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Ladies and Gentlemen,

In relation to the *Commission Recommendation of 17 July 2012 on access to and preservation of scientific information*, which called upon Member States to define clear policies for the dissemination of and open access to research publications, in 2015, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education adopted a document entitled *Directions of the Development of Open Access to Research Publications and Research Results in Poland*¹, which laid down the guidelines for research centres and universities to ensure open access by:

1. adopting an institutional open access policy;
2. appointing *Open Access (OA)* officers, to be selected by heads of research centres and universities;
3. supporting the open-access journal model and
4. tapping the experience and potential of libraries that keep open repositories.

With these postulates in mind, together with other research-funding agencies from Science Europe, we have set out to draw up a set of joint European guidelines on research data management and open-access publication methods. A practical guide to uniform European research data management practices was published in January 2019.²

Before the end of this year, based on the recommendations of the guide, we are planning to expand our funding application form to include an annex, in which the applicant will be requested to present a shortened Data Management Plan for all the research data that the project is expected to generate. The plan will then be expanded at the final reporting stage and evaluated after the end of the project.

The move represents the first stage in the introduction of the policy of open access to research data generated/used within the framework of projects funded by the National Science Centre and, in the not too distant future, also to subsequent research publications.

¹ https://www.gov.pl/documents/1068557/1069061/20180413_Kierunki_rozwoju_OD_wersja_ostateczna.pdf

² https://www.scienceeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SE_RDM_Practical_Guide_Final.pdf

In the follow-up to the Act of 20 July 2018 – *Law on Higher Education and Science*, individual research entities are currently drafting their internal regulations; for this reason, we have decided to outline our plans for the introduction of an open access policy and request that the relevant provisions be taken into account in the process.

Yours faithfully,

Zbigniew Błocki
Director of the National Science
Centre