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CONCLUSIONS

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After the presentation of the national reports, we will now offer a comprehensive characterization, highlighting the common features and the differences of each country with regard to open access scientific communication.

The six countries have significant differences in size, population, GDP, political organization, etc., which are also reflected in the quantitative data presented in their respective reports. Nevertheless, they share some common features in the field of scientific communication, such as a significant presence of their own languages in scientific dissemination, the predominance of publications in Social Sciences and Humanities, the low proportion of commercial publishers, and a lack of interest in standardizing publications to increase their quality and visibility. These features are focal points for establishing strategies aimed at promoting open access in the scientific communication system of each country.

In this section we include some general statistical tables to provide an overview of the situation of the six countries with regard to the three elements analyzed in each national report (scientific journals, institutional repositories, and policies for promoting open access).⁴³ The statistics were consulted in early June 2010.

9.1 JOURNALS

With regard to the number of active academic journals, as shown in Table 9.1, the countries of Southern Europe have 7,248 titles (representing approximately 10.5% of world total according to Ulrich's directory).

⁴³ We do not discuss the situation of digital books, because this subject was not included in all the reports.

The largest number of journals is found in Italy, followed closely by Spain and France. The three countries together have nearly 90% of the titles.

Table 9.1. Access, format and quality in academic journals

	France	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Turkey	Total
Active, academic	1,846	165	2,583	215	2,014	425	7,248
Online	740	52	820	72	842	319	2,845
Open access	88	24	123	44	269	135	683
Open access (DOAJ)	98	25	126	45	289	139	722
Peer-reviewed	513	60	334	33	299	208	1,447
Included in JCR	187	9	97	3	56	12	364
Included in JCR+OA	8	2	3	0	18	8	39
Included in Scopus	412	37	289	15	257	106	1,116
Included in Scopus+OA	13	4	6	3	43	30	99

Sources: Ulrich's directory (rows 1-3, 5-7), Scopus (8-9), DOAJ (4)

Online access to journal content represents 39% of all titles of the countries surveyed. Turkey stands out over the rest, with the highest percentage of digital journals (319 titles of 425, i.e. 75%).

The proportion of open access journals is 9.4% (683 titles of a total of 7,248, according to Ulrich's directory). Spain has the highest number of journals in absolute numbers but Turkey and Portugal at 31% and 20.4%, respectively, are well above the average. The figures for France (88 journals out of 1,846) and Italy (123 journals out of 2,583) are surprisingly low, both countries having less than 5% of titles in open access.

With regard to the quality of journals, measured by presence in impact indices, only 364 (5%) are included in the Thomson-Reuters Journal Citation Reports (JCR), although 1,116 (15.4% of total) are included in Elsevier's Scopus. By countries, France has by far the largest number of journals in the JCR (187 titles, 10.1% of its total number of journals) and Scopus (412 titles, 22.2% of the total). If we consider the figures of indexed journals, Turkey and Greece stand out with 25% and 22.4% of their titles in Scopus, respectively, a significantly better result than the rest (with the exception of France). There are therefore significant differences between the coverage of journals of Southern European countries offered by JCR and Scopus.

Table 9.2. Language in academic journals

	France	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Turkey
Official languages	88.0%	42.5%	75.0%	80.5%	95.0%	67.0%
English	29.0%	75.0%	25.5%	30.0%	21.0%	70.0%

Source: Ulrich's directory

With regard to the language of the journals, in four countries (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain) the majority (over 75%) are published in the official languages and they therefore find it difficult to make the leap towards internationalization. Greece and Turkey, however, publish three quarters of their journals in English.

Finally, the country reports show that most publishers are linked to the public sector (universities, research centres, or the government), whereas only a low percentage are commercial publishers. This is a distinguishing feature in comparison with Anglo-Saxon countries, though it may help to foster open access of scientific journals.

9.2 REPOSITORIES

The repository figures provided by the two international directories (ROAR and OpenDOAR) are very similar for the countries studied (223 and 225, respectively). There has been a considerable increase in the number of repositories in recent years, and the figure for Southern European countries is now 200 in the ROAR and OpenDOAR directories.

Table 9.3 Repositories

	France	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Turkey	Total
OpenDOAR	54 (24.2%)	13 (5.8%)	53 (23.8%)	31 (14.0%)	63 (28.2%)	9 (4.0%)	223
ROAR	48 (21.3%)	18 (8.0%)	49 (21.8%)	33 (14.7%)	65 (29.0%)	12 (5.3%)	225

The largest number of repositories is found in Spain (about 30% of total), followed closely by France or Italy according to the directory consulted.

There are two models for managing repositories: the decentralized model, which gives universities and research centres the initiative in creating and

managing repositories; and the centralized model, which has a single, common infrastructure for the collection and dissemination of national academic content. If France did not follow the centralized model, it would probably be the leader in number of repositories.

One of the main problems in all countries is the low number of articles deposited and the difficulty of establishing quick and agile circuits for archiving documents. So far it has clearly been much easier to create repositories than to fill them with documents, and this is undoubtedly one of the challenges of the future.

All countries have an access service to global scientific production, either by means of repository harvesters or through a centralized system, such as HAL. These are presented in table 9.4, with the number of records they contain and the repositories they harvest. Recolecta is currently the harvester with the highest number of records.

Table 9.4. Harvesters

Country	Name	URL	Records	Repositories
France	HAL: Hyper articles en ligne	http://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/	290,917 (149,001 full-text articles)	
Greece	Greek digital libraries search engine	http://openarchives.gr	362,521	44
Italy	Pleiadi: Portale per la Letteratura scientifica Elettronica italiana su Archivi aperti e Depositi Istituzionali	http://www.openarchives.it/pleiadi/	23,879 (all full text articles)	22
Portugal	RCAAP: Repositorio científico de acceso abierto de Portugal	http://www.rcaap.pt/	45,375	28
Spain	Recolecta	http://www.recolecta.net	682,848	57
Turkey	MITOS	http://www.mitosweb.com	16,579	10

9.3 POLICIES

In this section, there is still a long road ahead. Very few actions have been taken by governments in favour of open access and they generally fail to go

beyond simple declarations of intent. In all countries the actions taken so far have tended to be “bottom-up”, i.e., they have been driven by scientists and librarians, especially in a personal capacity and without clear institutional support.

As regards institutional coordination, the Messina Declaration, an agreement signed in 2004 by 71 Italian universities (85% of the total), expressed their adherence to the Berlin Declaration and their support for open access.

Table 9.5. Number of signatory institutions of the Berlin Declaration

	Universities	Research	Other	Total
France	11	8	2	21
Greece	3	1	-	4
Italy	74	6	3	83
Portugal	6	1	-	7
Spain	19	2	4	25
Turkey	-	-	-	0

The above table shows the number of institutions of the countries surveyed that have signed the Berlin Declaration. Italy is at the head with 81 institutions, and at the other end Turkey has no institutions that have adhered to the Declaration. In most cases, the signatory institutions are universities.

To locate the mandates we used the Juliet, Melibea and RoarMap directories. The first of these includes only policies of research funders, while the other two also include universities. RoarMap includes the obligation to deposit theses, so its results differ greatly from those of the other two directories.

Table 9.6. Number of institutions with OA policies (mandates)

	France	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Turkey
Juliet	3	-	3	-	3	-
Melibea	2	-	3	3	6	-
RoarMap	10	1	23	4	6	1

In this section, special mention must be made of the University of Minho (Portugal), which has the oldest mandate (2005) of all the countries surveyed.

Although the data from the directories do not coincide, it can be seen that four countries (Spain, Italy, Portugal and France) have institutions that have already established mandates on depositing publications by academics in institutional repositories, while the other two (Greece and Turkey) have no organizations that have established such mandates.⁴⁴

9.4 THE FUTURE

The writing of this report has served to achieve a good understanding of the reality of each particular country and of Southern Europe in general. Furthermore, these results were shared and discussed in person in Granada. They are reflected in the Alhambra Declaration, which expresses the interest of the participants in continuing to work together to steer scientific communication toward the open access model.

We believe that the coordination of efforts is beneficial to everyone and creates positive synergies. We therefore intend to devote some of our actions to this goal in the future.

⁴⁴ The policies recorded in RoarMap for Greece and Turkey refer only to doctoral theses.