Press release:

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MedOANet European Conference on Open Access

October 17-18, 2013

Athens, National Hellenic Research Foundation (48, Vassileos Konstantinou Av.)

The EU-funded project *Mediterranean Open Access Network* (www.medoanet.eu) announces its final conference in Athens, on the 17th and 18th October 2013. The project facilitates the development of open access policies in six Mediterranean countries: Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Turkey.

The conference is organized by the National Documentation Centre of Greece (EKT/NHRF), coordinator of the project, as part of a wider conference on open access, the International Open Access Conference @ EKT (16th to 18th of October), the third in a series of international conferences focusing at Open Access to scientific knowledge. The first day of the International Open Access Conference @ EKT (16th October) focuses on recent major developments, policies and key projects around Open Government and Open Access to research and education in Greece. The full programme for all three days of the conference can be found at:

http://openaccess.gr/conferences/conference2013/index.dot?language_id=1

A brief context for open access in Europe

Enabling the reuse of publicly funded research and other information through open access is expected to boost innovation, help address effectively major social concerns, such as environmental, energy and public health-related issues and unlock a significant financial potential for Europe. The idea that publicly funded research, as well as other publicly funded information (e.g. governmental), should be accessible to all, finds wide support among researchers and policymakers throughout the globe.

The European Commission's strong support to the opening up of publicly funded information is endorsed in flagship policy documents, such as the "Digital Agenda 2020", the "Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information" and the "Recommendation on Access to and Preservation of Scientific Information" (C(2012) 4890 final). In the latter document, the EC calls Member States to develop coordinated national policies for open access to publicly funded research. The EC has set the goal that by 2016 60% of publicly funded research in Europe will be available in open access.

Open access is one of the five priorities the European Commission has set for the implementation of the European Research Area in the relevant Recommendation (COM(2012) 392 final). Significantly, open Access will be mandatory for publications resulting from funding from Horizon 2020, while a pilot will be implemented for open access to research data underpinning publications.

EU Member States and other countries around the world are gradually developing policies for open access to publicly funded research, along with universities and other research performing organizations, the major stakeholders in the research process. At the same time, significant investments are being made in interoperable e-infrastructures, especially repositories, that provide open access to research.

The Final conference of MedOANet

The MedOANet Final Conference provides a unique opportunity to explore the very important developments that have taken place in the last couple of years in terms of open access policies in Europe. Aim of the conference is to present the results of the project and place them in their wider European context.

The conference includes an excellent line-up of international and Greek speakers and is of particular interest to research policy-makers, such as research funders and research performing institution administrators, specialists on open access, students and interested individuals to explore current trends in Open Access in Greece and Europe.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science will open the conference with a videotaped message. Aside from presenting project outcomes, the conference will focus on the following topics through dedicated sessions:

- The implementation of national policies for open access to scientific information with a focus on Mediterranean Europe

- Open access and its role in the European Research Area (ERA)- a discussion between the European Commission and major ERA stakeholder organizations: the European University Association, The League of European Research Universities and Science Europe

- The implementation of open access policies for Research Funders, best practices and experiences, featuring the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education of Denmark, Jisc (UK), the Health Research Board of Ireland, the Fund of Scientific Research of Belgium

- The implementation of open access among research performing organizations, featuring the University of Minho, the University of Turin, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and MedOANet partners the guidelines produced by the project

The full program of the Conference, along with information on access and accommodation information can be found online here: http://openaccess.gr/conferences/conference2013/?language_id=1

Admission to the conference is free, however online registration prior to the event is required Registration Form

The Conference will be broadcasted live at www.ekt.gr/events/live.

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The MedOANet project

The Mediterranean Open Access Network is a project funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. It supports the coordination of open access strategies and, especially the development of policies and structures in six Mediterranean countries. All project outcomes, documents and resources are available at the project's website, www.medoanet.eu

By the end of the second year of its activities the project has:

✓ Set up national task forces in order to bring together all open access stakeholders and decision-makers and coordinate efforts in the development of national policies.

✓ Performed surveys to map the open access ecosystem in the six countries. Of special interest were the policies among research funders, research performing organizations and publishers.

✓ Organized Open access workshops in collaboration with the task forces to bring the main stakeholders in each country together, to increase the awareness of open access issues and facilitate future coordinated action.

✓ Developed the "Open access Tracker", a tool that tracks the development of open access policies and initiatives (such funder policies, repositories, etc.), by drawing data from international registries and displaying them for each

country, effectively creating a country profile. The tracker provides information and encourages involved stakeholders to register their open access resources with appropriate registries.

✓ Facilitates regional coordination by bringing policymakers together in a European workshop at the University of Minho and a European Conference at the National Documentation Centre

✓ Developed coherent Guidelines and Recommendations towards implementing open access policies to facilitate the development of national plans and policies aligned to current best practices and the European Commission's policies.

The MedOANet partners
National Documentation Centre/NHRF (Greece-Coordinator)
FECYT - Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (Spain)
UMINHO - University of Minho (Portugal)
CNRS - Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)
CINECA- Consorzio Interuniversitario (Italy)
HACETTEPE UNIVERSITESI - Hacettepe University (Turkey)
ENCES - European Network for Copyright in Support of Education and Science (Germany)
LIBER - The Stichting LIBER Foundation (The Netherlands)
UNOTT - University of Nottingham (United Kingdom)