

POLICY OF OPEN ACCESS TO THE RESEARCH OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - VARNA

The trend towards open access in science corresponds directly to the mission of the Medical University - Varna to develop fundamental and applied research, combined with the shared value of accessibility, opportunity for development and respect for academic traditions.

In the new global and technologically dynamic world, the open access is a way of scientific communication. This is the practice of providing free online access to scientific information that is free to the end user and can be used repeatedly. The value and usefulness of research increases with its accessibility.

In early February this year, the European University Association (EUA), of which MU-Varna is a full member, published a Roadmap for Open Access to Scientific Publications. The Roadmap is just part of a series of initiatives by the Association of promoting university policies to open science and access.

To our satisfaction, this understanding is enshrined in the Bulgarian Scientific Research Promotion Act (Article 3), as well as in the National Strategy for Development of Scientific Research 2015 - 2020: "Open access is the provision of free access for all to peer-reviewed scientific and research information. The open access requires the right holder to grant an irrevocable, geographically unrestricted right to use, copy, disseminate, transfer and create derivative works in any format and for any lawful purpose, indicating the authorship of the original work. The open access uses information and communication technologies to increase and improve the dissemination of scientific knowledge."

The idea of open access to publications and results is a guiding principle in the Horizon 2020 European program aimed to higher scientific results, higher efficiency, visibility and innovation.

The Medical University of Varna is the first and only university in Bulgaria to introduce the EFQM® Business Excellence Model of the European Foundation for Quality Management. And while the EFQM® Business Excellence Model is a practical tool for the qualitative dimension of success, then the practice of Open Access in Science is a way to multiply this success by increasingly wider and accessible dissemination of scientific results.

The academic community of the University takes on the mission of a leader in advocating open access to science as a policy of the future. The policy of the University towards increasingly open access is due to the understanding that this increases accessibility,

the visibility and the impact of research results, supporting the progress and effectiveness of science and multiplying the investments made in it.

In line with its understanding that the future of science is inevitably linked to the open exchange of information, the Medical University of Varna has taken specific action by launching its own institutional Repository.

The University encourages its scientists to publish in open access magazines, as well as to submit their articles on the MU-Varna Repository. This ensures not only higher visibility and the ability to quote them accurately and unambiguously, but also ensures accessibility and long-term archiving. An additional effect of the open access to the University's production is the general vision of its scientific activity, standard and prestige.

The Academic Council understands the challenges of the Open Access movement. It is important to note that the Open Access does not infringe copyright. Original copyrights remain protected by the various Creative Commons* licenses, which require explicit reference to. The regulatory framework for the introduction of an open access policy in the scientific organizations and universities in Bulgaria, set out in the Action Plan implementing the national Strategy for the Development of Research 2015-2020, is yet to be implemented (4.2.2).

The University's Open Access Policy is motivated by a long-term vision for the future. At the same time, the University remains loyal to its academic values of freedom and justice. Academic freedom is a fundamental right of our teachers, scientists, students and PhD students. In this sense, the Open Access Policy is a recommendation, and they have the right to decide for themselves the limits of the open access to their own scientific output.

Adopted by the Academic Council of MU-Varna on 16.06.2016.

* *Creative Commons*, CC - standard contracts for distribution of copyrighted works on the Internet. They extend the copyright to the right to copy, distribute, etc., subject to quoting. The code of the standard CC contracts attached to the work allows many search engines to recognize them. This makes the access to these works easier.