



knowledge without boundaries

EIFL-OA: Open Access

Removing barriers to knowledge sharing

Open Access from the Perspective of Young Researchers

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Results of the EIFL-funded project

“The openness as a most important value is included in the strategic plan of the organization because it is the background for the collaboration, creativity and development. The open access can contribute to the assurance of quality of the research”

Dr. Vilma Petrikaitė, President of Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers

INTRODUCTION

Building on previous open access (OA) initiatives in Lithuania, the main objective of this project was to introduce OA and OA initiatives to young researchers and encourage them to become active OA advocates in the country.

The project partners were the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers (LSYR), the Association of Lithuanian Serials and the [Lithuanian Research Library Consortium](#).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers is committed to OA and plans to continue training on OA for young researchers.
- Partnership among all national stakeholders in R&D was formed. The Research Council of Lithuania and the Ministry of Education and Science were engaged and actively supported the OA discussions.
- A national OA Working Group was created that includes representatives from the Research Council of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Science Academy, the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium, the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers, the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis centre (MOSTA), Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA), and the universities. The goal of the Working Group is to implement the recommendations on OA for funding agencies and research institutions.
- Over 300 stakeholders were trained; video recordings of most of the presentations are available online for anyone to view.
- Websites of institutions across Lithuania were updated with comprehensive, up-to-date information about OA and its benefits.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The main activities included:

- Conducting a survey among young researchers in order to identify the most appropriate topics and/or lecturers for workshops.
- Updating the websites of all educational and scientific institutions in Lithuania in order to provide comprehensive information about OA (green and gold roads) and its benefits.
- Disseminating information about the benefits of OA to ensure visibility and recognition of institutions as well as promoting awareness of the European Commission Recommendations for the dissemination of research results.
- Organizing a series of workshops and conducting discussions on OA challenges and barriers to OA publishing (if any) for young researchers.
- Hosting a round table discussion among researchers, research funders, policy makers, scholarly journal publishers, librarians, and others during OA Week 2012.

The primary audience of the project was young researchers but the project also targeted broader audiences, including research policy makers, funding agencies and research managers.

WORKSHOPS AND A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

“Open access is the possibility to get required knowledge easier, faster and even less stressfully”. Ph.D. Ramojus Reimeris, Mykolas Romeris University

The first workshop – “Why OA is important for the researchers” – provided an overview of OA around the world and in the Baltic region. It also highlighted the European Commission's and European Research Council's Recommendations on OA as well as key UNESCO initiatives. Krzysztof Szymanski from Thomson Reuters gave a presentation about the quality of OA journals in the context of bibliometric indicators. His presentation was followed by the discussion “Do young researchers want to be more visible?”, attended by 110 participants.

This workshop attracted great interest among young researchers and the number of the participants exceeded all expectations. For this reason, the second workshop was webcasted to reach a broader audience.

“Open Access allows us to disseminate new scientific knowledge more rapidly and stimulate networking, also intensify the development of science, identify the researchers' dishonest behaviour, e.g. plagiarism, foster the visibility of scientific knowledge, integrate even social exclusion roots into academia and in this way contribute to science development as well”

Ph.D. Loreta Tauginienė, Mykolas Romeris University

The second workshop – “Intellectual property, Creative Commons and OA” – addressed issues of copyright, Creative Commons licenses, publisher's position on OA and the activities of the “Right to research coalition”; the workshop was followed by a discussion, “What do we know about copyright in OA publishing?”, attended by 94 participants. The recordings of the presentations are available [here](#).

The third workshop – "Open Science. What's in it for me?" – with invited lecturer Paweł Szczęsny (Poland) was dedicated to open science. 59 participants attended the workshop. Additional participants joined remotely via live webcast. See [Paweł Szczęsny's "Notes after my workshop entitled "Open Science. What is in it for me?"](#). Recommendations for young researchers were developed, see below.

"As a person participating in the policy of social sciences and humanities I do believe that these two domains as any other have to get open access at any price. Otherwise, what is the impact of them to our society?". Prof. Rūta Marcinkevičienė, Vice-chair of the Research Council of Lithuania

The final event of the project – an open discussion "OA developments in Lithuania" – was organized during OA Week 2012. The aims of the discussion were to promote OA, OA publishing and self-archiving in OA repositories, and to promote scholarly communication in Lithuania. The target audiences included: researchers, policy makers and research managers, research funding agencies, publishers, librarians, and other scholarly communication stakeholders. The recording of the discussion is available [here](#). Over 50 participants attended the event.

Information about OA initiatives and project activities is available on the websites of Kaunas University of Technology [here](#) and the [Lithuanian Research Library Consortium here](#).

The opinion of young researchers and policy makers on OA is available here:

- [Ramojus Reimeris, PhD, Mykolas Romeris University;](#)
- [Loreta Tauginienė, PhD, Mykolas Romeris University;](#) and
- [Rūta Marcinkevičienė, prof., vice-chair of the Research Council of Lithuania.](#)

The project activities and results were presented at the meetings of Lithuanian Research Libraries Consortium and the Consortium of the Lithuanian Academic Libraries for the Maintenance and Development of an Information Infrastructure for Scientific and Studies.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

At the final workshop, the participants developed the following recommendations for young researchers engaging in OA and Open Science:

- Submit published works to OA repository;
- Use plagiarism checking software at research institution;
- Use Open Source software to develop new products and services;
- Use social networks, subject repositories, teaching materials and press releases for disseminating your research outcomes;
- Use Creative Commons licenses and contribute to open networks;
- Build professional profiles on social networks, actively get in touch with other researchers, conferences (including online);
- Embrace alternative metrics;
- Communicate ideas through as many channels as possible;
- Earn trust of researchers who are also online and ask them to comment on your papers.

These recommendations were shared with a variety of key stakeholders in Lithuania.

LESSON LEARNED

- It is important to clearly define the goals and to create a detailed action plan of the project activities.
- The partnership with researchers is the most important factor because by connecting with researchers you can better identify the needs of the target audience and thereby ensure the project success.
- Support from the policy makers and funding agencies is important if you want to make changes at the national and institutional levels.

THE FUTURE

The Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers will continue promoting Recommendations for young researchers engaging in OA and Open Science. Together with Kaunas University of Technology and over 40 other European organizations they submitted a project proposal for the European Commission call: Downstream training on OA in the European Research Area (Coordination and Support Action). The results of this Call are expected in spring 2013.

A national OA Working Group that includes representatives from the Research Council of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Science Academy, the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium, the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers, the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis centre (MOSTA), Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA), and the universities will implement OA recommendations for funding agencies and research institutions.

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