

SUPPORT

for the

Proposal for the revision of the Directive 2003/98/EC on the reuse of public sector information

9 October 2018

The following representatives of the library and research communities in principle support this proposal: DCC, EBLIDA, IFLA, and SPARC Europe.

We support this Directive since it provides for harmonised structures to enable increased access to public sector data for re-use across a range of domains and sectors. It thereby improves conditions for enhanced cross-border innovation.

We specifically support the two specifications made in Article 10 on the *Availability and re-use of research data* although we propose some important amendments to the 2 paragraphs and to 3 recitals. Most notably, we appeal for all majoritarily publicly-funded research data to be made open by default, and as closed as necessary with any restrictions subject to justification.

We support them for the following 6 reasons:

1. It aligns with current European Open Access and Open Science policy by mandating Member States to further develop national policy on open access to publicly funded research data. This new legislation thereby helps deliver on Open Science policy and implementation goals when it comes to public sector information providing the conditions to increase the access and re-use of research data.
2. It specifically addresses increasing access to a range of data including real-time dynamic data, high-value public data from public undertakings, research performing organisations and research funding organisations, which will increase the ROI and value of this information for research, industry and society.
3. It represents a major potential saving to public research budgets in terms of avoiding unnecessary replication of research, and ensures that the public funding of research has maximum potential impact on innovation and growth.
4. It improves research accountability and enables improving the integrity of the scientific and scholarly record. Through more access to research data, this increases transparency, helps confirm results and checks for validity more easily, thereby promoting good scientific practice, ultimately contributing to the quality of research.
5. Improving access to research will help accelerate the pace of discovery and will help ensure that we do not miss scientific breakthroughs.
6. It recognises the importance of research repositories as essential infrastructure in the research data management workflow as does it support the development of tools and services underpinning Open Science and initiatives such as the European Open Science Cloud.

We do still have some important amendments to suggest,
which can be downloaded here: <https://sparceurope.org/download/3391>