



Plan S

Joint statement of learned societies in mathematics and science in Germany

As learned societies, we are committed to support teaching, research and development in science. We foster the dialogue between science and the public and welcome all efforts to promote the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

We acknowledge the initiative of eleven European research funding organizations (cOAlition S) which came out with “Plan S”. The ten principles of this plan aim to set the framework for the transition to open access for the research results funded by these organizations (by 2020).

The drafted principles and their prospective consequences are of immediate importance for individual scientists (especially for young researchers) and science in general, as well as for learned societies and their journals. The transition process described in “Plan S” could tremendously influence the competitive capacity of science and knowledge based economy in the European Union.

Thus, a careful discussion about the consequences, advantages and disadvantages of “Plan S” is urgently needed. We are grateful that cOAlition S offers the opportunity to provide feedback on “Plan S”. Unfortunately, the given deadline is very tight – too tight to organize a comprehensive discussion and formal decision-making process within our societies.

We express our deep concerns about the precipitous process and urge cOAlition S to slow down the process as this will increase participation and therewith acceptance within the relevant communities.

The signatories are willing to provide more in-depth commentaries in due course. We like to mention already at this stage, that many of our members are concerned about Plan S and the freedom of science.

In addition, we suspect a distortion of competition to the disadvantage of all stakeholders (especially scientists) in countries in which Plan S will be implemented. We recommend a very careful, global examination of the legal implications of “Plan S” and its principles.

This joint statement is supported by the the Deutsche Mathematiker Vereinigung (DMV, German Federation of Mathematicians), Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft (DPG, German Physical Society), Dachverband Geowissenschaften (DVGeo, the German umbrella organisation for Geosciences), Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society) and Verband Biologie, Biowissenschaften und Biomedizin in Deutschland (VBIO, German Life Sciences Association).

The signatories represent about 140.000 members in total.

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