

A photograph of an open, weathered wooden door leading to a field, overlaid with a blue tint and text. The door is made of light-colored wood with a distressed finish, showing signs of age and wear. It is set within a dark frame. The background shows a blurred landscape of a field under a clear sky. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

**AGREEMENT FOR THE APPROVAL  
OF THE INSTITUTIONAL OPEN ACCESS MANDATE  
OF THE UNIVERSITAT DE GIRONA**

**Approved by the Governing Council in session no. 5/2021 of 19 April 2021**



## Motives

The Universitat de Girona has been committed to open access since signing the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Science and Humanities in 2010..

This declaration was the seed for the first Institutional Open Access Policy of the Universitat de Girona, approved in 2012 by the Governing Council, which encouraged and recommended researchers to move forward in open access publication, following the line defined in 2010 by the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia (CIC).

From 2020 onwards, all European and national calls for research grants urge researchers to publish in open access and to openly offer the data used in the research of the funded project.

This scenario, therefore, makes it necessary to position the Universitat de Girona to make the change towards open access from 2021 as required by the European Commission.

Given that the Delegate Commission for Research, Transfer and Doctorate of the Governing Council, in session no. 3/2021 of 17 March 2021, reported favourably on the Institutional Open Access Mandate of the Universitat de Girona

In view of the aforementioned background, it is **AGREED**:

**Solely.** To approve the following Institutional Open Access Mandate of the Universitat de Girona:

Against this agreement, which terminates the administrative procedure and regardless of its immediate execution, interested parties may opt to file an appeal for reversal before the same body that has approved it within one month from the day following its publication, in accordance with the provisions of articles 123 and 124 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the common administrative procedure; or to lodge an administrative contentious appeal directly before the administrative contentious courts of Girona, within a period of two months from the day after its publication, in accordance with articles 8.3, 14.1 and 46.1 of Law 29/1998, of 13 July, regulating administrative jurisdiction. Interested parties may also bring any other action they deem appropriate for the defence of their interests.

## Institutional Open Access Mandate

The Universitat de Girona has been committed to open access since signing the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Science and Humanities<sup>1</sup> in 2010. This declaration, led at the time by the Max Planck Society, was the first to take a stand on free access to knowledge through the use of institutional repositories and publication in open access journals.

This declaration was the seed for the first **Institutional Open Access Policy of the Universitat de Girona**<sup>2</sup>, approved in 2012 by the Governing Council, which encouraged and recommended researchers to advance in open access publication, following the line defined in 2010 by the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia (CIC)<sup>3</sup>.

### Context

Since the Berlin Declaration, the progressive evolution of the Open Access movement (hereinafter OA) confirms that we are currently facing a **paradigm shift** with respect to traditional scientific publication that will become a structural and global change in the way of understanding research and the dissemination of research results. It must be open, collaborative, transparent and accessible, ultimately pursuing a greater impact on research results and a return for society.

The success of the OA movement has been made possible by the legislation represented by the implementation of Article 37 of the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation<sup>4</sup>, and especially the position of the European Commission<sup>5</sup>. This means that OA occupies the agendas of the funding agencies, or the conferences of rectors of the

universities of all member states. In the case of Spain, the CRUE (association of Spanish universities) has positioned itself with “Commitments of Universities to Open Science” where it encourages all universities to make this transition to the new model<sup>6</sup>.

At the same time, from 2020 onwards, all European and national calls for research grants urge researchers to publish in open access and to openly offer the data used in the funded research project.

This scenario, therefore, requires the Universitat de Girona to make the definitive change towards open access from 2021 as required by the European Commission.

### Institutional mandate

The Universitat de Girona requires researchers:

1. That they deposit in the institutional repository, (DUGi), the full text of any publication reviewed by experts (articles, book chapters, books, conference communications), that has been accepted for publication and that has been produced by staff of the institution, whether financed or not, in whole or in part, by other public funds.

That this deposit be made respecting the following conditions:

- Within a maximum of 1 month after acceptance.
- That they deposit a copy of the revised document, preferably the **published final version** or, if this is not possible, the **accepted final version** (postprint).

<sup>1</sup> Max Planck Gesellschaft. (2003). Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

<https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>.

<sup>2</sup> Universitat de Girona. (2012). Política institucional d'accés obert de la Universitat de Girona. <https://dugi-doc.udg.edu/handle/10256/3894>

<sup>3</sup> Junta del Consell Interuniversitari de Catalunya (2010). Aprovació del document marc del mandat d'accés obert de la recerca de les universitats de Catalunya elaborat aprovat pel Consorci de Biblioteques Universitàries de Catalunya. [https://www.csuc.cat/sites/default/files/docs/mandataccesobert100701\\_0.pdf](https://www.csuc.cat/sites/default/files/docs/mandataccesobert100701_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ley 14/2011, de 1 de junio, de la Ciencia, la Tecnología y la Innovación. <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2011-9617>

<sup>5</sup> RECOMENDACIÓN (UE) 2018/ 790 DE LA COMISIÓN - de 25 de abril de 2018 - relativa al acceso a la información científica y a su preservación. (n.d.). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018H0790&from=EN><sup>6</sup> Ariño, A., Casal, M., Gómez, J., González, Á., González, A., Jiménez, V., ... de la Prieta, P. (2019).

Compromisos de las universidades ante la Open Science. <http://www.crue.org/Documentos compartidos/Informes y Posicionamientos/2019.02.20-Compromisos CRUE OPENSOURCE VF.pdf>

- That the deposited copy be offered in open access as soon as possible, once published, or in [embargo open access mode](#) if required by the publishing policy. The embargo period cannot exceed 12 months from its publication.
2. That they deposit the open data ([datasets](#)) obtained in the research and those used for the realization of the articles in the DUGi, DataverseCat and / or in a repository of data specific to the area of knowledge, respecting confidentiality, intellectual property and / or security. This open access data should be FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable).
  3. That they have an [ORCID](#) identifier which they communicate to the University through the curriculum management platform (currently the GREC or a generic CRIS-Current Research Information System) and that they use this when they publish the results of their research.
  4. Publications and research data should be published under a Creative Commons, Open Data Commons or Public Domain license that explicitly states the conditions of use and encourages dissemination, distribution, reuse and reproduction.

The Universitat de Girona in the face of the paradigm shift in which scientific publication finds itself and in the face of the economic unsustainability of the current model of subscription to large publishing groups, which is based on strong annual increases above the rate of inflation:

1. Does not support [hybrid open access](#) where you pay to publish and also to access subscription content (known as [double dipping](#)).
2. Supports what is known as the [golden OA](#): publishing in open access journals characterized by scientific rigor and quality, and which have a business model that is based on sustainable publication fees (APC) and fair or effective cooperative models (initiatives such as SCOAP3, MDPI, BioMed Central).

## Favourable measures for the deployment of the Mandate

To facilitate the fulfilment of this mandate, it has been established that:

1. The DUGi has the necessary mechanisms in place to ensure that open access complies with editorial policies.
2. The DUGi has the "private copy request" function directly to the author, which guarantees access to temporarily embargoed publications.
3. The DUGi complies with the requirements set by the Spanish Science Law and by the European Union regarding open access.
4. The Library and the Office of Research and Technology Transfer (OITT) will provide the necessary support in terms of advice, on-demand training and support in all matters relating to open access publication, intellectual property issues, data management plans, etc.

In addition, to **promote** the mandate, the Universitat de Girona:

1. Will review the current internal evaluation criteria so that open access counts positively in the research evaluation process.
2. Will work to increase the financial endowment and the number of agreements with organizations that support the [golden OA](#).
3. Will make the infrastructure needed to support open science and long-term digital preservation available to the scientific community.
4. Will actively participate in national, European and global initiatives aimed at accelerating the transition from scientific publication to an open and collaborative environment.

This mandate forms part of the mandates known as the **green OA** and **will enter into force the day after the date of publication in the BOUdG** (Official Gazette of the UdG) and begins a 1-year transitional period for adaptation to the precepts of this mandate.

The Universitat de Girona also encourages researchers to disseminate their work in open access prior to this date, to the extent permitted by the signed editorial agreements.

## Glossary

**Article processing charge (APC):** fee determined by the publisher to cover the costs of open access publishing.

**Dataset:** non-theoretical evidence that underpins the conclusions derived from a subsequently published or unpublished research paper. This data must have been collected, observed, generated, created or obtained from commercial, governmental or other sources to produce original research.

**Double dipping:** payment to publish in open access (APC) when you have already paid to access the content (through subscription to the journal).

**ORCID:** a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes one researcher from every other researcher. In 2013, Catalan universities agreed that it would be essential for the scientific production of researchers to appear on the Portal de la Recerca de Catalunya<sup>7</sup>, which makes it possible to link all the research activities by the same author that are referenced in different information systems.

**Period of embargo:** time between the publication of a document and its availability in open access. The embargo is set by the publishers and usually lasts 6 to 12 months.

**Postprint / Accepted Manuscript / Author's final version:** final version by the authors that includes the changes proposed by the reviewers.

**Publisher version:** final version published.

**Golden OA:** the item is available immediately in open access. The author, university, research centre or funding agency bears the cost of publication (APC).

**Hybrid OA:** subscription journals where some of their articles are published in open access upon payment of the cost of publication (APC).

**Green OA:** the author files the published or postprint article in a repository, often with an embargo period.

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<sup>7</sup> Comissió de treball del Portal de la Recerca de Catalunya. (2014). Bona pràctica de les universitats catalanes per fomentar la creació i l'ús del codi ORCID entre els seus investigadors. [http://blog.csuc.cat/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ORCID\\_Bonespractiques.pdf](http://blog.csuc.cat/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ORCID_Bonespractiques.pdf)

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