



# From Green to Gold and back? Adventures and (re)routings on the way to full Open Access

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wien

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# Overview

- Background and research project
- Full Open Access – A long desire for transition
- Open Access targets in Europe
- An APC-model for all? Some counter-narratives
- Strategies for Gold Open Access future
- Final remarks
- Discussion & comments



# Background and research project

Doctoral research project in the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) at the University of Vienna, Austria (Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrike Felt)

“Of hopes, villains and Trojan horses – Open Access academic publishing and its battlefields”  
(working title)

Research questions:

How is Open Access academic publishing re-ordering the science system?

- › What expectations towards the science system are expressed through the shift to Open Access academic publishing?
- › How is Open Access imagined by different actors?
- › How does Open Access affect actual publication practices?

Full research proposal is available online in e-LIS repository at <http://hdl.handle.net/10760/29265>



# Full Open Access – A long desire for transition

Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) declaration:

*“An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment, for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds.”* - Budapest Open Access Initiative, February 2002



# Full Open Access – A long desire for transition (cont.)

Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) declaration:

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*“While we endorse the two strategies just outlined [self-archiving and open access journals], we also encourage experimentation with further ways to make the transition from the present methods of dissemination to open access. Flexibility, experimentation, and adaptation to local circumstances are the best ways to assure that progress in diverse settings will be rapid, secure, and long-lived.”* - ibid.



# Full Open Access – A long desire for transition (cont.)

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March 2016

## The problem

“The transition towards open access has been a lengthy process thus far, resulting in a lack of clarity for all parties involved and increased costs.” (p. 30)

## The solution

“[To] Reinforce and align open access strategies and policies at the national level and facilitate their coordination among all Member States. <...>

[To] Formulate a clear pan-European target: from 2020 all new publications are available through open access from the date of publication.” (ibid.)

May 2016



Council of the  
European Union

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	8791/16 RECH 133 TELECOM 74
Subject:	The transition towards an Open Science system - Council conclusions (adopted on 27/05/2016)



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12<sup>th</sup> Munin Conference  
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# Open Access targets in Europe [snapshot in 2016]

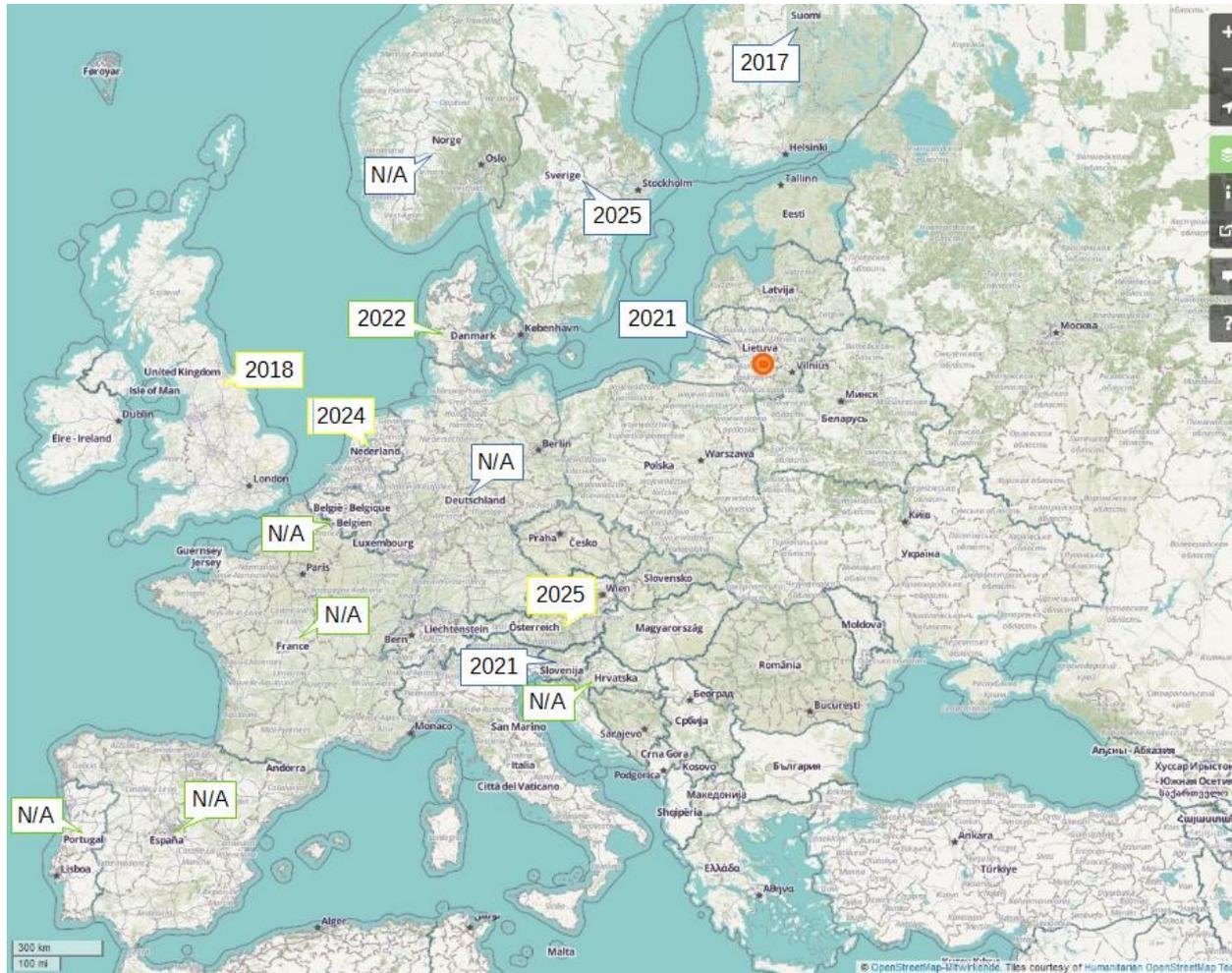


Image source: [openstreetmap.org](http://openstreetmap.org) licensed under Open Database License (ODbL)

Expected target year for full Open Access, if any

Expressed preference for Green Open Access

Expressed preference for Gold Open Access

*Building on Open Access / Science roadmaps, strategies, recommendations and/or policies of respective Research Councils.*

See also:

Kita, J.-C., Duchange, N., & Ponsati, A. (2016). *Open Access Publishing Policies in Science Europe Member Organisations: Key Results from Science Europe and Global Research Council Surveys*. [D/2016/13.324/8](https://doi.org/10.2790/13.324/8).

# Open Access targets in Europe (cont.)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

12 AGREES to further promote the mainstreaming of open access to scientific publications by continuing to support a transition to immediate open access as the default by 2020, using the various models possible and in a cost-effective way, without embargoes or with as short as possible embargoes, and without financial and legal barriers, taking into account the diversity in research systems and disciplines, and that open access to scientific publications should be achieved in full observance of the principle that no researcher should be prevented from publishing; INVITES the Commission, Member States and relevant stakeholders, including research funding organisations, to catalyse this transition; and STRESSES the importance of clarity in scientific publishing agreements. [emphasis added]

Council of the European Union. (27 May 2016). *Council Conclusions on the Transition Towards an Open Science System*. 9526/16 RECH 208 TELECOM 100. Brussels. (p. 8)



# An APC-model for all? Some counter-narratives

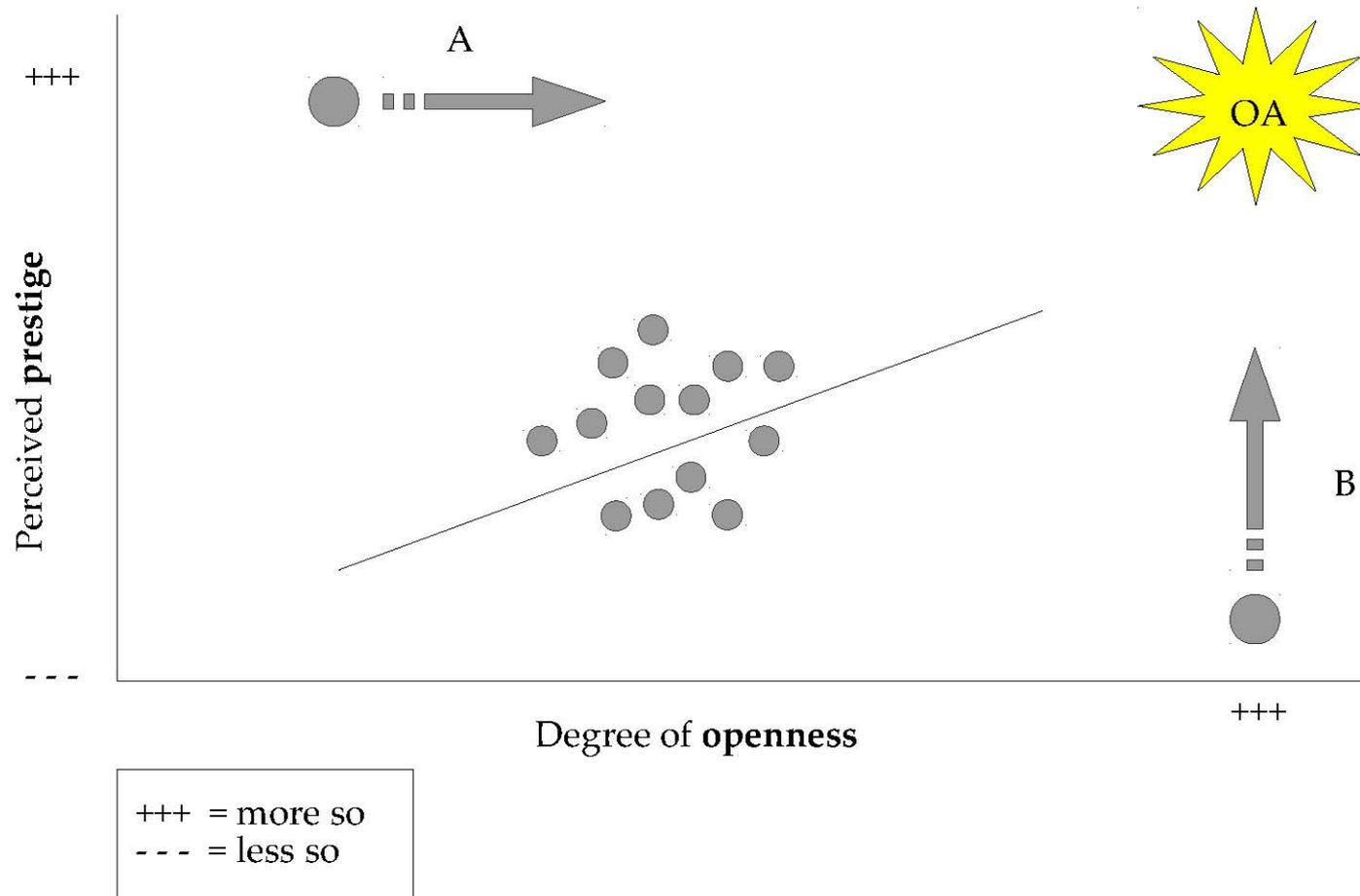
“The EMS [European Mathematical Society] endorses the general principle of allowing free reading access to scientific results and declares that in all circumstances, the publishing of an article should remain independent of the economic situation of its authors. We therefore do not support any publishing models where the author is required to pay charges (APC).” - *EMS Newsletter*, June 2013

“We aim to challenge the limitations of one important facet of the OA publishing model, the author-pays model. The Gold standard only works for all if there are no author fees or if the author has the “gold” that it requires. However, this condition excludes the majority of the world’s scholars from publishing in OA journals.” - Bonaccorso et al., *Bottlenecks in the Open-Access System* (2014)

“Authors will be unable to publish once limited funds have been exhausted. Such a system will need to support researchers who cannot pay APCs – to avoid further skewing a scholarly publishing system that is already biased against the research undertaken in certain disciplines and countries.” - *Joint COAR-UNESCO Statement on Open Access*, May 2016



# Strategies for Gold Open Access future



Scenario A: “flipping” established subscription journals to OA (~ a “technical” shift)

Scenario B: increasing reputation of new OA journals (~ a “cultural” shift)

# Final remarks

- “Open” = ?
  - “Notions of openness are increasingly visible in a great number of political developments, from activist groups, software projects, political writings and the institutions of government. And yet, there has been very little reflection on what openness means, how it functions, or how seemingly radically different groups can all claim it as their own. Openness, it seems, is beyond disagreement and beyond scrutiny.” - Nathaniel Tkacz, *From Open Source to Open Government: A Critique of Open Politics* (2012)



# Final remarks (cont.)

- “Open” = ?
- Transitioning by whom and for whom?
  - “Latin America is not in an Open Access transition, it has always been in Open Access.” - Arianna Becerril García (Redalyc-UAEMex), at PKP 2017 Conference, Montréal, August 2017



# Final remarks (cont.)

- “Open” = ?
- Transitioning by whom and for whom?
- Making Big Deals even bigger?
  - “Increasingly, I have come to believe that the major failing of offsetting agreements lies in their assumption and continuation of the norms that govern the negotiation and implementation of existing big deals.” - Liam Earney, *Offsetting and its discontents* (2017)



# Final remarks (cont.)

- › “Open” = ?
- › Transitioning by whom and for whom?
- › Making Big Deals even bigger?
- › Moving from “pay-to-read” to “pay-to-say” principle as a new mechanism of exclusion?
- › Rich ↔ poor, or just rich → poor? (cf. BOAI, 2002)
- › Shifting discourse from “openness” to “competition”
- › The Danger of Single Story



# Thank you for your attention!

Tusen takk!

Comments

Critique?

Questions

Feedback

