



HOT TOPICS SC-ARL WLIC 2019 ATHENS

PLAN S

REVOLUTION OR EVOLUTION

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WHAT IS PLAN S

- Plan S is an initiative for Open Access publishing that was launched in September 2018. The plan is supported by cOAlition S, an international consortium of European research funders.
- Plan S requires that, from 2021, scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants must be published in compliant Open Access journals or platforms.

From: <https://www.coalition-s.org>



PLAN S IMPLEMENTATION

- The coalition of research funders that have committed to implement Plan S, known as cOAlition S, therefore calls for a **definitive shift towards new models of academic publishing**.
- In **2023** cOAlition S will **review the effects of Plan S** on achieving a transition to full and immediate OA
- Funders **won't** now immediately **place a cap on the cost** of publishing a paper in an open-access journal. But they say journals must be transparent about publishing costs.
- Funders have tweaked the rules around **hybrid titles and 'transformative agreements'**, which give these partly paywalled journals a route to becoming open access.
- Funders pledge to **ignore the prestige** of journals when making funding decisions.
- In some cases, researchers will be **able to** publish work **under more restrictive open licences**, when approved by the funder, than was previously allowed.



PLAN S JUNE 2019

- Greater clarity is provided about the various compliance routes: Plan S is NOT just about a publication fee model of Open Access publishing. **cOAlition S supports a diversity of sustainability models for Open Access journals and platforms;**
- More emphasis is put on **changing the research reward and incentive system:** cOAlition S funders explicitly commit to adapt the criteria by which they value researchers and scholarly output;
- The importance of **transparency in Open Access publication fees** is emphasised in order to inform the market and funders' potential standardisation and capping of payments of such fees;
- The technical **requirements for Open Access repositories have been revised.**



REACTIONS ON PLAN S

1. Plan S may or may not contribute to a more **fundamental remake of scholarly communication**
 2. The fact that Plan S is not yet embraced **worldwide** remains a problem.
 3. Little attention for the **different publication cultures** within the various scientific domains
 4. A country complying with Plan S could become **less attractive** for researchers; Researchers will move to countries where plan S is not an issue
 5. **Effects on careers** still unclear
 6. Lack of clarity on the **consequences** of changing funding models
 7. Potential **loss of high-quality review procedures** due to new business model
 8. Researchers will be **forced to publish** their important research in insignificant journals.
 9. The new European Plan S – an open access (OA) policy for research results – is **ambitious and radical**.
 10. This is not only a bad way of disseminating research, it will also have a widespread **negative impact on recruitment** to, and the **internationalization** of, the best research projects.
- Revolution is necessary otherwise it takes too long to change the scientific open science movement



REACTION KNAW

- Little attention for the **different publication cultures** within the various scientific domains
- The Netherlands will become **less attractive** for researchers
- **Effects on careers** still unclear
- Exclusive focus on the “gold” route to open access
- Lack of clarity on the **consequences of changing funding models**
- Potential **loss of high-quality review procedures**

CALL FOR RECONSIDERATION PLAN S



REACTION ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

- The VSNU endorses the objectives of and has been actively involved in the developments on Open Science as stated in the National Plan Open Science (NPOS). Open Science aims to bring about a fundamental improvement of science by making the scientific process transparent and ensuring that research output is widely available. The social impact of science can in turn be strengthened through **greater involvement in and accessibility of scientific output, including articles and research data.**

Reaction of Researchers to Plan S: Too Far, Too Risky

Currently **1775** signatures processed

In September 2018, a group of European government funding agencies announced the creation of cOAlition S, an organization created to implement "Plan S," an initiative designed to ensure that "by 2020 scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants provided by participating national and European research councils and funding bodies, "must be published in compliant Open Access Journals or on compliant Open Access Platforms." ^[1]

Plan S is built on ten principles, which include:

- A requirement that authors of funded research publications assign all of their copyright prerogatives (including republication, commercial use, and the creation of derivative versions) to the general public
- A prohibition on publishing in either subscription or "hybrid" (i.e. partially open access) journals, thus making more than 80%^[2] (and for some fields more than 90%^[3]) of journals off-limits to funded authors, included those published by scholarly societies, which are very important to many researchers
- A threat of "sanctions" against those authors who fail to comply

Apart from the significant constraints on authors's freedom of publication created by the explicit terms of Plan S, the original principles also left essential questions unanswered, including:

- Is preprint archiving + Green Open Access compliant with PlanS even for hybrid journals? If so, under which conditions?
- What are its implications for papers written by multiple authors, not all of whom are subject to the restrictions of Plan S?



TO BE DISCUSSED

1. Should Plan S be a **revolution** or is an **evolution** better?
2. How can the shift to Gold OA and associated APC's be managed equitable to protect the positions both of **unfunded researchers and researchers in less developed countries**?
3. The fact that Plan S is not yet embraced **worldwide** remains a problem.
4. A country complying with Plan S could become **less attractive** for researchers; researchers will move to countries where plan S is not an issue
5. Researchers will be **forced to publish** their important research in insignificant journals.