

# **BRUSSELS DECLARATION ON OPEN ACCESS**

## *to Belgian publicly funded research*

By signing the Berlin Declaration on Open Access in 2007, Belgian research institutions and research funders agreed to support the dissemination of publicly funded scientific research through Open Access.

Open Access to scientific research offers stakeholders an alternative for traditional ways of disseminating scientific research results, which do not always meet the demands of stakeholders.

Free, online access is the most effective way to ensure widespread and democratic consultation and usage of publicly funded research results. During the last years, research results available in Open Access gained considerable visibility internationally, which proves beneficial to individual authors, institutions and funders.

Open Access can be achieved in two nonexclusive ways, each having their own merits: by deposition in a digital open access repository or through Open Access publishing.

Open Access policies do not affect the author's freedom to choose where to publish, nor do they interfere with patenting or other forms of commercial exploitation.

Brussels Declaration signatories commit to maximizing free availability of publicly funded research results, by :

- actively informing researchers about Open Access
- asking researchers to make the published output of their publicly funded research freely available in Open Access, either through a publication in an Open Access journal or by depositing a peer reviewed version of their paper in an Open Access repository at hand, preferably immediately and in any case no later than 6 or 12 months (depending on the scientific discipline) after the date of publication
- investigating the possibility of public authorities covering the costs of Open Access publishing
- supporting the creation and the maintenance of Open Access repositories and other innovative digital

infrastructures for facilitating scientific communication

- investigating possibilities and new opportunities in the broad Open Access field, all in frequent collaboration with relevant stakeholders, considering Open Access to scientific publications a forerunner of new initiatives in the 'Open Data' and 'Open Science' areas.

By actively stimulating free and online access to scientific research results, \*signatories\* subscribe to a principle that has acquired broad support on international level. This support has been demonstrated both by recent statements by top researchers, and by Open Access policies launched by influential funders such as the European Commission, the World Bank, CERN, the UK Wellcome Trust and the US National Institutes of Health.

By signing this declaration \*signatories\* declare Open Access to be the default infrastructure for dissemination of Belgian scientific research results and express their determination to be amongst the frontrunners in this evolution, both at European and worldwide level.

Signed on October 22nd 2012, in Brussels