integration of infrastructures at the national level, which are a prerequisite for the development of policies. In this respect Europe presents a fragmented picture, as is shown is one of the PASTEUR4OA studies on MS readiness for open access policies.[1]

---

[1] Pablo de Castro, Assessing Readiness for Open Access Policy Implementation in Europe; http://pasteur4oa.eu/sites/pasteur4oa/files/resource/PASTEUR4OA%20EuroCRIS%20Case%20Study.pdf

The London meeting of experts confirmed the general agreement on the fact that *Open Access has low priority within research performing organizations and research funders (with the exception of the Nordic region).* At the same time, the meeting revealed different and additional challenges with respect to open access across the regions. In the case of South-East Europe *low awareness* has been identified as an additional key challenge, while in the case of Eastern Europe *an additional challenge relates to deposit rights and embargo periods* were identified as key challenges. The latter was also the most significant challenge for the Nordic region.

In facilitating the development and/or reinforcement of Open Access policies, PASTEUR4OA takes into account differences at the level of the MS and examines the ways in which a regional approach could be beneficial by highlighting common themes and challenges in each region. In such context, the 2012 European Commission Recommendation and the H2020 framework provide a benchmark against which European policies should be aligned. The regional approach has also been examined in the context of the Knowledge Net and in particular the ways in which the regional diversity should be reflected in the working of the Knowledge Net.

The work undertaken by the project and its associate collaborators, the Key Nodes, confirms the usefulness of adopting a regional approach as countries within each region are faced with similar challenges and are in similar levels of development. The Nordic region (comprising Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland) is among the regions were a significant number of institutions and funders possess Open Access policies. Efforts at this point focus on the development of a policy at national level. Work in this area takes place alongside efforts to strengthen and promote alignment with the European framework, where this is deemed necessary. As highlighted during the London meeting future work in the Nordic region should focus on establishing and maintaining communication channels through which stakeholders will be able to provide facts and indicators, collect success stories, give *evidence-based feedback* to funders and stakeholders to demonstrate that their mandates work, and provide feedback to researchers on increased visibility.

Countries in Eastern and North West Europe are also considered advanced as a significant number of institutions and funders in these two regions have adopted Open Access policies, with the UK leading the way, while progress is also observed in those lacking related policies. Efforts have also been made for the adoption of national-level policies, and in some cases like

in Slovakia, Romania and Slovenia this has been successful. The challenge in this region lies in strengthening effectiveness and promoting alignment. In the case of Eastern Europe, participants at the London meeting also explored the use of different tools such as CRIS systems, the H2020 framework as a way to encourage the development of local policies, the education of researchers and the introduction of changes in research assessment procedures like the ones already introduced in the region.

In South-West Europe (comprising Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta) research institutions and research funders have already adopted Open Access policies, while Malta is currently in the process of developing an institutional policy with the support of project and subsequently, a national policy. As a significant number of institutions and their funders in these countries have recently adopted their policies, the focus of PASTEUR4OA is on strengthening existing policies and ensuring their alignment with the European framework.

South-East Europe (comprising Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Bulgaria, FYROM and Serbia) is characterized by the absence of Open Access policies. The project priorities thus lie in raising awareness with policy makers and potentially exploring the ways in which the European framework and the H2020 in particular could be used as a tool not only for raising-awareness but more importantly as a driver for the adoption of Open Access policies through lesson-drawing from more advanced countries. Finally, the project will provide advocacy and information materials tailored to their needs in the effort to assist policy development (e.g. guidelines, policy templates etc.).

Enabling policy support by the project and Key Nodes

To enable the work of the Key Nodes, a major activity of the project has been directed towards doing research and preparing advocacy materials to be used by the Key Nodes and other advocates in policymaker engagement and for policymakers themselves. Specifically the project embarked on the following related activities, summed up here:

- Revising ROARMAP content in order to have the correct numbers of policies
- Revamping the ROARMAP tool by revising its documentation scheme
- Developing visualizations on the basis of the ROARMAP data
- Performing a study on policy effectiveness, based on the data from ROARMAP[2]

---

[2] The aforementioned activities have been reported in deliverable D3.1.

Another important ongoing activity focuses on the development of advocacy and other information materials for the work of the Key Nodes and for the benefit of policymakers (part of WP4), which inform the work of the project from now on. The following materials were prepared by the end of September 2015, as planned by project partners and/or at the request by Key Nodes to address national needs. The project has already developed some of these and will be developing additional ones for the duration of it (accessible at http://pasteur4oa.eu/resources). They comprise policy guidelines for policy development processes and policy templates for funders and institutions; national case studies; funder case studies; thematic resources; briefing papers; model presentations. An effort has been made to highlight good case studies and practices and provide information that illuminates processes, for the benefits of MS during policy development.

Major themes in PASTEUR4OA policy-support work

PASTEUR4OA's work to develop a network of centres of expertise – the Knowledge Net – and facilitate engagement with national policymakers to promote OA policy development and implementation in alignment with the EC's recommendations and the H2020 OA has demonstrated that European countries are at different stages of progress towards OA policy adoption. The work of the project on policy support and policymaker engagement through partners and/or Key Nodes in the various regions can be broadly classified along the following three lines of activity, which roughly correspond to the needs for work in different regions, and reflects different levels of development:

- Stimulating discussions about OA policy making (countries where awareness is being raised about OA)
- Providing support towards the development of OA policies (countries where OA policies are being developed)
- Revising, reinforcing and aligning of existing OA policies (countries where OA policies already exist).

Stimulating discussions about Open Access policy

In the vast majority of EU Member States and neighboring countries, PASTEUR4OA regional coordinators and Key Nodes have been engaged in stimulating discussions about OA and

policy development at the national, institutional and/or funder levels, approaching NPRs and other policymakers in their countries. This is the case not only in countries with no OA policies (for instance in Bulgaria and Serbia) but also in countries where a number of OA policies already exist (for instance in Denmark or the UK). Nonetheless, the focus of discussions may be different in the various MS, according to national and regional developments and needs.

In countries such as Greece, Cyprus, FYROM, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, France and Poland an emphasis is placed in stimulating discussions for OA policy development at the national, funder and institutional levels. In countries such as Hungary, Czech Republic, Ireland and Austria an emphasis is placed in stimulating discussions for OA policy development in universities and research institutes. As the total numbers of OA policies adopted in European countries are still low compared to the number of public and private research funders and the number of universities and research institutes that exist across the continent, further action is considered necessary. This also highlights the need to take into consideration the factors that inhibit the development of related policies which are in turn associated with issues like the low priority of OA in governments' agendas and priorities, the lack of financial resources and resistance to change.

In such context, the PASTEUR4OA project partners, the RCs and the Key Nodes have been working towards promoting more OA-friendly environments across Europe. In particular, PASTEUR4OA has been providing Key Nodes with advocacy materials, tailored resources and advice that can contribute to stimulate discussions on OA and that can lead towards OA policy development. PASTEUR4OA partners and Key Nodes have also been delivering presentations in their countries and elsewhere in Europe on PASTEUR4OA's role and contribution towards policy making. Furthermore, PASTEUR4OA is organizing a series of regional workshops for research funders and for institutions, which will bring the importance of OA policy making to the centre of these stakeholders agendas, but at the same time will be geared towards their regional needs.

Supporting Open Access policy development-new policies
Across Europe some national, institutional or research funder stakeholders are recently going through the process of developing OA policies. In numerous cases, PASTEUR4OA project partners and the Key Nodes are involved in the early stages of providing content or contributing to the writing of draft OA policies (e.g. Norway, Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Malta among others). In other cases, project partners have been involved in

providing advice and feedback on the draft OA policies, in particular through the Key Nodes. In this way, the project has been contributing to policy development in two ways: through direct project engagement and/or through advice/support to the Key Nodes in policy development and support across Europe. The ability to reach to the policymakers is a combination of existing direct relationships with policymakers by partners and of the development of solid relations between the partners and the Key Nodes during the project. The following paragraphs summarize the internal and detailed reporting of activities by the project partners and/or Key Nodes on their work to support the development of new policies:

In the **Nordic Region,** in Sweden and Norway in particular national OA policies are being developed, and PASTEUR4OA is contributing to their development. In Norway, the RC (CRIStin) was consulted by the Ministry of Research and Education to propose a national OA policy. In Sweden, the Key Node, which is external to the project (the National Library of Sweden), and the RC (CRIStin) were consulted during the processes involving the writing of the OA policy proposal and in providing feedback on the policy.

In the **South East Region,** a region where policies are rather scarce, project partners and Key Nodes have been rigorously involved in supporting the development of new policies, which entails awareness-raising and advocacy, as well as very specific assistance as necessary. In Greece, the RC (EKT) prepared a policy template and guidelines for its mother-institution NHRF, which was discussed during a meeting of NHRF's Board of Directors in May 2015, and forwarded the policy template to the Cypriot Key Node for use in Cyprus. Further work in Greece in the coming months will involve discussing with research institutions and funders at the national level about developing shared policies based on the work of the project, including the adoption of the exact same policy, as prepared by PASTEUR4OA. In Serbia and Cyprus, the RC (EKT) has also provided OA policy templates and guidelines for research funders as well as an OA policy template for institutions to the University of Cyprus. EKT has also worked on providing guidelines for implementing the policies, which are to be further expounded upon by the end of the project. In Turkey, Hacettepe University (Key Node) has prepared a draft OA policy to be used by universities. This document has been revised by the RC (EKT) and it has now been distributed to the Higher Education Council and to universities.

The **East European Region** is represented by the local network of ten countries with very rich activities, also under the auspices of EIFL. In Hungary, two universities have adopted OA policies in 2015 and the Key Node (MTA) has provided resources, information and advice on

the making of the policy. In Slovakia, a national OA policy has been adopted through the Open Government Partnership Initiative, on which project partners have provided advice[3]. This initiative provides an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. The adoption of this policy in Slovakia and Romania is likely to result, jointly with the Key Nodes' contributions towards promoting policy development and engagement with relevant stakeholders, in further activities to promote aligned policy development and implementation. In Croatia, the Ruđer Bošković Institute adopted the first OA mandate in the country in 2015[4]. The RC (EIFL) provided recommendations on the OA policy wording and the NW regional coordinator (EOS) delivered a presentation on OA policymaking and good practice at a meeting hosted by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport in December 2014. Slovenia's Government has recently approved a national strategy on open access to scientific publications and research data; the Key Node was involved in writing the policy, and the RC (EIFL) submitted feedback on the policy in a public consultation.

In the **North West region**, numerous countries already do possess policies at the national and institutional level. In Belgium, a national OA policy for Belgium's cultural heritage sector has been developed with the support from the Key Node (FRS-FNRS) and has been revised by the RC (EOS). In Luxembourg, the national research funder OA policy is being developed. The Key Node (University of Luxembourg) has been contributing to the writing of the policy as well as the RC (EOS) who has advised the funder on the wording of the policy which should be fully aligned with the H2020 OA policy.

In the **South West** region Spain, Portugal and Italy are characterized by existing national and/or funder policies on open access, and the focus is on their implementation. Additionally, current project work shows that in Italy, a country with considerable infrastructures for open access and research measurement (CRIS systems), work will be directed towards the universities in the coming months. On the other hand, Malta does not have OA policies. The University of Malta (Key Node) has nonetheless recently drafted an institutional OA policy and the Regional Coordinator (UMINHO) has provided information and resources on policymaker engagement, as well as advice during the stages of drafting and revision of the policy. Once

---

[3] OA policy and Open Government Partnership Initiative (http://eifl.net/blogs/oa-policy-and-open-government-partnership-initiative)
[4] Ruđer Bošković Institute adopts Open Access Mandate (https://blogs.openaire.eu/?p=177)

the University of Malta's OA policy is adopted, this policy model will be used to inform the drafting of the national OA policy.

Promoting an effective implementation, revision and alignment of Open Access policies

The Nordic, SWE and NWE regions are the ones where more OA policies have been implemented at the national, institutional or funder levels. In some countries, new policies have been recently adopted: for instance, the Portuguese national funder OA policy and the first Croatian institutional OA policy. In these cases, RCs and Key Nodes have been closely following developments on the implementation of these policies and providing support to policymakers to ensure an effective implementation of the policies. Issues of interest in implementing policies which the project aims to assist with are issues concerning the monitoring processes for open access, and information and strategies on embargoes, APCs, and similar practical issues.

Key Nodes and RCs have also been engaged in discussing the scope for OA policies that are out-of-date to be revised as well as in promoting the reinforcement and effectiveness of OA policies more recently adopted. PASTEUR4OA research shows that despite the existence of OA policies at the national, institutional and funder levels, these policies are not always effective. In theory, in some cases legislation on OA exists but in practice there are no mechanisms to promote compliance with the respective policies. In countries like Italy, and Portugal reference is made to the need to revise and reinforce the existing institutional OA policies. It is likely that in a significant number of NWE and Nordic countries, some of the existing OA policies also need to be further revised and reinforced, such as for example in Nordic universities with older policies in the shape of recommendations.

Policy alignment is another key issue on the OA policy landscape. The existence of multiple and often contradictory OA policies at the institutional and funder levels that researchers are required to comply with, create numerous challenges in the effective compliance with them: for instance, in cases where researchers need to comply with multiple funders OA policies or with a funder and an institutional OA policy. Such a complex OA policy landscape is mostly observed in NWE and Nordic countries. It is in countries where more OA policies exist where significant divergences between OA policies are found. PASTEUR4OA shows the way to overcome this barrier by advocating policy alignment through the use of the European framework as a key tool in this effort. Challenges in promoting the effective implementation,

revision and reinforcement, as well as alignment of OA policies often relate to issues previously referred: lack of information, support and financial resources are the major factors. To address these issues, PASTEUR4OA has been developing a number of advocacy materials that will support policy makers. RCs and Key Nodes will engage in re-emphasising the need to promote the effective implementation, revision and reinforcement of existing policies, and the benefits for promoting OA policy alignment at the regional workshops for funders and for institutions.

Conclusions and Future Work

As understood at the outset of the project and in its activities thus far, in countries without policies, important challenges in supporting the development of OA policies (other than low political priority) are often centered on the lack of materials (guidance, templates) and processes involved in making effective OA policies, on the lack of awareness about the implications of policies wording, on the lack of knowledge about the required infrastructure that are linked to the implementation of OA policies, and on the lack of information on the processes relating to OA policy development in other European countries that could inform best practices in the cases where new OA policies are being drafted. In the flip side, countries with existing policies may need more assistance in understanding what mechanisms are necessary to monitor these policies, and understanding policy details and implications with respect to issues such as, embargoes, APCs etc. The project strives to address both levels of needs, through the advocacy materials and the continuous contact with Key Nodes and policymakers.

In sum, PASTEUR4OA has been directly contributing to inform a more effective policy development process in the cases where it is advising on the writing of OA policies as well as on the revision of OA policies via the RCs and the Key Nodes. This level of engagement is often promoted at a more direct level through meetings with policymakers or through meetings with the working groups drafting the policies. Nonetheless, PASTEUR4OA project partners have also been providing feedback on OA policies through public consultations. By developing a number of advocacy materials that are targeted towards supporting policymakers in the development of OA policies which will become available for use from September 2015, PASTEUR4OA envisages that a substantial number of stakeholders will use these resources to inform the development and effective implementation of OA policies. PASTEUR4OA will also ensure that these resources are disseminated widely across Europe so that policymakers can

have a strong basis of knowledge that informs them about OA policy making. Ultimately, PASTEUR4OA will host a series of regional workshops with participants from research funders and institutions where information and resources on OA policy development will be disseminated and discussed with the respective policymakers.

In terms of policy development, policies that are currently being drafted are expected to be soon adopted as national mandates. The most promising cases are: 1) Malta, where the Key Node is developing an institutional OA policy which will serve as a basis for the development of the national OA policies; 2) Serbia, where the Key Node is preparing a draft policy to be presented to the Ministry; 3) Norway, where the Key Node was consulted by the Ministry of Research and Education to propose a national OA policy; 4) Sweden, where the Key Node has been consulted during the process of writing the national OA policy proposal; 5) Estonia and Lithuania, where the Key Nodes (National Research Councils) are drafting their OA and open data policy; 6) Belgium, where a national OA policy proposal has being discussed with the NWE RC and with the Key Node; and 7) Luxembourg, where the national funder OA policy is being developed and where the Key Node and the RC have been consulted to provide feedback on the draft document. 8) Cyprus, where the PASTEUR4OA RC (EKT) has provided consistent advice to both funders and research institutions and is in touch with them with respect to the development of a national policy.

At the institutional level, it is mainly in the SEE countries (with the exception of Turkey) where the first steps are being taken towards OA policy implementation. In Cyprus and Turkey efforts were made to provide policy templates to be used for institutions. Apart from this, the OA Policy and Open Government Partnership Initiative[5] can also be advantageous for policy development in SEE countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia. This is also be the case in some EE countries such as Slovakia and Romania. EE countries have already achieved good levels of OA awareness and demonstrated good results at the national level. Some of the successful examples include Hungary, Croatia, and Latvia.

In terms of OA policy alignment European countries are at different stages of progress. For countries with high levels of OA policy implementation, the priority in the next few months will be to engage with policymakers, disseminate advocacy materials and deliver regional

---

[5] OA Policy and Open Government Partnership Initiative http://www.eifl.net/blogs/oa-policy-and-open-government-partnership-initiative

workshops for funders and institutions which raise the awareness, among other, to the benefits of promoting the alignment of existing OA policies. This seems to be an important step toward an effective alignment with the EC's recommendations and the H2020 OA. It is mainly in NWE and the Nordic regions where an evaluation of the existing OA policies is needed to determine in which cases OA policies are already aligned and where further work in promoting policy alignment is required. Similarly, the existing institutional and funders OA policies in some of the SWE and EE countries need to be revised and strengthened to ensure that they remain effective and guarantee that an increasing amount of scientific information is made available on open access.

The Knowledge Net

The establishment of regular contact with the Key Node organizations has set the foundations for the gradual development of the Knowledge Net, a core output of the PASTEUR4OA project. The Knowledge Net, as described in the DoW, will be a semi-formal collaborative network that will continue to pursue shared aims after the end of the project.

The Knowledge Net will be officially launched towards the end of the project, at the project final conference. During the period covered by this report, efforts have focused on exchanging views with Key Nodes and agreeing on its mission (a task that has taken place primarily during the Europe-wide meeting of experts in London) and on identifying the core issues that will form the basis of discussions during the next period. The latter have been identified as central for the establishment and the subsequent operation of the Knowledge Net.

In relation to the Knowledge Net's mission, the Europe-wide meeting of experts offered a unique opportunity to reflect and exchange ideas. On the basis of this process, the Knowledge Net's mission is "to promote Open Access policy development in Europe in alignment with the European Commission Recommendation (2012) on access to and preservation of scientific information and the Horizon 2020 framework through engagement with national policy makers". The Knowledge Net is envisioned as a network of national expert organizations that will be dedicated to advocacy and on expounding knowledge and instruction on open access and open science policy. It will help coordinate and align MS open access policies and facilitate policies on open science. It will, further, be a venue through which to exchange information and build research on policy developments regarding open access and open science in Europe.

The monthly skype calls and the mid-term meeting that took place in Brussels offered the opportunity to discuss further other more operational aspects of the Knowledge Net, on which the project is working systematically in various versions of an internal working paper which documents the process adopted by the project and will be incorporated in the final project deliverable. These operational aspects include its future legal status (organization or programme), its governance structure, its funding mechanism and its long-term financial sustainability, membership criteria, the range and character of activities undertaken by it. The process has been assisted by examining specific other examples of networks, such as the Knowledge Exchange, a cooperative effort that supports the use and development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) infrastructure for higher education and research. Knowledge Exchange has provided detailed information to the project regarding its

operational and other workings. While final decisions have not been made, a number of alternatives have been identified and are being explored; it is becoming clear that a new legal entity of European remit focusing exclusively on open access policies is not necessary at this moment, while it may be preferable to explore the idea of embedding this specific type of work on policy within an appropriate already existing initiative in which most key national stakeholders are already involved. Important relevant initiatives and/or organizations are OpenAIRE and LIBER. In the following months the project will focus on examining their operations and establishing relevant contacts, while, in another line of work, each Regional group will internally discuss the possibilities of the Knowledge Net to assess and leverage support.

Another issue that the project turns its focus on as work on the Knowledge Net intensifies, will be the integration of the regional character of groups working separately and together, as developed through the project. As confirmed during the Europe-wide meeting *(cf. Deliverable D2.3 Synthesis Report of Europe-wide project meeting of experts)* and as discussed in the previous sections of the current report different regions are faced with different challenges and are in different stages in relation to policy development. This will require moving beyond a-one-size-fits-all approach in promoting Open Access policies at member state level and this will in turn have to be acknowledged during the operation of the Knowledge Net, considering the fruitful operation of these regional groupings thus far. At the same time, more emphasis will have to be placed to the systematic collaboration across regions in such ways that work carried out in one may benefit the others.

Work during the following months will focus on deciding on the basic characteristics of the Knowledge Net. A group has been assigned with this task. Group members include UMinho, Jisc, EOS and EKT. The proposed structure will be further developed in a Report (a draft version was presented during the project's Mid-Term meeting) and presented to project partners for comments and further refinement.

Appendix 1

List of Key Nodes and Project Partners who are COAR, SPARC-Europe and/or Knowledge Exchange members:

Region	Country	Organisation
Nordic	Denmark	Roskilde University Library
Nordic	Finland	Lappeenranta University of Technology
Nordic	Iceland	Landspítali, National University Hospital of Iceland
Nordic	Sweden	National Library of Sweden
Nordic	Norway	University of Oslo (project partner)
E Europe	Croatia	Ruđer Bošković Institute
E Europe	Czech Republic	VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava
E Europe	Estonia	Estonian Research Council
E Europe	Hungary	MTA Konyvtar (project partner)
E Europe	Latvia	University of Latvia
E Europe	Lithuania	LMT - Lietuvos mokslo taryba (project partner)
E Europe	Poland	Centrum Cyfrowe
E Europe	Romania	Association AnelisPlus
E Europe	Slovakia	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
E Europe	Slovenia	University of Ljubljana
E Europe		EIFL (project partner)
SE Europe	Bulgaria	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
SE Europe	Cyprus	University of Cyprus
SE Europe	Greece	EKT/NHRF (project partner)
SE Europe	Montenegro	-
SE Europe	Serbia	University of Belgrade
SE Europe	Turkey	Hacettepe Universitesi (project partner)
SE Europe	Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Metamorphosis Foundation
SE Europe	Albania	-
SE Europe	Bosnia and Herzegovina	-
SE Europe	Kosovo	-
NW Europe	Austria	FWF - Fonds zur Förderung der issenschaftlichen Forschung
NW Europe	Belgium	FRS-FNRS (project partner)
NW Europe	France	Couperin
NW Europe	Germany	Helmholtz Association
NW Europe	Ireland	HRB - Health Research Board
NW Europe	Luxembourg	University of Luxembourg
NW Europe	Netherlands	TU Delft
NW Europe	United Kingdom	JISC (project partner)
NW Europe	Switzerland	-
SW Europe	Italy	Politecnico di Torino (project partner)
SW Europe	Malta	University of Malta
SW Europe	Portugal	University of Minho (project partner)
SW Europe	Spain	Fecyt - Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología
		EOS (project partner)
		EuroCRIS (project partner)
		SPARC-Europe (project partner)
		LIBER (project partner)
		OKF (project partner)