**European Funders Announce “Plan S” for Open Access**

**September 2018:**

A group of 10 European research funders, supported by the European Commission and the European Research Council released plans to mandate a move to full, immediate Open Access for all of their funded research articles by January 1, 2020.

Citing the detrimental effects of paywalls on the progress of science, a new document, “Plan S,” calls for “research publications that are generated through research grants to be made fully and immediately open.”

The "Plan S" document (<https://www.scienceeurope.org/coalition-s/>) lays out a set of principles to achieve this aggressive goal, including:

\*All articles funded by public grants must be published in OA journals or made available on OA platforms.
\*Access must be immediate – no allowable embargo periods
\*Authors retain their copyright, and articles must carry an open licenses (preferably CC BY)
\*Where publication fees apply, they will be standardized and capped across Europe
\*“Hybrid” journals are NOT considered an allowable venue for publication
\*Funders will monitor compliance and sanction non-compliance.

This a bold move that will undoubtably be helpful in generating momentum towards full OA policies worldwide.  Of course, as with any policy, the implementation details will be critically important. In particular, we will want to work to ensure that Open Access repositories receive strong support as a compliance solution, in order to ensure equity for researchers in institutions and countries where an APC-centric model of OA will not work.  These details are currently under development, with the funders forming a new working group, called “cOAlition-s” to oversee this task.

Our colleague, Vanessa Proudman at SPARC EU is working on a more detailed analysis of this development, and we will share that with you as soon as it is completed - likely early tomorrow morning. As ever, don’t hesitate to contact us directly in the SPARC office if you have any immediate questions or comments!

Comments from:

Heather Joseph
Executive Director, SPARC
heather@sparcopen.org

**Additional comments:**

A link to Peter Suber’s comments is below.

Peter Suber is Director of the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication (based in the Harvard Library) and Director of the Harvard Open Access Project (based in the Berkman Klein Center) [bit.ly/petersuber](http://bit.ly/petersuber)

[https://plus.google.com/u/0/+PeterSuber/posts/iGEFpdYY9dr](https://plus.google.com/u/0/%2BPeterSuber/posts/iGEFpdYY9dr)

Donna Okubo from PLOS sent **a “Perspective” that was published in both**[**PLOS Biology**](https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000031)**and**[**PLOS Medicine**](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002663)**.**