



MEDOANET ITALIAN WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Hosted by CNR (National Research Council), the Italian National Open Access Workshop took place in Rome, Italy, on January 29th 2013 with the support of the Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities. The workshop was part of the Mediterranean Open Access Network (MedOANet) project (www.medoanet.eu) supported by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (7FP), and organized by CINECA (formerly CASPUR), a partner of the MedOANet project, in cooperation with CNR as member of the Italian National Task Force.

The national workshop drew about 70 participants from various sectors (research performing organizations, universities, publishers, researchers and librarians). What follows is a brief summary of the workshop activities.

The opening speeches were held by the President of CNR Luigi Nicolais, who encouraged the promotion of Open Access and Open Research data in Italy in collaboration with publishers, by a representative of the Ministry of University and Research, Mario Ali, who declared that the Dept. of Internationalization of research is in favour of establishing a temporary Committee on Open Access to scientific publications and data in order to implement the OA principles of Horizon 2020. Finally the representative of the Conference of Rectors, Roberto Delle Donne confirmed long standing CRUI commitment to Open Access.

The workshop started with a short presentation by **Paola Gargiulo**, coordinator of the National Taskforce, on MedOANet objectives and activities, explaining the goals of the workshop.

The first session started with a presentation by **Jean-François Dechamp**, MedOANet project manager at the European Commission, describing the position and the activities of EC on Open Access and what are the plans for the future of OA in Horizon 2020.

Jean-François Dechamp chaired as well the first **round-table** with the Presidents of the main Research Institutions funded by The Ministry of University and Research (INFN – National Institute of Nuclear Physics, INGV – National Institute of Geophysics, ISS – National Health Institute, ENEA – Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development.), that are based in Rome. The presidents were asked to relate on ongoing activities on Open Access and on future developments.

The situation of each RPOs is different from the others: for example, INFN, ISS, INGV and CNR signed the Berlin Declaration on open access to knowledge in the sciences and humanities during last years while ENEA did not, and each of them has different level of Open Access implementation within the institutions. INFN actively participates in the SCOAP3 initiative and is willing to work on an Institutional policy on Open Access; ISS runs an institutional repository and is an OA publisher, at present is the only Research Institution with a policy on OA; INGV runs an International disciplinary repository and OA journal, and has plan to make available raw data on seismic and volcanic activities. As part of the project of building an online digital library of science and technology, CNR is planning to develop an institutional repository that will serve both as a CRIS and as a repository. ENEA is starting working on an institutional repository, that will be probably released during 2013. Roberto Delle Donne discussed about CRUI Open Access working



group past and future activities, stressing on the expected output of the working group on Institutional policy models.

At the end of this round table, Paola Gargiulo proposed the Presidents of Research Centres and CRUI to sign a position paper on Open Access defining the roadmap to implement the EC Recommendations on OA of July 17th 2013. They all agreed. Text will be prepared by the National Task Force and submitted to them by mid February 2013.

Roberto Caso, professor of Comparative Law at the University of Trento and member of the Taskforce, gave a presentation on the possibilities offered by Open Access to scholarly communication, moreover analyzing bias and obstacles of attitudes towards Open Access in Italy. He discussed about the proposal of National policy prepared by a subgroup of the Italian Taskforce and submitted to the Ministry, stressing on how universities and research institutions can make profit of having a policy on Open Access to research results.

After a presentation by **Stefano Bianco** from INFN who presented the state of the art of the SCOAP3 project, the afternoon session started.

The presentation from the research funders, **Fondazione Cariplo and Telethon** – two charity organizations based in the North-West of Italy represented by Lucia Brambilla and Danila Baldessari, showed how it is possible to work on an Open Access policy in order to manage donations with transparency, what are the main challenges in offering researchers an OA option, and which future prospects they imagine.

An overview of the MedOANet surveys with reference to Italian results was given by **Ilaria Fava**, together with a presentation of the main functionalities of the Open Access Tracker.

Roberto Caso chaired the afternoon round table on the founding elements of an institutional policy and on the publishers' point of view on Open Access. **Piero Attanasio**, representative of the Italian Publishers Association, well explained how the Gold Road is preferable for publishers since it does not damage authors and publishers interests, it encourages publishers competitiveness and guarantees product quality. **Roberto Delle Donne** confirmed CRUI commitment in Open Access promotion and support, and stressed the attention on the fact that Open Access is becoming inevitable for a variety of reasons, including research assessment. **Paola De Castro** as the representative of the ISS confirmed her (personal and Institutional) commitment towards Open Access promotion and success in Italy. **Danila Baldessari** highlighted that both roads of Open Access are feasible, it depends on needs, purposes and expectations: Telethon experience shows that the Green Road should be preferable since it costs less, and the money saved can be invested in research projects.

Paola Gargiulo drew the conclusions summarizing the major issues discussed during the workshop and plauding to the commitment of the Presidents of Research Centre and CRUI to sign a joint position paper on full implementation of OA in their institutions.

As a result of the seminar the National Task force will assist the Dept of Internationalization of Research at Ministry in establishing a Working Committee on OA and will review and enrich the proposal for a National Policy submitted to the Ministry of University and Research last December with the observations and



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comments made during the workshop by speakers and by the audience. The new version will be submitted to the new government in Italy once it will take office after the elections at the end of February.

Workshop presentations in Italian are available on the MedOANet website <http://www.medoanet.eu/events/italian-national-workshop>.