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GÉANT & e-Infrastructure
The Head of Unit

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Subject: OpenAIRE - Implementing the European policies on Open Access
 Letter of support**

The European Commission DG Information Society and Media would like to express its strong support for the OpenAIRE project, funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. In particular, we would like to invite you to actively support OpenAIRE in establishing an infrastructure for Open Access to publications emanating from the EU's 7th Framework Programme.

European policies on Open Access

Since August 2008, Open Access has taken a big step forward in Europe. Currently about 20% of all grant agreements contain a special clause (clause 39) requiring that every publication resulting of research funded by the EC's Seventh Framework Programme to be made available to all in Open Access. This Open Access pilot joins the ERC Scientific Council Guidelines for Open Access that have been in place since December 2007.

OpenAIRE supporting the EC Open Access policies

Since December 2009, project OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe) assumes the responsibility for supporting both the FP7 Open Access Pilot and the ERC Guidelines for Open Access. OpenAIRE provides guidance and assistance to researchers in publishing their research results in Open Access. The project sets up a helpdesk system in 27 European countries, consisting of a network of experts and a portal with online tools. It also helps to raise awareness of Open Access and the EC pilot in research institutions; it will provide valuable information and statistics on the use of Open Access publications; and it will explore scientific data management services.

The OpenAIRE infrastructure was launched by Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission for the Digital Agenda, on December 2, 2010 at the University of Ghent in Belgium.

We would appreciate greatly if you could support the aims and activities of OpenAIRE to make the EC's Open Access Pilot a success.

Yours sincerely,



Kostas GLINOS