



SE Europe Regional Workshop for research institution policymakers

“Working together to promote policy alignment in Europe”

Host institution/Location: EKT/NHRF, Athens

Date: 3 November 2015

Countries represented: Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Serbia, Bulgaria, FYROM

EKT organized on November 3rd, 2015 the first South-East Europe Workshop. The Workshop brought together a total of 33 policymakers from research performing organizations from Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia and FYROM, a group of countries where institutional Open Access policies are at a nascent stage (Turkey being an exception). The aim of the workshop was to acquaint participants with the concept of Open Access and the European context (the 2012 European Commission Recommendation and the Horizon 2020 framework), and discuss the elements that make an institutional policy effective. The Regional Coordinator’s presentations, along with those of the Key Nodes on the Open Access situation in their respective countries stimulated a lively discussion among participants, allowing them to share their common concerns and their views on the best strategy for the adoption of Open Access policies in alignment with the Horizon 2020 framework. Discussion on common solutions was facilitated by the presentation of the results of the East-Europe workshop and that on the University of Minho’s institutional policy as it was agreed that important lessons could be drawn from the experiences of other regions.

A major focus of the workshop was the presentation and discussion of the elements that make an effective institutional policy. On the basis of [research](#) conducted by PASTEUR4OA effective policies are mandatory ones, deposit cannot be waived and deposit should be linked to research evaluation. While the policy content and the wording is important, additional aspects were also discussed such as –among others- the need for training of both researchers and librarians, the necessary supporting e-infrastructure (i.e. repository), the development of monitoring and compliance systems. To support the work of policy makers in the adoption of Open Access policies aligned with the Horizon 2020 framework, the workshop concluded with the presentation of the [advocacy materials](#) developed by PASTEUR4OA and the ways they can benefit from them through a focus on those most relevant to the stakeholders of our region. Overall, there was agreement on the low level of awareness on Open Access policies in the region and the low level of political commitments and its effects on the adoption of related policies. Nonetheless, funders will very soon include open access clauses in their grant agreements which in turn will affect institutional policies and practices.

A significant number of workshop participants expressed their interest in keeping active communication channels between them. On the basis of this suggestion, the Regional Coordinator is examining the possibility of organizing skype calls, in addition to those held with SE Europe Key Nodes. In countries like Greece, Cyprus, and Serbia a strong communication channel has been developed over the past year, as a number of institutions are in the process of developing institutional Open Access policies. Their effort has been supported both by the Regional Coordinator and the Key Nodes in a variety of ways: provision of policy templates, feedback in draft policies, provision of other supporting material (pasteur4oa advocacy resources), and participation in national meetings.