

Q&A: You share, we take care!

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The ambition of the Netherlands is to achieve 100% open access by 2020. Agreements have been made with many publishers about open access publishing. Unfortunately, this is not possible for all types of publications or journals. That is why it is equally important to invest in depositing and making academic work available in institutional repositories. Luckily, thanks to the Taverne Amendment to the Copyright Act, there is an alternative. The Dutch universities have decided to give open access an extra boost from 2019 by starting a pilot, in collaboration with researchers, to make publications available after six months via university repositories, using the research information system CRIS.

General Q&A

Q: The Taverne Amendment (Article 25fa of the Copyright Act) was already passed in 2015. Why is a pilot only now being decided upon?

A: In recent years, the main way of attempting to achieve the Dutch open access objective was by promoting direct open access articles in peer-reviewed journals (gold open access). In addition, in 2015 and 2016 many universities were still busy implementing a new research information system (CRIS). The pilot will mean a greater focus on making articles available via the repository (green open access), both because it is an important supplement to the gold open access strategy and because the CRIS projects have made it easier for universities to manage the repository well.

The reason for choosing a pilot is that it allows monitored implementation, including regarding the interaction with researchers, publishers and other stakeholders.

Q: What are the conditions for participating in the pilot?

A: The conditions for participating in the pilot are that the research on which the work is based was funded wholly or partly with Dutch public funds, and that the maker(s) has/have an employment contract with an institution participating in the pilot. The makers can be both authors and co-authors. In addition, it must concern a short scientific work; this has the length of a scientific article or book chapter in an edited collection. If you have any doubts whether you meet these criteria, please contact the university library of your institution.

Q: Why has a period of six months been chosen instead of immediately or after 12 months?

A: Six months strikes a balance between the societal interest to share academic work quickly and the publisher's interest of recouping the costs incurred in publishing the final version exclusively. In many fields, this embargo period is already the standard for publishers and/or subsidy providers. The six-month period has been applied to all fields, given the increasing amount of multidisciplinary research and the interest of all academic domains in current social issues. It would therefore be undesirable to

maintain different embargo periods for each research domain. The embargo period commences when the article first appears online. In some cases, this can be prior to the formal publication date in a journal.

Q: Does this pilot mean a departure from the gold open access policy in the Netherlands?

A: No. Gold open access in a peer-reviewed journal remains the primary open access ambition of the Netherlands. It has the advantage that the work is immediately available, with more options for reuse via a creative commons licence. The Taverne Amendment offers an alternative for when gold open access proves not to be an option.

Q: Why haven't the Plan S requirements been incorporated in the pilot?

A: The text of the Taverne Amendment differs in intent and content. It supports the Dutch ambition to have all publications be open access and identifies aspects such as 'the right to share' (instead of retaining copyright and promoting reuse via a CC-BY licence) and the possibility to share after a reasonable period (instead of the zero-month embargo requirement). It is therefore not possible to use the Plan S requirements as guiding principles for this pilot.

Q: Does implementation of the amendment still have added value with Plan S being launched?

A: Yes, it does! The majority of the publications that Dutch universities contribute to do not fall under Plan S, so the amendment is an important instrument in achieving the Dutch government's objective of realising 100% open access. The amendment has yet more added value due to its retroactive applicability, while Plan S will be focusing on articles published after the formal introduction of the funder requirements.

Q: Are the publishers aware of the pilot?

Publishers with whom the VSNU, from the UKB and through Surf, has made agreements have been informed about the policies and start date of the pilot in advance.

Q: Do all universities participate?

A: Yes, all Dutch universities participate in the pilot.

Q: Where can I find more information on participating in the pilot and its background?

A: The pilot is an initiative of the association of universities in the Netherlands (VSNU). Information about the pilot and its results will be communicated on the national website [openaccess.nl](http://www.openaccess.nl). For more information, please visit <http://www.openaccess.nl/en/you-share-we-take-care>.

There is also an author Q&A.